

Minutes of the 2008 meeting of the EE Counsel for Animal Health and Protection at Pula/Croatia

1. On May 1st 2008 at 2.15 pm the meeting of the EE Counsel for Animal Health and Protection was opened by the head of the Counsel, Professor Dr. Schille at the hotel Histria.
2. A special welcome was extended to Dr. Joseph Rey-Bellet, Switzerland,
Dr. Wilhelm Hippe, Germany
Dr. Andy Verelst, Belgium
and as a guest Mr. H.J.V.Beerling, Netherlands.
Mr. Jansen left the Counsel due to familial reasons, the people present rose from their seats to commemorate the passing of the late member of the Counsel Professor Scholl, Switzerland.
3. Dr. Hippe was entrusted with the post of recording secretary of the meeting. Topic 6 on the agenda: Brainstorming for the profile of a breeder in the EE from a point of view of Animal Health and Protection - Preparation of a presentation, was adjourned to next year's meeting.
4. The minutes of the last year's meeting at Piestany/Slovakia were read and accepted.
5. Professor Schille took part in the presentation of the EE at Brussels from April 8th – April 11th 2008. Annual consultations will maintain the contacts with the EU and Dr. Pittman (Ms) who is in charge of the veterinary regulations and the insertion of new proposals which will be incorporated into the EU legislation. The talks comprised subjects such as in future legislation there will be made a difference between commercial breeding and breeding of animals as leisure time activity, as well the regulations of animal markets are no longer to be applied to shows.
As to European Shows the officials at Brussels want to make sure by regulations that the veterinary prerequisites and transport conditions are as identical as possible for all countries of the EU.
An important subject is the new work programme of the EU: The EU has a new strategy for animal health (2007-1013) "Prevention is the best cure". This programme can be looked at under www.Europa-EU. The Counsel for Animal Health and Protection sees this programme as a possibility to file an application for funding a project for prevention courses tailored to the subjects of animal health and protection for all species catered for by the EE. The Counsel welcomed the idea that Professor Schille is in charge of the wording of this application for financial assistance and is sent contributions from the individual sections to deepen the contents of the subject.
7. Professor Schille visited the European Show for Silkies and bantam crested chickens in Saxony in November.
8. A better presence of the Counsel for Animal Health and Protection on the internet was requested.
9. In Bavaria/Germany there was another outbreak of PMV. There is the motion to make a vaccination against PMV mandatory for all pigeon breeders. The problem with Enterocolitis in rabbits still prevails. The discussion about Avian Influenza has taken somewhat the focus from the discussion of extreme characteristics of breeds. The new wording of some standards, for example the length of the ears in English Lobs or the weight of miniature rabbits provided for the requested changes to meet with the demands of animal protection.
In Switzerland the new legislation for animal protection has caught on. The certification has started in order to meet minimal requirements.
10. The topics 10-12 were discussed according to their individual subjects.

13. A goose was tested positively for H5N1 in the region of Saalfeld/Germany. As a consequence of this result a large-scale culling took place. However, it has to be stressed that animals listed in annex 2 of the Avian Influenza Regulations are not to be culled but need to be vaccinated.

Dr. Hibbe

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille