



## **PROPOSALS TO CONSULT SEAC ON THE PRIORITIES ARISING FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S TSE ROADMAP**

### **ISSUE**

1. To consider Defra and FSA proposals to consult SEAC on the priority issues arising from the European Commission's TSE Roadmap.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. At SEAC 89 (September 2005), Defra and the FSA sought advice from SEAC on the issues outlined in the European Commission's TSE Roadmap which was published in July 2005. SEAC welcomed the TSE Roadmap and made a number of recommendations<sup>1</sup>, including:
  - i. Amendments to Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls should only be reviewed in the light of emerging scientific findings.
  - ii. Any changes to animal feed controls must be carefully considered.
  - iii. Effective surveillance, to ascertain infection prevalence and monitor the potential effects of any changes to control measures, should be maintained.
  - iv. Any changes to controls or surveillance should not be considered in isolation.

Defra and FSA undertook to seek advice from SEAC on specific proposals as the European Union discussions develop.

3. Following extensive consultation with Member States, the European Parliament and stakeholders, the European Commission

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.seac.gov.uk/minutes/final89.pdf>

has produced a draft document<sup>2</sup> outlining its priority issues. These are:

- i. Country categorisation in accordance with the three World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) categories of BSE risk<sup>3</sup> for trade purposes.
  - ii. Deferring the culling of BSE cohorts until the end of their productive lives.
  - iii. Permitting the use of hides from BSE cohorts for leather production.
  - iv. Reviewing the age limit for the removal of vertebral column as specified risk material (increase from 24 months to 30 months).
  - v. Carrying out an EU-wide TSE survey in farmed and wild deer.
  - vi. Reviewing the BSE surveillance programme in bovine animals.
  - vii. Reviewing the TSE surveillance programme in small ruminants.
  - viii. Permitting a general tolerance of fish meal in farmed animal feed.
  - ix. Permitting a general tolerance of mammalian meat and bone meal in farmed animal feed.
  - x. Permitting the feeding of non-ruminant proteins to non-ruminants.
4. Annex 1 sets out the timings and dependencies as well as Defra/FSA proposals on the need to consult SEAC on each of these priority issues.

#### **ADVICE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMITTEE**

5. The Committee is invited to comment on Defra/FSA proposals on the need to consult SEAC on each of the priority issues arising from the TSE Roadmap and outlined in Annex 1.

---

<sup>2</sup> Position at 12 June 2006

<sup>3</sup> The three categories are: negligible, controlled and undetermined BSE risk.