



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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## European Union

### Poultry and Products

### Poultry Decontamination

### 2003

**Approved by:**

Justina Torry  
U.S. Mission to the European Union, Brussels

**Prepared by:**

R. Taylor Moore

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**Report Highlights:**

Progress was made between the U.S. and EU over the technical issues regarding anti-microbial agents in poultry processing.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2]  
[E2]

At the May 2002 US-EU Summit, the USG and the EU Commission agreed to work together to resolve the technical issues inhibiting U.S. poultry exports to the EU. Previously this represented a \$50 million market for the U.S. One of the principle barriers to U.S. poultry exports has been the EU prohibition of the use of anti-microbial agents in poultry processing; however, in late April the Commission came to an agreement that anti-microbial treatments can be a useful method of reducing harmful pathogens.

A report was adopted in 2003 by The Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health (SCVPH) detailing their conclusions on the use of antimicrobial treatments for poultry carcasses and established a framework for the assessment of antimicrobial treatments in decontamination compounds.

The report stated that antimicrobial treatments should be used as one method among a series of processes to eliminate pathogens in poultry and that decontamination compounds must be fully assessed before put into use. It would be the responsibility of the individual, organization, or company to monitor their safe use and see to it that the guidelines of the report and Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans are met.

It is in the opinion of the SCVPH that although chlorine dioxide, acidified sodium chlorite, and trisodium phosphate are effective against spoilage and reducing pathogen load, they do not fully eliminate it. The report also stated that sensory effects on poultry as well as toxicological risks for the consumer are negligible.

Currently the U.S. is prohibited from using antimicrobial treatments for poultry exports to the EU (Directive 97/79/EC); however, the discussion now underway may allow for their future use in exports as long as it is part of an integrated strategy to eliminate pathogens throughout the entire production chain.

The full report from SCVPH can be downloaded from:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scv/out63\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scv/out63_en.pdf)

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