Michael Scannell is the Adviser on Animal Health to the Director for Animal Health, with special responsibility for international and trade issues, in the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (SANCO) of the European Commission. In this role he is the chief spokesperson for the European Community in the Codex Commission and in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee of the World Trade Organisation. He is also a member of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group of the OIE. An economist, he has an extensive background in trade, economic, food safety and animal health regulatory issues. This includes eight years in the private offices of European Commissioners, including as adviser on animal health to the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection between 1999 and 2002. He was also a Head of Unit with responsibility for international issues in the DG SANCO for five years prior to his current appointment.