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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
10 - 11 February 2022

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission summarised reports received from Poland based on requirements of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788.

A.03 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and Germany gave an update of the current ASF epidemiological situation in their territories and on the most recent measures put in place to prevent, control and eradicate the disease.

A.04 Update on equine infectious anemia (EIA) situation in Romania.

Romania has provided an update on equine infectious anemia (EIA) situation in its territory. The Commission presented animal health requirements for movement of equine animals, and in particular those related to EIA, applicable before the application of the Animal Health Law (Directive 2009/156/EEC, Commission Decision 2010/346/EU) and those applicable as of 21 April 2021 (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403). Due to the improved EIA, the situation in Romania, resulting in a big decrease of numbers of outbreaks of EIA since 2010, Commission Decision 2010/346/EU is to be repealed and movement of equine animals from Romania to other Member States should be carried out under animal health requirements laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.

A.05 Information on the rabies situation in Poland.

The Polish delegation presented in detail the epidemiological situation they face with regard to rabies since the beginning of 2021 and the actions taken so far at national level to address the issue. The Commission stressed the importance to maintain the efforts at the level of those already made in 2021 and the need to continue to improve

passive surveillance in order to have early detection of new outbreaks and react promptly in case of progression of the disease.

A.06 Information from the Commission on the ongoing revision of Regulation (EU) 2021/605 ('ASF Regulation') - outcome of the first meeting of the working group of experts.

The Commission presented an outcome of the first Working Group meeting related to the revision of the ASF Regulation and informed about the next Working Group meeting planned on 17 February 2022.

A.07 Update on the FMD situation outside the EU.

The Commission invited EuFMD to present the current risks for the EU in terms of foot and mouth disease (FMD). The Commission noted the increased risk for EU and clarified that, in 2022 a new call for tender for enlarging the size of the EU FMD vaccine bank has been planned.

A.08 Information from the Commission on follow-up in the Committee of ADIS notifications of certain Category B and Category C diseases.

The Commission presented an overview of the relevant EU legal framework and the recently employed practice on how to follow-up ADIS notifications in the Committee. Certain differences between approaches for various diseases were explained. The purpose of the suggested approach is to provide maximum transparency and possibility to exchange views in compliance with the relevant rules within the capacity of the Committee.

A.09 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Member States affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry (namely: France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Czechia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Croatia) informed on the epidemiological situation and on the measures taken to prevent, control and eradicate the disease.

A.10 Presentation of the Scientific Opinion on inactivation of indicator microorganisms and biological hazards by standard and/or alternative processing methods in Category 2 and 3 animal by-products and derived products to be used as organic fertilisers and/or soil improvers (EFSA Journal: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6932). (MK/EFSA).

EFSA presented their scientific opinion on risk assessment of biological hazards by standard and/or alternative processing methods in Category 2 and 3 animal by-products intended for the production of organic fertilisers and soil improvers. Following the presentation, the representative of SANTE clarified some questions from Member States and indicated provisional planning as regards drafting of a Delegated Act on determination end points in the manufacturing chain of organic fertilisers and soil improvers.

A.11 Presentation on EU Coordinated Control Action on illegal trade of pets.

The purpose of the presentation was to inform the Committee about an EU Coordinated Control Action on the illegal trade of cats and dogs. The action is scheduled for spring this year and support from the animal health and welfare experts is of the relevance.

The objective was to elaborate on the possible involvement of experts and to invite them to cooperate with other authorities in combating illicit practices in the movement of cats and dogs.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788 concerning rules for the monitoring and reporting of infections with SARS-CoV-2 in certain animal species.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision for prolonging the monitoring and reporting requirements related to SARS-CoV-2 in mustelidae and raccoon dogs. Following a request for clarification on the timing proposed, the Commission informed that it requested EFSA for a new scientific opinion to review the risks and the needed measures and the extension would need to account for it. The Commission also informed that this EFSA mandate would allow to review if there is a need to amend the species scope of Decision (EU) 2021/788.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

A draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever was presented to the Committee for vote. The zoning measures took into account of revision of zones in Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia and are necessary to control the spread of the disease.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU zoning for HPAI needed to be amended due to new outbreaks confirmed by certain Member States in poultry or captive birds already ahead of the PAFF Committee.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to registration and approval of establishments keeping terrestrial animals and collecting, producing, processing or storing germinal products.

The draft Implementing Regulation was presented to Member States. The Commission emphasised that establishments keeping terrestrial animals, which pose a more than

insignificant risk for animal or human health, should not be exempted from the registration requirements. Member States were invited to provide written comments to the draft by 1 March 2022.

M.01 Communication material on the Animal Health Law.

Information material was presented to the PAFF. The material consists of one poster, nine factsheets, one leaflet and a subtitled video. In the coming weeks, Member States, EFTA countries, Western Balkan Countries, a group of third countries as well as members of the advisory group will receive some examples of the material in an English edition. Later all the material will be available for download from our webpage in all official EU languages (<https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law>).

M.02 Information on the expected timetable for adoption of the 2023-2024 work programme as regards EU co-financed veterinary programmes.

The Commission presented the background of the work programme for veterinary programmes and the timetable for its adoption.

M.03 Report on the EUVET mission in North Macedonia.

An EUVET mission on African swine fever was held in North Macedonia from 1 to 4 February 2022. One of the experts presented the main findings and recommendations to the competent authority of North Macedonia to control and eradicate the disease.

M.04 Launching of tender for the new Western Balkan project.

A call for tender for ‘Capacity building of veterinary and plant health services in the Western Balkans SANTE/2022/EA-OP/0001’ was launched on Friday, February 11, 2022.

It is a project with a 4 million Euro budget which will run for a period of three years as two parallel sub projects, one on Animal Health and one on Plant Health.

M.05 Aquaculture - national measures in accordance with Article 226/3 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

The Commission reminded Member States of the February 28 deadline for the submission of details concerning compartments, which they would like the Commission to consider for listing in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260.