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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***

**19 May 2021**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/be024a68-dd49-4fbe-83c8-dcc31346b00b>

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A.01 General information by Member States.**

No item raised.

**A.02 Information from Member States on African swine fever.**

Slovakia and Poland provided an update of their ASF epidemiological situation. In particular information were provided of two outbreaks in wild porcine occurred in Restricted Zone I in each country. As a consequence ASF zoning was revised in those two Member States.

**A.03 Information from EFSA on ASF related Scientific Opinions and Technical Report.**

This point was postponed to the June meeting of the PAFF Committee for unavailability of EFSA colleagues. This will give the possibility to EFSA to present, in addition to the Scientific Opinions already adopted and published, an Scientific Opinion on ASF that will be adopted in June.

**A.04 EU Platform on Animal Welfare.**

In the context of Commission Decision extending the Platform mandate until 30 June 2025, the presentation informed about main features of this expert group which within four years of its functioning became a pivotal and widely recognised forum for keeping an open dialogue on animal welfare, sharing good practices and undertaking non-legislative initiatives, with the commitment of Member States' and relevant stakeholders across the Union, aimed to improve the welfare of animals.

The Platform with a renewed membership will therefore continue to assist the Commission with different animal welfare related actions announced in the Farm to Fork Strategy and with the development of guidance documents or the preparation of tertiary legislation aimed at facilitating and harmonizing the implementation of animal welfare rules, by providing input on technical and scientific issues as well as practical experience in this area.

The call for applications for private experts and organizations wishing to become Platform members was sent out on 12 May with a deadline for submission fixed on 21 June.

The presentation was followed by an intervention from France who expressed its contentment with Commission Decision extending the Platform mandate as well as its full support and engagement with the new tasks of the Platform. Austria, Denmark and the Netherlands have transmitted a message of support via the chat.

**A.05 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 indicated that no reports were received by Member States on the occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs. The Commission invited Member States to share data on risk assessment carried out for the derogations foreseen by the new Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788.

**A.06 Designation of the European Union reference centre for animal welfare for ruminants and equines.**

On 6 May 2021, the Commission adopted *Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/755 designating a European Union reference centre for animal welfare for ruminants and equines in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 163, 10.5.2021, p. 5)*. This Decision, which will be applicable from 1 June 2021, designates the third EU reference centre for animal welfare. This centre is formed by a consortium led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, and also consisting of members from Austria, Greece, France, Ireland and Italy. The scope of the centre addresses ruminants such as cattle, sheep, goats and farmed game, and equines, including horses, donkeys and domestic camelids.

**A.07 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Bulgaria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Romania presented updated information in relation with the situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza on their territory.

**A.08 Information and actions related to the implementation of the Animal Health Law.**

The Commission presented updates on adopted and published legislation, on ongoing legislative developments and on transitional measures. In particular, the Commission explained a new set of changes introduced into document SANTE/7104/2021 providing practical indications as regards certification of movements within the EU and certain aspects of entry into the EU during the transitional period following the entry into application of the AHL, which will lead to the new revision 3 of this document. These were related to certificates for ungulates, measures for bluetongue, aquatic animal certification for entry into the EU of non-listed species and of captive birds for the entry into the EU. The Commission also informed about the BTSF and communication activities concerning the AHL.

**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 Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.**

The Implementing Regulation is listing restricted zone II in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/605 as two areas are affected by outbreaks of African swine fever in wild porcine in Slovakia and Poland.

**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 laying down special control measures related to infection with lumpy skin disease virus.**

A detailed presentation was given on the content of the draft of the new Implementing Regulation laying down special control measures related to infection with lumpy skin disease virus and its annex, explaining how the areas of the Member States will be listed in the new zones defined in this Regulation, the general characteristics of vaccination and the conditions for the movement of animals, germinal products and by-products.

Afterwards Member States asked questions about the possibility to change some areas of Bulgaria from zone II (with infection) to zone I, also questions were asked about the possibility to delegate actions of official veterinarians, about the co-ordination of this regulation with the delegated regulation on vaccines and some concrete questions about intra-community movements and third countries.

Although answers to most of the questions were provided, the chairman asked for written comments to be sent within seven days before starting the written consultation to be able to vote on the Regulation.

**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 on certain emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.**

The EU regionalization in relation with outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States has to be updated to take into account the developments of the epidemiological situation with new confirmed outbreaks in poultry in Czechia, Germany, Poland and Romania.

**Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.**

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Chapter 1 of Part I of Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the disease-free status of Croatia and a region of Portugal from infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* in bovine animal populations and amending Part I of Annex VIII as regards the disease-free status of Lithuania and certain regions of Germany and Italy from infection with bluetongue virus.**

The Annex to the draft Regulation listing new Member States and zones thereof for which the disease free status is granted was presented. The Commission explained that the text will be submitted for written consultation shortly.

Also, the Commission explained that the plan is to amend Regulation (EU) 2021/620 twice per year, listing new free areas. As regards infection with BTV, the plan is to update the disease free areas ,or areas with an approved programme, once per year, after the end of the seasonal presence of the disease.

**M.01 Submission of EU co-funded veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2021-2022.**

The Commission informed Member States on procedure and timing to submit their veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2021-2022, being the SMP Regulation adopted on 28 April 2021 and the related Financing Decision and Work Programme to be implemented in 2021 on, also adopted beginning of May, providing the legal basis for the submission from Member States of the programmes to be EU co-funded.

**M.02 Bulgaria – ASF.**

Bulgaria requested an explanation whether porcine animals kept in restricted zones II can be exported to third countries. The Commission provided initial explanation by referring to Article 243 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Article 9 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 that, provisionally, do not allow such exports.

**M.03 Austria requested a short clarification regarding the document currently under written procedure for the programmes.**

It was explained to Member States that the document under written procedure contains the 2021 financing decision and 2021-2022 work programme. For 2022, a new financing decision will be prepared in the coming months that will provide budget for all the relevant actions.