



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 04 OCTOBER 2016 - 05 OCTOBER 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

A.01 General Information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Italy on the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis and ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015.

Italy presented the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis and ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015. The 2015 trend in the eradication of both diseases has not been favourable mainly due to the increase of herd prevalence in Sicily and Campania. Reinforced measures will be needed in these regions in order to reverse this trend.

A.03 Update from the Commission on EU animal welfare activities, in particular on live animal exports.

The Commission emphasized the increasing pressure from various stakeholders to improve the welfare of live animals exported to Turkey. A summary of the current situation with focus on challenges related to the emergency measures on animal welfare at the exit point in Bulgaria has been presented. The Commission highlighted its activities related to addressing the problems at departure and at the exit point to Turkey. A more detailed report on reinforced checks on animal welfare at the exit point of Bulgaria is expected to be sent to the Commission by Bulgaria. Additional set of targeted actions include: development of a network document on checks before journey of live animals for export, organising National Contact Points (NCP) meetings, launching a Project on the dispatch of live animals and deploying audit missions on transport in Member States. The Commission insisted that Member States provide more factual data following the letter to CVOs, and take actions to improve the welfare of animals transported for export, in particular to Turkey. It also

highlighted that the EU Member States export a great number of breeding animals often with high genetic value.

Member States face challenges to apply the recommendations related to high summer temperatures and some more instructions may be of relevance. The Commission emphasised that Member States have sufficient legal basis following provisions laid down in the Annex to Regulation 1/2005 and that during NCP meetings in Grange it has been agreed that the NCP of BG will send information to all Member States when high temperatures are expected on which basis journeys may not be allowed. It was acknowledged that, even if transporters comply with all provisions of the Regulation, it is very difficult to plan and predict how many hours they have to wait at the Turkish BIP.

Bulgaria informed that, following the successful vaccination campaign against LSD, there have been no new outbreaks since the end of May and that they plan to have an exchange with the Commission on the possible preparation of the final report to OIE which may allow the use of the control post in Haskovo in the near future.

A.04 Information from the EU Reference Laboratory on avian influenza surveillance in poultry and wild birds carried out by Member States during 2015.

The representative from the EU Reference Laboratory for avian influenza presented the results of avian influenza surveillance carried out by Member States during 2015 in poultry and wild birds (draft report Document SANTE/7069/2016 was provided). During 2015 a total number of 21,867 poultry holdings were sampled in Member States. 40 poultry holdings in ten Member States tested serologically positive for H5 or H7 subtypes (0.18% of total EU holdings sampled). 33 holdings were seropositive for H5 (0.15% of total EU holdings sampled) and seven were seropositive for H7 (0.03% of total EU holdings sampled). The detection rate of H5/H7 seropositive holdings was greatest in domestic waterfowl. Of the holdings followed up by virological testing eight were positive for subtype H5 and three for subtype H7. A total of 6,760 wild birds were sampled by passive surveillance. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of the subtype H5N1 was detected in 12 birds in Romania and Bulgaria. In Sweden two birds were found positive for HPAI of the subtype H5N8.

The result will be published on the DG SANTE Website.

A.05 Information concerning two declarations from Croatia on disease free status as regards infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for two compartments.

The Commission informed about two declarations from Croatia concerning the disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for the compartments "Ribnjak" and "Krčić". Both farms are managed by the same aquaculture business operator and are producing rainbow trout and brown trout for human consumption. Both farms are supplied with water from springs where no species susceptible to IHN and VHS are present, and the declarations are in addition based on targeted surveillance for more than two years without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

The declarations can be found on the SANTE Website under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm.

A.06 Information concerning four declarations from Slovenia on surveillance programmes for achieving disease free status as regards infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for two compartments and two zones.

The Commission informed about the following four declarations on surveillance programmes for achieving disease-free status for IHN and VHS in Slovenia:

1. A programme concerning a zone including the river "Sava Bohinjka" with its tributaries, Lake Bled with its tributaries and the fish farms: "Rečica", "Bohinj", "Radovljica" and "Ravnik Drejče". In addition four smaller streams are included in the programme as compartments. Two of the farms situated in the zone are already approved as free of VHS and IHN, the other parts of the zone has an unknown epidemiological status with regards to those diseases.
2. A programme concerning a zone including the river "Savinja" with its tributaries from the spring to the barrier "Kolenčev dam" and the fish farms Podvolovljek" and "Ljubno". The two farms are managed by the same Fishing family and are producing brown trout, grayling, Danube salmon and rainbow trout mainly for repopulation of open waters in the zone and partly for human consumption.
3. A programme concerning a zone including the river "Trnavca" from the spring to the barrier of Žolneško lake, and the two fish farms "Pri Mlinarju" and "Žolnek". One of those farms are producing rainbow trout, the other is rearing cyprinids, pike and rainbow trout, both for the purpose of human consumption.
4. A programme concerning a single compartment comprising a fish farm managed by the aquaculture business operator Fishing family Trbovlje. The farm, which is classified as a high risk farm, is producing brown trout, rainbow trout and Danube salmon mainly for the repopulation of open waters.

All four surveillance programmes submitted by Slovenia are based on years of systematic surveillance.

The declarations can be found on the SANTE Website under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm.

A.07 Report on EU Veterinary Emergency Team established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC.

In line with Commission Decision 2007/142/EC, the Commission informed the Member States of the current composition of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team. It invited the Member States to inform the Commission of any required update in the list of experts.

A.08 Information by the Commission concerning the Annual Report on certain diseases of bovine animals and swine for 2015.

The Commission presented the current version of the draft Annual Report 2015 emphasizing in particular the regions newly recognised as officially free of diseases as provided for in Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

The Member States were asked to send their comments on the report by Monday, 24 October 2016.

A.09 Information by the Commission concerning the amendment of the Guidance to Commission Decision 2008/185/EC - Aujeszky's disease.

The Commission presented two intended amendments necessary in order to update the "Guidance regarding additional guarantees in intra-Community trade of pigs related to Aujeszky's disease and criteria for listing a Member State or a region thereof as free from Aujeszky's disease or as having an approved disease control programme":

- update of the reference to the model certificate for porcine animals 'model 2' of Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC and
- removal of the attached list of officially free recognised Member States and regions thereof and of the list of Member States and regions thereof with an approved eradication programme in place. Those lists are part of Annexes I and II to Decision 2008/185/EC.

A.10 Information from Italy, France, Portugal, Cyprus and Spain on the latest epidemiological situation regarding bluetongue.

Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Italy and France presented their surveillance and vaccination programmes and the actions taken to control the recent outbreaks of bluetongue. The Commission highlighted the need to implement sufficiently big restriction zones to restrain the spread of the disease.

A.11 Update from Estonia and Latvia on the epidemiological situation, controls and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever in these Member States.

Estonia, Latvia and also Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The Committee took note of the changes in the epidemiological situation for this disease in these Member States. A further discussion took place specifically on the situation in Estonia with respect to the improvement of the epidemiological situation in the pig sector.

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 Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards parameters for the transformation of animal by-products into biogas or compost, microbiological standards for raw petfood, conditions for imports of petfood and for the export of processed manure.

The European Pet Food Industry Federation (FEDIAF) expressed concerns about the draft Commission Regulation as regards the proposed alignment of the HACCP measure related to raw pet food with the principles of process hygiene criteria applicable to food business operators. In particular, FEDIAF opposed any discussion on the zero tolerance for salmonella, although no modifications to this aspect were proposed in the draft.

Following the requests of several Member States, the part of the draft document concerning raw pet food was referred to a forthcoming Working Group for further discussion and removed from the draft presented for vote.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation designating the EU reference laboratory for peste des petits ruminants, laying down additional responsibilities and tasks for that laboratory and amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation designating the EU reference laboratory for peste des petits ruminants, laying down additional responsibilities and tasks for this laboratory and amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The Commission also explained the assessment procedure. The Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique, CIRAD (France) has been designated as the EU reference laboratory for peste des petits ruminants.

Vote taken: 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 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and explained how these measures are related to the changes in the epidemiological situation discussed also during this Committee.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.