



# Discussion on trade in pooled semen of animals of the porcine species

Point A.10 of AHW Agenda

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED**

13 - 14 JANUARY 2015



## **A matter of discussion:**

*Could trade in pooled semen of animals of the porcine species be legally allowed?*





## The reason:

*Pooled semen enhances the fertility success ratio after the insemination.*

*Conclusions of the EU co-funded study is that semen doses containing sperm from several boars affected fertility positively compared with doses containing sperm from just one boar.*

*When a semen dose contained sperm from three or six boars, litter size – measured as total born piglets – increased by 0.3 piglets compared with doses containing sperm from one boar only.*

*[http://www.pigresearchcentre.dk/~media/Files/PDF%20-%20UK/Meddelelse%20969\\_UK.ashx](http://www.pigresearchcentre.dk/~media/Files/PDF%20-%20UK/Meddelelse%20969_UK.ashx)*



## A current legal situation:

### Article 2 of Directive 90/429/EEC:

*For the purposes of this Directive, the definitions contained in Article 2 of Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/462/EEC, **88/407/EEC** and 90/425/EEC shall apply as necessary.*

*Moreover, 'semen' means the ejaculate of a domestic animal **[singular]** of the porcine species, in the unaltered state or prepared or diluted.*

### Article 2 of Directive 88/407/EEC

*(h) 'collection' means a quantity of semen taken from a donor **[singular]** at any time.*

## A current legal situation:

Annex A, Chapter II(6) to Directive 90/429/EEC:

*(g) **each collection of semen**, whether or not it is separated into individual doses, is clearly marked in such a way that the date of collection of the semen and the breed and identification **of the donor animal [singular]**, as well as the name and the registration number of the centre, preceded by the name of the country of origin, where appropriate, in the form of a code, can be readily established; the characteristics and form of this marking will be established under the procedure laid down in Article 19.*

# A current legal situation:

## Annex D to Directive 90/429/EEC:

I.31. Identification of the commodities

Species (Scientific name)	Breed	Donor Identity	Date of collection	Approval number of the centre	Quantity
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The certificate assigns to each donor a certain quantity of straws or bags or containers.



## A current legal situation:

- 1. Decision 89/503/EEC laying down the certificate of pure-bred breeding pigs, their semen, ova and embryos*
- 2. Decision 89/506/EEC laying down the certificate of hybrid breeding pigs, their semen, ova and embryos*

Identification: .....

Name of animal (optional): .....

Date of birth: ..... Breed: .....

Name and address of breeder: .....

Name and address of owner: .....

Father .....	Grandfather .....	Grandmother .....
Herd book No .....	Herd book No .....	Herd book No .....

Pedigree:

Mother .....	Grandfather .....	Grandmother .....
Herd book No .....	Herd book No .....	Herd book No .....

## Conclusions:

- 1. From an animal health point of view the likelihood that all these boars meet the same health requirements on the day this particular semen, i.e. the semen which is intended to form part of a pooled semen, was collected is close to 100%.*
- 2. If something happens it would be the economic risk of the operator to destroy possibly larger amounts of semen.*

Mixed semen was involved in the spread of CSF from an AI centre in 1997 in the NL, but this AI centre was not approved for intra-Union trade and supplied semen only to Dutch producers.



## Conclusions:

*3. If TRACES allows to enter more than one boar identity behind a particular quantity of bags or straws of pooled semen, then this is not necessarily available to third countries not operating TRACES and strictly following the model of certificate from which the above picture was snipped.*

*The immediate question would be, do we want such pooled semen also from third countries that may request such a possibility when they learn about its acceptance for European producers of porcine semen?*

## Conclusions:

*4. At this moment in the Directive there is anything about pooled semen, but there are indications that this legislation was meant to establish a close link between a dose of semen and the identity of the individual donor male.*



## Further steps?

- 1. Animal Health Law – delegated/ implementing acts.*
- 2. The proposal for a Regulation on zootechnics - a decision to allow such pooled semen may have to be taken into account during the discussions in Council (Working Parties), because there also AI centres may issue pedigrees and it must be sure that this is only done in those centres that can avoid that pooled semen is used on purebred breeding animals.*

