European Commission

Review of the designation of EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare (EURCAW)

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Review of EURCAW designations

Objective

Review the designation, mandate and operation of EURC designated in accordance with OCR provisions

Legal base

Article 95(2)(b) of Regulation 2017/625 (OCR)

"The designations shall be limited in time or reviewed regularly."

Every 5/7 years based on legislative requirements in:

- CIR 2018/329 (pigs) – 04/2018 – 04/2023
- CIR 2019/1685 (poultry and SFA) – 01/2020 – 01/2025
- CID 2021/755 (ruminants & equines) – 06/2021 – 06/2026
- CID 2024/266 (aquatic animals) – 02/2024 – 02/2031

Requirements to be evaluated :

- performance of the EURC
  - responsibilities and associated tasks laid down in Art. 96 of OCR
  - outputs of EURC (e.g. implementation of multi-annual work programme)
- compliance with designation criteria
  - OCR (Art. 95)
- compliance with
  - requirements in the ToR of the call for tender for the designation of the EURC and
  - the commitments given in the application (optional)
- results of Commission controls where available
  - Art. 99(3) of OCR

Process of conducting review

Review procedure established by DG SANTE

Internal Review Committee
- at least three Commission officials
- with relevant technical expertise

Review Committee report
- findings
- conclusions
- recommendations

EURCAWs have been **informed**

MS to **provide views on performance**, including complaints, as regards EURCAW

The concerned EURCAW **may be consulted** where additional specific information is needed

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Process of conducting review

Possible conclusions

- existing EURC should **continue** to remain designated; or

- existing EURC should **continue** to be designated, but the Commission services should request certain **remedial action** from EURC; or

- a **new EURC** should be **selected** by public selection process

In all cases SANTE will inform about the **outcome** of the review process

- **EURCAW** (by letter) – possibility to provide comments

- **MS** (PAFF meeting)

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