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**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**24 - 25 September 2019**

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

<b>SUMMARY REPORT</b>
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**A.01 General information by Member States.**

No item raised.

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

Updated situation on African swine fever was presented by Member States (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria).

**A.03 Strategic approach to the management of African swine fever for the EU.**

The next Working Group to discuss a revision of the strategic approach to the management of African swine fever with focus on the backyard sector and open farming will be held back-to-back with the next PAFF Committee meeting (24-25 October 2019). Member States welcomed the initiative and are willing to contribute with their expertise and best practices.

**A.04 Presentation on the EUVET missions on African swine fever in Bulgaria and Slovakia.**

EUVET reports in Bulgaria and Slovakia were presented with tailor-made recommendations. Both Member States thanked the Commission for the valuable support.

**A.05 Information from Ireland on the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programme in 2018.**

Ireland presented the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2018. The trend in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in 2018 has been negative, with a slight decrease in herd prevalence and incidence compared to the previous year. A new strategy is currently put in place to reverse that trend and keep the objective of eradication of bovine tuberculosis in Ireland by 2030.

**A.06 Declaration from Germany in relation to freedom from VHS/IHN in a zone comprising the water catchment of the river Wolfegger Ach between the "Höll barrage" and the "Baiefurt barrage". The zone comprises several fish farms.**

The declaration complies with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. There were no questions nor discussion. The declaration is published on the DG SANTE website with a link to the website of the relevant Competent Authority in Germany.

**A.07 Declaration from Italy in relation to freedom from VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm "Impianto Ittico Borgotaro-Albareto".**

The declaration complies with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. There were no questions nor discussion. The declaration is published on the DG SANTE website with a link to the website of the relevant Competent Authority in Italy.

**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 on the financing and the adoption of the work programme for 2020 for official controls, other measures and activities to ensure the correct implementation of the food and feed legislation.**

This draft Commission Implementing Decision covers the expenditure for actions to be implemented on the 2020 budget and includes grants, procurement and other expenditure relating to, for instance, the Better Training for Safer Food Programme, IT and communication expenditure as well as grants and studies in support of food and feed safety policies. The decision covers a total budget of EUR 53.086.000. The Commission confirmed that the decision will not be presented to other Committees before a vote is taken.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision recognising several islands in Portugal as free from varroosis and amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2013/503/EU.**

The Commission briefly explained the legal framework for this official recognition and some of the technical elements implemented by Portugal supporting, and the process leading to such recognition. There were no questions raised.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision 2010/346/EU as regards the regionalisation of Romania for the application of the protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia.**

The Commission representative introduced the document with reference to the discussion in this Committee, including a presentation held by Romania, at the PAFF Committee meeting in June 2019.

Upon request of a Member State, the Commission explained that the measures described in Decision 2010/346/EU will in the future apply only in the regionalized part of Romania and that the remaining part of the territory of that Member State will be subject to the trade rules laid down in Directive 2009/156/EC. Romania confirmed that they would continue to implement their national equine infectious anaemia (EIA) eradication programme on the national territory.

Another Member State inquired about the movement controls within Romania from the regionalized area to the free part of the country and Romania explained that they carry out at least biannual testing of equine holdings and in case of positive findings, the holding is placed under restrictions until its EIA-free status has been re-established in accordance with EU legislation. The Commission reminded Member States that the control measures for EIA are targeting the holding and not the area.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 as regards the listed diseases subject to Union surveillance programmes, the geographical scope of such programmes and the listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established.**

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation, which is part of the legal basis of the future Delegated Regulation on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease free-status (Part II of the Animal Health Law). No questions were raised by Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States.**

Member States supported the extension of validity of Decision 2013/764/EU setting the classical swine fever (CSF) regionalization as well as the removal of Croatia from the annex of that decision.

Written statement from Romania:

*Romania abstains from voting the proposal SANTE/7176/2019 because cannot support the extension of the period of application of the Decision 2013/764 as long as Romania is still included in the Annex of this Decision.*

*We recall that the classical swine fever virus has not been confirmed in Romania since 2007, neither in domestic pigs nor in wild boars and the Romanian authorities have carried out an intense surveillance during the last 12 years in order to prove the free status for CSF.*

*In order to regain its disease free status, Romania has developed every year since 2007, surveillance, control and eradication programs, co-financed by the European Union, with considerable human and financial efforts that reach the total amount of approximately 65 million euros and over 1 million tests.*

*Moreover, Romania has received in May 2017 the OIE recognition of its official status as free from CSF.*

*As a result of the aforementioned, we consider that Romania should be removed from the annex of this Decision, following the considerable efforts made to implement the surveillance, control and eradication programs of classical swine fever, and the absence of the CSF virus circulation in swine populations, domestic or wild.*

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU as regards the availability and timeliness of information on the list of approved establishments.**

Some Member States sent suggestions that were discussed and clarified during the meeting. Finally, Member States supported the replacement of Article 14 of Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU with the proposed amended article.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.08 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.**

African swine fever (ASF) regionalization measures were reviewed taking into account the new ASF epidemiological situation in the EU (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria).

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the officially brucellosis-free status and Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the officially brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)-free status of certain regions of Spain and Annexes I and II to Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the free status and the approval of the eradication programmes in relation to Aujeszky's disease for certain regions of Italy.**

Spain and Italy presented the epidemiological situation for the regions applying for free status, and Italy presented control measures for the regions applying for approval of their eradication programmes. No comments from other Member States were received.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.10 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/320/EU as regards the period of application of the protective measures in relation to the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.**

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU as regards movements to other Member States of consignments of animal by-products obtained from porcine animals in certain areas listed in the Annex thereto.**

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards the use of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel in combustion plants.**

Member States welcomed the draft and asked for clarification of the limitation to a total rated thermal input not exceeding 50 MW. Combustion plants with a total rated thermal input exceeding 50 MW are subject to provision of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) while the draft text introduces integral environmental and animal health requirements for small and medium combustion plants. The text will be presented for technical discussion during the Working Group meeting on animal by-products on 7 October 2019.

**M.01 Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis in dogs in Norway.**

The Norwegian delegation gave an update of the situation. There have been around 45 dead dogs since the start of the event (August 2019) mostly around Oslo. The only common aspect is that they die of a syndrome of haemorrhagic diarrhoea. Several causative agents have already been ruled out, such as common viruses, bacteria, fungus or poisoning. The Commission thanked for the presentation and asked for an update in the coming PAFF Committee meetings should the situation worsen or if the aetiological agent is determined.

**M.02 Detection of Koi herpes virus in carp in an enclosed pond in Ireland.**

This outbreak of KHV occurred in koi carp in an enclosed garden pond, from which there were no movements of live fish. The pond has been de-populated, cleaned and disinfected. Garden ponds keeping ornamental animals fall outside the scope of Directive 2006/88/EC and this case does not therefore, affect the KHV free status of Ireland. There were no questions from Member States.

**M.03 Detection of *Haplosporidium costale* in Pacific oysters in France.**

France gave a clear and concise presentation of a finding of *H.costale* in *C.gigas*. This is the first detection in France but subsequent enquiries carried out by the EURL indicated that the UK had in fact, detected the parasite in *C.gigas* moved from France in 2015. A follow up programme of investigation will start in France in spring 2020.

#### **M.04 Detection of IHN in Germany.**

A short presentation was made by Germany concerning the IHN and VHS-free zone *Wassereinzugsgebiet der Lauchert und ihrer Nebenflüsse von den Quellen bis zum Wehr Laucherthal mit Bachwasseranlage Hugo Strobel, Hettingen*. IHN has been detected in this zone, which was declared free at the PAFF Committee meeting of 18-19 September 2017. The Competent Authority has now withdrawn the IHN free status of the zone.

#### **M.05 FMD.**

The Commission reminded Member States that those, who have indicated the Pirbright Laboratory as national laboratory in Part A of Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus, should ensure contractual arrangements with a national reference laboratory in another Member State by the withdrawal date and notify it to the Commission.