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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Controls and Import Conditions*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by third countries.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from the Commission on Kazakhstan (fishery products).

The Commission informed Member States about the latest developments regarding the authorisation of Kazakhstan for sending fishery products (only wild catch) to the EU, by virtue of its inclusion in Annex IX of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405. A SANTE-audit with unsatisfactory outcome in 2018 and ineffective corrective actions taken by the Kazakh authorities initially, led to the suspension of the prelisting of Kazakh fishery products establishments early 2019. For a couple of years however the Commission has been signalled an enhanced commitment by the Kazakh authorities to meeting the EU import requirements and to reporting about the implementation of these in an EU compliant manner. The Commission has also noticed that imports of Kazakh fishery products have not led to RASFF notifications, at least since 2014. The Commission therefore informed that the prelisting of Kazakh fishery products establishments would resume shortly and called upon Member States to remain vigilant and continue conducting the required controls when importing fishery products from Kazakhstan. A new audit is foreseen for either 2024 or 2025.

A.03 Information point on import-export issues between the EU and UK (GB).

No item raised.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2236 as regards model animal health certificates for the entry into the Union of consignments of aquatic animals intended for certain aquaculture establishments, for release into the wild or for other purposes, excluding direct human consumption.

The Commission presented draft Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2236 which aligns the model certificate for entry into the Union of consignments of aquatic animals intended for certain aquaculture establishments, for release into the wild or for other purposes, excluding direct human consumption set out in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2236 to the new requirements of Article 166 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, as recently amended by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/119, as regards permitting aquatic animal health professionals to perform clinical inspections on consignments of aquatic animals prior to dispatch to the Union provided they are authorised to do so under the law of the exporting third country or territory. Some Member States requested that those aquatic animal health professionals are covered by the future audits scopes of Directorate F in third countries or territories authorised for entry into the Union of the concerned commodities.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes XV and XIX to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the list of third countries, territories or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of meat products from ungulates, poultry and game birds and of eggs and egg products.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation listing Moldova as a third country from which entry into the EU of consignments of poultry meat product subject to treatment D and eggs are authorised for a formal vote.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 as regards highly refined products, as regards the list of third countries with an approved control plan (Annex -I), as regards the inclusion of Moldova in the list of third countries authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of eggs intended for placing on the market as Class A eggs (Annex IV).

The Commission presented a revised version of the draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 as regards highly refined products, the list of third countries with an approved control plan (Annex -I), and the inclusion of Moldova in the list of third countries authorized for the entry into the Union of consignments of eggs intended for placing on the market as Class A eggs. No comments were received during the committee from Member States' representatives.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Special arrangements for Ukraine.

At Member States' request, the Commission took stock of the situation with regard to the special arrangements put in place to facilitate the non-commercial movement of pet animals travelling with their owners from Ukraine. The Commission confirmed that it was paying close attention to any developments in this regard, and in particular to the capacities of Ukrainian authorities, before considering a gradual coordinated return to normal entry conditions

The Commission also used the occasion to briefly inform Member States about the Solidarity Lanes (SL) initiative that foresees in an important alternative route for exporting grains and cereals from Ukraine. As stipulated in the Communication on the SL from May 2022, in order to avoid long queues of trucks and train wagons arriving from Ukraine at the UA-EU borders, the Commission is requesting Member States' authorities to conduct risk based SPS-controls only, and perform these, as much as possible, at the place of destination away from the border. The Commission used the meeting to reiterate this request and to ask Member States to inform the Commission timely, would they see the need for enhanced SPS controls on agricultural products arriving from Ukraine.