



Brussels, 2.5.2017
C(2017) 2841 final

ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**on the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2018, 2019 and 2020 for the
implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses**

ANNEX

1. LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material¹, in particular Title II, Chapter I, Section 2 thereof.

2. INTRODUCTION

Programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses ('veterinary programmes') have been co-financed by the Union for many years and have unequivocally contributed to the improvement of both animal and human health (as programmes against zoonoses are also covered) within the Union.

There is a need to ensure continuity with previous and current activities, in the light of the important achievements resulting from the EU long-term engagement in this area. In addition, a number of both recent and new challenges – such as the occurrence of emerging diseases and the globalisation of threats – have also to be considered in the veterinary work programme to be implemented from 2018 to 2020.

In this context, four milestones will mark out the forthcoming veterinary work programme, reflecting the combination between past, present and future and relating to the four sectorial pillars namely protection and prevention, crises-preparedness, surveillance, and control and eradication.

There is a need to further focus on **protection and prevention** by implementing a set of measures to contain the spread of disease already present in the EU territory and to avoid the introduction/re-introduction of the so-called "trans-boundary" diseases in the Union territory such as rabies, classical and African swine fever and exotic diseases such as lumpy skin disease, sheep pox, goat pox and sheep and goat plague. These protective measures mainly consist of the funding of monitoring activities to be conducted in a buffer zone in neighbouring third countries or regions.

There is a strong demand for the EU to preserve and defend its territory, its production, its industries, its trade as well as its citizens. This sentiment is reflected in the Union food safety policy, which is primarily aimed at protecting human and animal health in the Union, and in the implementation of veterinary programmes, addressing the priority diseases, as listed under point 3.

Protection against animal diseases is a key concept in this policy area: the "prevention is better than cure" principle has been the leading thread since the launch of the EU animal health strategy (AHS), ten years ago.

The strengthening of the protective approach is closely related to the continuous enhancement of the **crisis preparedness** system. It consists of a number of measures put in place to avoid, minimise or rapidly extinguish disease outbreaks in order to avoid the sanitary and economic impact of possible future crises, depending on the severity of the situation.

The **surveillance** activities are aimed at collecting and recording data in order to assess the epidemiological evolution of diseases that are likely to enter or have

¹ OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 1.

already entered the Union or a Member State. They are put in place to timely detect their introduction or assess their epidemiological evolution from the initial stages, to stop their spread and to eradicate them (where possible).

Finally, there is a need to maintain efforts to **control and/or eradicate certain diseases** implementing measures to obtain or maintain the prevalence of an animal disease or zoonosis below a sanitary acceptable level/fixed target (such as *Salmonella* infection) or to eradicate endemic or exotic diseases in order to capitalise the budget already spent in previous years to achieve the eradication, when feasible (such as brucellosis).

The veterinary work programme to be implemented in 2018, 2019 and 2020 should be linked to the main actions and related measures described above and the concerned diseases prioritised accordingly.

3. **PRIORITIES FOR THE YEARS 2018, 2019 AND 2020**

According to Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the priorities for Union financial support as regards the orientation of national veterinary programmes are as follows:

- diseases with impact on human health;
- diseases with impact on animal health, taking into consideration their potential spread and the morbidity and mortality rates in animal population;
- diseases and zoonoses which risk to be introduced and / or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries;
- diseases which have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences;
- diseases with impact on trade with third countries and intra-Union trade.

The list of animal diseases and zoonoses which qualify for EU financial contribution is set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014. According to the above criteria, the current Union epidemiological situation and the most immediate risks, 13 diseases have been identified for which veterinary programmes might be co-funded for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020. Those diseases have been divided into 4 groups and are the following:

Group 1: diseases with major impact on animal health, and on trade.

- African swine fever;
- avian influenza in poultry and wild birds;
- classical swine fever.

Group 2: diseases with impact on human health and /or animal health and close to eradication, where possible:

- rabies;
- bovine brucellosis;
- ovine and caprine brucellosis;
- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

- zoonotic *Salmonella*.

Group 3: diseases which have been introduced or likely at risk to be introduced into the Union territory from third countries:

- lumpy skin disease;
- sheep and goat plague;
- sheep pox and goat pox.

Group 4: diseases with limited impact on animal health and/or human health:

- bovine tuberculosis²;
- bluetongue in endemic or high risk areas;
- aquaculture diseases³:
 - Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS);
 - Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN);
 - Koi herpes virus disease (KHV).

All the diseases listed in the 4 groups are expected to be co-funded. Nevertheless, the budget available will be allocated in priority to groups 1, 2 and 3.

4. BUDGET

The indicative budget⁴ for veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2018 is EUR 159.000.000, in 2019 is EUR 158.000.000 and in 2020 is EUR 157.000.000.

5. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 provides that the objectives of the national veterinary programmes implemented by the Member States are as follows:

The **general** objective is to contribute to a high level of health for humans and animals along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases, ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment while enhancing the Union food and feed industry's competitiveness and favoring the creation of jobs.

The **specific** objectives are:

- to contribute to a high level of food safety and safety in food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production;
- to contribute to improving the animal health status in the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals.

² 170 confirmed human cases due to *M. bovis* in 2015 in the EU (EFSA Journal 2016; 14(12):4634) representing less than 0,3% of the human TB cases notified yearly in the EU (ECDC).

³ The Union financial contribution for the listed aquaculture diseases is currently funded under EMFF by DG MARE. For that reason, the related eligible costs are not listed in this Decision.

⁴ As long as the final budget allocations have not been decided the amounts indicated may be revised.

The **operational** objectives are to contribute to:

- preventing the introduction or re-introduction of transboundary diseases in the Union territory;
- enhancing surveillance, as appropriate for the early detection of disease outbreaks in order to control and eradicate them effectively without delay;
- for endemic diseases, reducing steadily the key epidemiological indicators such as prevalence and incidence in the relevant animal populations and achieving disease eradication where feasible;
- controlling certain animal diseases and/or zoonosis, by implementing specific measures to reach or maintain their prevalence below an acceptable sanitary level or fixed target.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS OF NATIONAL VETERINARY PROGRAMMES

The results, as expected by the Commission by end of 2020, are as follows:

- (a) African Swine Fever:
 - containment of the disease in the currently affected Member States and
 - reduction or, at least, stabilisation of the number outbreaks in domestic pigs in the affected Member States;
- (b) classical swine fever: no outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Union.
 - no outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Union.
- (c) avian Influenza:
 - early detection of the virus in domestic birds in the Union.
- (d) rabies:
 - eradication in wild animals in the Union.
- (e) Bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis:
 - decrease of the herd prevalence and incidence in the Member States with a EU co-funded eradication programme and
 - increase of the number of Member States free from the disease.
- (f) transmissible spongiform encephalopathies:
 - reduction of the number of classical cases in the Union;
 - increase the number of Member States with a negligible Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk and
 - increase of the number of Member States without cases of classical scrapie in the last seven years.
- (g) zoonotic *Salmonella*:
 - increase of the number of Member States with all poultry populations below Union targets.
- (h) lumpy skin disease, sheep and goat plague, sheep pox and goat pox:
 - no outbreaks in the Union.

- (i) bovine tuberculosis:
 - decrease of the herd prevalence and incidence in the Member States with an EU co-funded eradication programme and
 - increase of the number of Member States free from the disease.
- (j) bluetongue:
 - improvement or, at least, stabilisation of the current epidemiological situation in the Union.

7. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA

Taking into account their specific nature, the programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance will be implemented under the sole responsibility of Competent Authorities of the Member States. As provided for in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 these authorities are considered to be identified beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 128 (1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Therefore the grants will be awarded without prior publication of the call for proposal.

Eligibility criteria for submitted programmes

- The programmes are submitted within the deadline set in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014;
- Programmes submitted target an animal disease or zoonosis listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (as modified by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/67⁵);
- Programmes submitted are compliant with the provisions of the relevant Union legislation (Commission Decisions 2008/341/EC and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2444/2015)⁶ and Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014);
- Programmes are submitted by the Central Competent Authorities of the Member States that will also supervise and co-ordinate the implementation of these programmes. Only programmes for which the implementation is compulsory in the MS will be co-funded;
- Programmes are eligible until eradication is achieved; if feasible. Subsequent programmes aimed at demonstrating the health status of animals intended for trade or at obtaining the status of officially free from a disease are not eligible.

Award criteria for submitted programmes

Award criteria make it possible to approve all programmes that can guarantee compliance with Union objectives and priorities. To this end, each programme presented with a view to obtaining Union co-financing will be individually evaluated based on the following criteria:

- consistency of the submitted programmes with the objectives and expected results;
- overall quality of the submitted programme (relevance of the planned activities in terms of type of measure proposed and quantities);

⁵ OJ L9, 13.1.2017, p. 2.

⁶ OJ L 356, 23.12.2015, p. 59.

- compliance of the submitted programme with the requirements of Union veterinary legislation/rules;
- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in previous years;
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs.

8. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE GRANTS

January 2018 for the veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2018,
January 2019 for the veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2019 and
January 2020 for the veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2020.

9. MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

According to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the general rate for grants shall not exceed **50%** of the eligible costs.

In accordance with Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **75 %** of the eligible costs in respect of:

- (a) Cross-border activities implemented together by two or more Member States in order to control, prevent or eradicate pests or animal diseases.

The potential application of point (a) will depend on the programme submitted. How Member States will cooperate should be clearly described in the programme.

- (b) Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90 % of the Union average.

In accordance with Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **100 %** of the eligible costs where the activities benefitting from the Union contribution concern the prevention and control of serious human, plant and animal health risks for the Union, and:

- (a) are designed to avoid human casualties or major economic disruptions for the Union as a whole;
- (b) are implemented in third countries.

10. ELIGIBLE COSTS

In accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the following costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the veterinary national programmes may qualify for grants:

- (a) costs of sampling animals;
- (b) costs of tests, provided that they are limited to:
 - (i) costs of test kits, reagents, and consumables which are identifiable and specifically used for carrying out those tests;
 - (ii) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in carrying out the tests;

- (c) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled, limited to the market value of such animals if they had not been affected by the disease;
- (d) costs of slaughtering or culling of the animals;
- (e) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their destroyed products of animal origin, limited to the market value of those products immediately before any suspicion of the disease arose or was confirmed;
- (f) costs of purchase, storage, inoculation, administration or distribution of vaccine doses or vaccine and baits used for the programmes;
- (g) costs of cleaning, disinfection, desinsectisation of the holding and equipment based on the epidemiology and characteristics of the pathogen; and
- (h) in exceptional and duly justified cases, the costs incurred in carrying out necessary measures other than those referred to in points (a) to (g), provided that such measures are set out in the grant decision referred to in Article 13(3) and (4).