

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group
to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act on the movement
within the Union of terrestrial animals, such as ungulates, poultry and other animal
species, under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

06 September 2018, Brussels

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A provisional agenda was circulated in advance and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The working document to be discussed was provided in advance.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public and attended by representatives of the competent veterinary authorities of Member States and EEA countries. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission recalled the general context of the working document and its place amongst the delegated acts in preparation under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ (AHL).

The Commission informed about the structure of the entire delegated act on supplementary animal health requirements for movement of terrestrial animals within the Union, and explained that the working document to be discussed at the meeting is composed of chapters previously discussed in several expert groups for poultry, horses and other ungulates, supplemented with chapters not previously presented.

The Commission highlighted in its presentation the new chapters included in the working document and the main changes to the text previously discussed. The Commission pointed out that the proposed text reflects the outcome of the discussions in the previous meetings and the written comments provided by the Member States and the EEA countries.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:

4.1. The Commission clarified that the disease prevention measures in relation to transport apply to all means of transport and containers in which kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs are transported within the Union, including within a Member State. One expert proposed to exempt from those requirements transport of own animals.

4.2 The Commission explained that, following the discussion in the previous expert group, the term “animals not intended for slaughter” no longer appears in the text. In principle, terrestrial animals moved to other Member States shall comply with all basic requirements set out in the text relevant for the species. On top of this, the animals shall comply with additional requirements if the Member State of destination or the zone thereof has been granted a disease-

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law) (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1).

free status or has an approved eradication program. By way of derogation from all or part of these requirements, kept ungulates may be transported, either directly or after undergoing an assembly operation, to a slaughterhouse in another Member State for immediate slaughter where those animals comply with another set of requirements. Similar derogations apply for the movement of kept ungulates of relevant species to an establishment in another Member State for fattening before going to slaughter.

- 4.3. The Commission explained again that the requirements in relation to infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) for the movement to another Member State of the relevant listed species of kept terrestrial animals will be developed based on the current rules, reflecting the categorisation of this disease in disease categories C+D+E.
- 4.4. The Commission confirmed that the draft sections on supplementary animal health requirements for the movements of ovine and caprine animals were merged, as proposed by the experts, to allow for the certification of sheep and goats as one consignment.
- 4.5. In reply to the comment from one Member State that it will be difficult to certify no contact of poultry with birds of lower health status when poultry are housed outdoors, the Commission will consider improving the wording of the draft.
- 4.6. The Commission explained that there will be no requirements in relation to vaccination against infection with Newcastle diseases virus for the movement of captive birds to Member States with non-vaccinating status for the disease, because the status currently does not concern this category of animals. Member States concerned indicated that, since no vaccination against the disease is allowed in their territory, when antibodies against the disease are detected in a bird, it is considered a positive finding, and argued for including requirements at least for those captive birds kept outdoors. The Commission noted that this issue should be raised when discussing the non-vaccinating status for the disease in the relevant expert group.
- 4.7. In relation to individual identification of captive birds, Member States considered that identification of those birds should be similar to what is applicable for poultry and proportionate to the risk posed by their movement.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working document by 1 October 2018.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve the text of the working document.

6. NEXT MEETING

During the next meeting of this expert group planned on 11 October 2018, the intention is to present the chapters not discussed in previous expert groups, supplemented with revised versions of the chapters not fully agreed.