



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)7619263

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

24 - 25 October 2019

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

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Declaration from France in relation to freedom from KHV, VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm 'Earl Carpio'.

A.02 - A.04

All three declarations comply with the format and data requirements of the EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554 respectively (the latter as regards declaration of disease freedom).

One Member State questioned the purpose of declaring disease freedom if the relevant compartment or zone does not have susceptible species for the disease in question. The Commission responded that the current regulations provide opportunities for declaration of disease freedom on this basis.

A.03 Declaration from France concerning commencement of a surveillance programme regarding VHS and IHN in a zone comprising the fish farm " Pisciculture des Grands Pés".

Please see under A.02.

A.04 Declaration from France in relation to freedom from VHS,IHN and KHV in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm 'La pisciculture de Pégairolles de Buèges'.

Please see under A.02.

A.05 Declaration from France in relation to freedom from VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm 'Pisciculture du Val Fleury'.

The declaration complies with the format and data requirements of EU Decision 2009/177/EC.

The declaration is published on the relevant EU Commission website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en with link to the relevant website of French authorities: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/maladies-des-animaux-aquatiques>.

A.06 Information from the Commission concerning the *"Final report of the EFTA's Surveillance Authority's mission to Norway from 20 to 29 May 2019 in order to evaluate animal health controls in relation to aquaculture"*.

The Commission briefly informed about the aquaculture audit by the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) in Norway (date, publication of final report etc.) and also indicated that Norway voluntarily suspended certification attesting infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) free status for live aquatic animals, eggs and gametes until further notice.

Several Member States took the floor, expressed their concerns about the situation and sought clarification on certain technical issues. Norway referred to their still continuing efforts to compile relevant documentation supporting compliance with EU rules. ESA clarified a number of procedural aspects (e.g. urgent letter, action plan by Norway, deadlines for actions etc.) and stressed the close collaboration with the Commission before, during and on the follow-up of the audit. ESA emphasised that they received assurances from Norway that the self-imposed ban on certification would not be lifted before ESA could fully assess the supporting documentation to address the recommendations of the report. That was confirmed by Norway.

Further clarifications were sought on certain trade implications and in relation to the assurances from Norway and ESA, on time-frames, on the voluntary self-imposed ban and on a potential follow-up audit. Those clarifications and assurances were given by Norway and ESA. It was suggested to come back to the issue in the next PAFF meeting on 21-22 November.

A.07 Information from Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia on the results of the implementation of their rabies eradication programmes in 2018.

All reporting countries except two, have implemented two oral vaccination campaigns in 2018 as part of the EU-cofinanced national eradication programmes. In one of these two Member States there was only a spring campaign and it was limited to the area with positive cases in 2016 and 2017 (procurement issue due to increased price of vaccines). In the other Member State there were no campaigns performed in 2018 (legal base not adopted in time).

Other major reported issues related to insufficient number of samples for monitoring/surveillance, lower seroconversion and cooperation with neighbouring third countries; one vaccination campaign was carried out in the Belarusian buffer zone while no campaigns were performed in the Ukrainian buffer zone, a change of vaccine, insufficient number of samples for monitoring and/or surveillance, lower seroconversion and a delay in the autumn campaign.

A.08 Information on African swine fever in Member States.

Hungary, Slovakia, Latvia, Romania, Poland and Belgium provided an update on the African swine fever situation.

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 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/320/EU as regards the period of application of the animal health protection measures for salamanders in relation to the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.

The Commission briefly explained the state of play as regards to feed-back and positions received from Member States after the meeting in June and from scientist and stakeholders. In general, all concerned seemed to support the prolongation of the protection measures without any other change and a draft Decision was prepared accordingly for the opinion of the Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States by prolonging its period of application.

On points B.03 and B.04:

The representative of the Commission provided an update on the occurrence and control of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in South East Europe, the outcome of the latest GF-TADs LSD expert Group meeting on October 2019, as well as preparedness measures in relation to Sheep Pox/Goat Pox at EU level. This was followed by a presentation of the text of the above draft decisions, which prolong the application of CIDs (EU) 2016/2008 and 2016/2008 until 20 April 2021, last day before the entry into force of Reg. (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2009 approving the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease submitted by the Member States by prolonging its period of application.

Please see under B.03.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 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.

ASF regionalisation measures were reviewed. This revision took into account the recent cases and outbreaks in Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Poland.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation animal health requirements and environmental limits for the emission of certain pollutants for the use of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel in combustion plants with a total rated thermal input not exceeding 50 MW in order to introduce a new possibility of valorisation of animal by-products.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

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.

The Commission informed Member States about ongoing internal discussions on this document. The Commission intends to present this Decision for discussion at the next PAFF meeting.

M.01 Incident in Denmark – Seven wild boar carcasses washed ashore on the Island of Aero.

During the period 20-23 October Denmark experienced that seven dead wild boar washed ashore at the island of Aero situated in the north-western part of the Baltic Sea. The carcasses were collected and sent for rendering. The Danish veterinary authorities has a politic of not testing animals of unknown origin that now and then washes ashore along the Danish coastlines.

The wild boar most likely originated from a country bordering the Baltic Sea. The specific case where seven dead animals washed ashore is exceptional as it normally is events comprising of single animals. We expect it is a flock of wild boars that has been swimming to one of the small islands along the coastline of one of the bordering countries for foraging. The animals might have been caught by the current and brought at sea, drowned and led by the current to the island of Aero. As the carcasses arrived at the same locality, it suggests that they originate from the same event.

M.02 Denmark and Germany informed about the illegal import of positive ASF blood samples.

The Commission took note of information provided by Denmark and Germany.

M.03 Situation 2018 – Bovine and Swine Diseases.

The Commission explained that the circulated document is a compilation of the data provided by the Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The delegates were invited to check the relevant data for their own country in the document before publication on the Commission web pages.

M.04 Debrief: Expert Group on ASF strategic approach.

The Commission informed Member States about an ongoing revision of the Strategic approach on ASF management for the EU. A summary of the Working group meeting of experts (that took place on 23 October 2019) was provided.

Discussions on wild boar management measures and outdoor keeping of pigs in areas affected by ASF were highlighted.

M.05 KHV outbreak in Croatia.

Croatia gave an update on the situation regarding KHV outbreak.