



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 13 JULY 2017
(Section *Animal Health and Welfare*)**

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

A.01 General Information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information concerning two declarations from Germany on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartments "Aquakulturbetrieb Fischzucht Feldmann und Akrini Gbr, Forst-Einöde und Bainers-Bergatreute und Wolfegg/Alttann".

The Commission informed about two declarations from Germany concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for the two compartments Bergatreute and Wolfegg/Alttann operated by the company "Aquakulturbetrieb Fischzucht Feldmann und Akrini Gbr, Forst-Einöde und Bainers". Both compartments are now in the position to regain their previous disease free status for IHN and VHS after having been subject to eradication measures following outbreaks of IHN in 2015 in accordance with the requirements set out in Commission Implementing Decision 2015/1554.

A.03 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "de la'amont de l'Andelle".

The Commission informed about a declaration from France concerning disease free status for IHN and VHS for a compartment consisting of the water catchment area of a small river draining to the Seine in the area l'Andelle in the Province Eure, and two fish farms producing rainbow trout, char and trout for the purpose of restocking open waters, the purchasing of live fish and for human consumption. The declaration is based on more than four years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

A.04 Information on the outcome of a series of Study visits to certain Member States to collect information and gain essential knowledge on the aquaculture sector.

The Commission informed the Committee about the background, purpose and main outcome of a series of Study visits to three Member States to collect information and gain essential knowledge on the aquaculture sector for the purpose of drafting better supplementary legislation within the framework of the new Animal Health Law. A written report from the Study visits will be sent to the Member States.

Links to declarations presented under A.02-A.04 will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.05 Update from Estonia, Lithuania and Poland on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.

The Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The Commission presented the findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission carried out in the Czech Republic on African swine fever.

The Committee noted the evolution of the situation and emphasized the need to review the measures for African swine fever in order to address the new risks arising from the current epidemiological scenario.

A.06 Review of the African swine fever strategy for the Eastern part of the EU.

The Commission is expecting further comments from the Member States before proposing a revised version of the strategy.

A.07 Information from Portugal on the implementation of the vaccination plan against avian influenza in a mallard breeding holding.

Portugal gave a presentation on the implementation of its preventive vaccination plan in high value breeding mallards. Accompanying surveillance in mallards and sentinels did not reveal virus presence on the holding.

A.08 Information from Member States on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission presented an overview and graphs on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza in the EU. The most recent outbreak was confirmed on 30/6/2017 in rural poultry in France and in captive birds on 07/07/2017 in Belgium. The last positive wild bird (whooper swan) was detected in Finland on 22/06/2017.

Belgium gave a presentation on the HPAI outbreaks in captive bird holdings and bird dealer premises that were mostly related to purchase of birds at markets. The complexity of epidemiological investigations in that specific sector and the control measures taken including the means for awareness raising were discussed.

France reported on an outbreak in a rural poultry holding close to the Belgian border.

A.09 Inaugural meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

The Commission presented the main outcomes of the first meeting of the EU Animal Welfare Platform which took place in Brussels on 6 June 2017. The Platform is based on a new paradigm where progress on animal welfare at EU level can only be the result of collective efforts from all stakeholders involved (“Everyone is responsible”). The Platform is constituted of 75 members and the first meeting was dedicated to the exchange of views in three different sessions as follows:

- Better application and understanding of EU legislation
- Global promotion of EU animal welfare standards
- Development and use of voluntary commitments

The Commission also gave a detailed presentation of the outcomes of the discussion on each topic as well as a summary of reactions on Twitter. The feedback from stakeholders was generally very positive and constructive. The next meeting will be held on 10 November with the possible establishment of sub-group(s) as requested by many members.

No question was raised.

A.10 Information and discussion on a working document for the "Review of options for regionalization measures for African swine fever".

The Commission presented a working document to explore ways in making regionalization measures more flexible without compromising risk mitigating measures. The options for increasing movement of pigs from farms in Part II were explored as well as the need to taking on board changes in the new OIE chapter for African swine fever. Risks and possibilities to increase flexibility when specific risk mitigation measures such as heat treatment are applied were also explored. The Commission took note and committed to come back with a revised document.

A.11 Availability at the Commission website of information to be provided by Member States in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 262/2015.

The Commission emphasized that Regulation (EU) 262/2015 obliges Member States to provide a direct link to a website established by their competent authority in order to make available certain information required by that Regulation to Member States, issuing bodies and the public. The information in particular concerns: a list of issuing bodies for equine passports, alternative methods for identity verification, central databases, contact points, time limits for the identification of equidae, derogations for equidae under wild or semi-wild conditions and smart cards. In order to assist the Member States in making the information available, the Commission has established a website where Member States' links are published. Member States are requested to ensure that links to their national websites are available, functioning and contain the required information.

Some Member States stated that they are not able to provide other Member States with a direct access to their central databases because of national provisions on data protection, however they may provide particular data upon request of the competent authority of another Member State.

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.

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 (SANTE/7077/2017).

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures relating to African swine fever in the Czech Republic (SANTE/7078/2017).

The Commission presented two documents for vote and explained how these measures were related to the occurrence of African swine fever in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as discussed earlier.

B.02 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.

The Commission provided a short update on the occurrence and control of lumpy skin disease (LSD) in South East Europe. This was followed by a presentation of the text of the above draft decision, which refines the LSD control measures related to "free zones with vaccination" and "infected zones", particularly for the movement of live cattle within or between those zones, without compromising safe trade or increasing the risk of disease spread.

M.01 Newcastle disease in Portugal.

Portugal reported a case of Newcastle disease in a racing pigeon confirmed in a quarantine facility. Epidemiological investigations are carried out to assess possible further spread.

M.02 Information on the outbreaks of equine infection anaemia.

The Commission presented the current situation as regards outbreaks of equine infection anaemia (EIA) in the European Union and reminded of the provisions laid down in Directive 2009/156/EC in this respect. Germany informed about nine outbreaks of EIA in their territory, where 13 horses were affected. All cases concerned polo horses. Germany has implemented all necessary measures based on Directive 2009/156/EC and has launched investigation in order to establish traceability of infected horses. Germany, supported by other Member States, reported general problems with traceability of horses which are moved within their territory

and in the Union. Some Member States informed about their national legislation in place as regards EIA and/or traceability of horses. Member States requested to focus on the Union legislation in order to improve it for the purpose of traceability of equidae. The Commission informed about an upcoming expert group meeting in October this year which will deal with this subject and which is focusing on the new provisions to be adopted as delegated acts supplementing Animal Health Law.