



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.5(2017)2230431

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 06 APRIL 2017 - 07 APRIL 2017
(Section Animal Health & 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 from EFSA on the scientific and technical assistance concerning the survival, establishment and spread of *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) in the EU.

EFSA explained the main elements of the mandate and the conclusions of the technical assistance report. The Commission added information on recent developments in the political context and international standards (OIE) and highlighted which elements from the EFSA report are directly useful for potential EU safeguard measures towards safe trade of salamanders and where are the gaps and uncertainties. The Commission asked Member States to send in their initial thoughts on those and other elements in the near future. Several Member States supported both the approach and the main elements, while considered that more time and discussion is needed for fine-tuning technical details and, if possible, to avoid unnecessary burden on veterinary services.

A.03 Information from EFSA on the scientific opinion on bluetongue.

The main conclusions of the new scientific opinion on bluetongue were presented by a representative of EFSA. The Committee noted the difficulties to achieve eradication levels of the disease by vaccination (vaccination campaign of 5 years). A separate scientific opinion on classification and grouping of different BTV serotypes and on the listing and categorisation process will be published by summer.

A.04 Information from EFSA on a scientific report on Lumpy Skin Disease.

The representative of EFSA presented the main points of a scientific report on the occurrence of lumpy skin disease (LSD) in South East Europe. The report, which includes an analysis of the epidemiological data on LSD (temporal, spatial, risk factors etc.) along with an evaluation of the control measures (vaccination), was based on data provided by several countries in the region. Publication is foreseen for April 2017.

A.05 Information from EFSA on the scientific and technical assistance concerning the epidemiological analyses on African swine fever in the Baltic countries and Poland.

EFSA presented the scientific report concerning the epidemiological analysis on African swine fever in the Baltic countries and Poland. The Committee noted the new data and the very slow speed of spread of this disease in natural conditions. An updated report will be finalized by the end of 2017.

A.06 Information from EFSA on the data collection framework and contribution from Member States in view of specific analysis.

EFSA presented its data collection framework and explained the need for Member States to contribute with data already in their possession in view of allowing EFSA to carry out specific risk assessments. The Committee noted the importance of supporting EFSA while avoiding unnecessary burden to the already scarce human resources available in the national competent authorities.

A.07 Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2018-2020.

- This document complements SANTE/2017/10191 "Draft 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".
- It aims at providing the Member States with updated information and guidelines on the Union co-funded programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses (veterinary programmes) for the period of 2018-2020. It contains details on the legal basis, the expected results, a description of the activities to be funded, several clarifications on the procedural aspects, description of unit costs and co-financing rates and particular cases concerning some diseases.
- It was previously discussed with Member States at the Plenary task force meeting (February 2017).

A.08 Information concerning six declarations from Norway of disease free status with regard to infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) for compartments.

Norway presented information on the ISA status for 6 compartments. No comments from Member States. If no objections/substantial comments by Member States, it will enter into force automatically in 60 days.

A.09 Review of the African swine fever strategy for the Eastern Part of the EU.

The Commission presented the proposed changes to be made to the ASF Strategy for the Eastern part of the EU which take into account the input received from Member States during the previous Committee. A further review of the strategy will be discussed at a later stage.

A.10 Review of options for regionalization measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented some options to review African swine fever regionalization measures in order to make the measures more sustainable and at the same time minimizing the risks of disease spread. The Committee supported this initiative and provided technical input.

A.11 Information from the Commission and Member States on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission representative gave an overview on the disease situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the EU with a total number of outbreaks in poultry (1098) and in captive birds (47) notified to the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS). 23 Member States made 1402 submissions to the ADNS representing one or more wild birds testing positive for HPAI H5. Outbreaks in poultry and findings in wild birds have begun to decline during the last two weeks. Four different virus subtypes have been detected so far, with subtype H5N8 being the most prominent one. H5N5, H5N6 and H5N1 not of Asian origin were detected on few occasions and show no increased affinity to humans.

Representatives of France, Germany, Italy and Poland presented the most recent developments as regards HPAI in poultry and wild birds. In particular the situation in France in fattening ducks and in Germany in turkeys require further attention.

A.12 Information on the implementation of vaccination against avian influenza of captive birds kept in zoos, approved bodies, institutes or centres in the Member States during 2016.

The Commission invited Member States to submit the information required under Commission Decision 2007/598/EC and as indicated in the document distributed by the Commission.

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 Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

(SANTE/7018/2017)

Following the review of the disease situation in the Union, the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States. Due to further outbreaks in commercial poultry in France and Germany and in some backyard poultry flocks in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece and Romania, the competent authorities of these Member States have established new areas as protection and surveillance zones around the infected holdings, where control measures and restrictions on movements apply according to Directive 2005/94/EC. The current draft amends these areas and fixes the duration of the regionalization in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC. In addition, taking into account the epidemiological situation and the overall reduction of outbreaks, certain movements of day-old chicks between Member States may be authorized by the competent authority provided that specific biosecurity measures and certification requirements are complied with.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.02 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.

Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and explained how these measures were related to the changes in the epidemiological situation in some areas of Poland discussed previously.

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.

The representative of Greece presented an update on the lumpy skin disease (LSD) epidemiological situation and the progress of the LSD vaccination campaign in their country. The Commission representative presented the above draft decision which introduces proportionate conditions for semen, embryos and ova dispatched within the

"infected zone" or the "free zone with vaccination" of the same Member State and amends the "infected zones" and the "free zones with vaccination" in Annex I to Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 following the occurrence of LSD in Kerkyra (Greece) and the decision of the Greek authorities to expand LSD vaccination in the rest of the country.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the official tuberculosis-free status of the region Umbria of Italy and of the enzootic-bovine-leucosis-free status of Poland, amending Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-free status of Germany, and amending Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the Aujeszky's disease-free status of certain regions of Poland and the approval of the eradication programme for Aujeszky's disease for the region Veneto of Italy.

The Commission presented to Member States the draft Implementing Decision to recognize the officially disease-free status as regards tuberculosis of the region of Umbria of Italy and enzootic bovine leucosis of Poland, to grant additional guarantees for infectious-bovine rhinotracheitis to Germany and for Aujeszky's disease to certain regions of Poland, and to approve the eradication programme for Aujeszky's disease of the region of Veneto of Italy.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft 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.

The Commission thanked Member States that had sent comments after the presentation of the document during the previous PAFF Committee meeting in March and presented the revised draft document, explaining that the annual/multiannual work programme

- sets out: objectives pursued, expected results and methods of implementation
- contains: description of measures to be financed, indicative implementation timetable and
- includes: priority actions; evaluation criteria; funding; indicative list of eligible measures and costs.

In particular the group of priority diseases has been highlighted, explaining the "ratio" of the classification of the possible EU co-funded diseases in four priority groups. Then the expected results per disease were described. It was made clear that more details are included in the guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes for the years 2018-2020 that have been presented during the same PAFF Committee meeting.

Member States welcomed the revised document.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 180/2008 as regards extending the period of designation of the EU Reference Laboratory for equine diseases other than African horse sickness.

The representative of the Commission presented the draft document which aims to extend the designation of the EU reference laboratory (EURL) for equine diseases other than African horse sickness (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES)) until 30 June 2023. In order to ensure a high quality and uniformity of analytical and diagnostic results in the Union, it is important that this EURL continues to carry out its activities for another five-year period.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the amended plan submitted by Belgium for the approval of establishments for the purposes of intra-Union trade in poultry and hatching eggs pursuant to Council Directive 2009/158/EC.

The draft text had already been presented during the meeting of this Committee on 2-3 March 2017 (agenda item B.06) which aims to approve certain amendments to the national plans for the approval of poultry establishments for intra-Union trade in order to take account of the progress made in methods of disease prevention and control.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the configuration of the identification code for bovine animals.

The Commission presented a revised draft Regulation for discussion, which intends to authorize the use of the three-digit numerical code that should be used to indicate the Member States in the animal code for electronic identifiers (based on ISO 3166). This is to ensure a smooth transition to the use of electronic identification from 2019 onwards.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex E Part 2 of Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the requirements for small hive beetle in the health certificate for trade in bees and bumble bees.

The Commission explained that the non-paper outlines a new approach for animal health certification for bees and bumble bees moved between Member States.

In particular, it addresses the issue of certification from areas in Italy not subject to restriction for *Aethina tumida*, but bordering the restricted areas and also proposes an exemption for environmentally isolated facilities producing bumble bees colonies for use in green houses.

The Commission stressed that the proposed certification supports and completes the Decisions already adopted as regards regionalisation for *Aethina tumida* in Italy.

Member States will send comments to the Commission after consulting their experts.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards microbiological standards for raw petfood, requirements concerning approved establishments, revision of technical parameter applicable to the alternative method Brookes gasification process, detoxification of certain Category 3 materials, import of horns and horn products, import of gelatine, and export of certain blood, blood products and intermediate products.

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards harmonisation of the lists of approved or registered plants and of traceability of certain animal by-products and derived products.

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

M.01 Outcomes of the XII Meeting of the National Contact Points (NCPs) on animal welfare during transport, held on 21-23 March 2017 in Grange.

The main outcomes of the NCPs' meeting presented by the Commission were to: continue the work of the NCP sub-groups on unweaned animals and extreme temperatures; update the Member States' Network documents on "Improving controls at departure, control points and exit points" and "Live animal transport in livestock vessels"; improve further the communication between Member States and set up a system to provide the Commission Legal Services with real life cases with regard to the judgment of the CJEU on the Case 424/13 on export.

Bulgaria informed about the temporary closure of the "Royal Haskovo" control post and the availability of a second control post in Svilengrad with a limited capacity. For this reason all NCPs were officially informed by the BG authorities to approve journey logs only after confirmed booking of accommodation in the control post in Svilengrad.

The Commission announced that all Member States will be very soon consulted on several occasions by the contractor of an ongoing Commission study on preparation of best practices on the protection of animals at the time of killing. A feedback and input of Member States will be highly appreciated in that respect.

Upon a question from France the Commission confirmed that ritual slaughter falls within the scope of this study.

M.02 Germany: request on goods subject to official controls (Annex of Regulation 1141/2016).

The Commission informed that categories of associated goods in column (iv) in the Annex of Regulation (EU) 1141/2016 are not subject to official controls.

M.03 Bulgaria: application of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 transport of animals from Member States to third countries: temporary suspension of the control post "Royal Haskovo".

Bulgaria informed the Committee that the control post "Royal Haskovo" had been temporarily suspended. In order to avoid serious infringements of animal welfare Bulgaria requested the competent authorities of other Member States not to approve the journey logs without confirmation that there is enough capacity within the other approved control post for resting. The Commission invited Member States to inform the relevant authorities in their countries and to ensure that certificates are not issued unless it is confirmed that animals can rest in the control post.