



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 02 MARCH 2017 - 03 MARCH 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 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on avian influenza in Bulgaria.

The findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission in Bulgaria from 16 to 18 January 2017 on highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 were presented. The Committee noted the situation in relation to protective measures taken by Bulgarian authorities.

A.03 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease in poultry.

Romania reported on six outbreaks of Newcastle disease between 1-23 February 2017 in backyard poultry flocks in the counties of Ilfov, Argeş and Giurgiu due to insufficient immunisation against the disease. Control measures according to Directive 92/66/EC were implemented including the killing of the birds on the infected holdings.

A.04 Information from the Commission and Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission representative gave a general update on the highly pathogenic avian influenza disease situation in the EU. With respect to the findings in wild birds it was clarified that the presented figures refer to the number of submissions to the Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) and not to the absolute number of birds tested positive.

Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Spain, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom gave presentations on the highly pathogenic avian influenza disease situation in poultry on their

territories. The situation in commercial poultry is still evolving in South West France with a high density of duck and geese holdings for which housing is difficult to implement. Greece has detected a new HPAI strain – H5N6. A virus strain of this subtype is circulating in poultry in South and Far East Asia and causes also disease in humans including fatalities. The EU Reference laboratory made a quick assessment of some sequences of that virus. The very preliminary analysis indicates that this H5N6 virus is different from viruses currently associated with wide spread infection in Eastern Asia in poultry and infections in humans. However, further analysis of the full genome is required.

Lithuania reported its first detection in wild birds.

A.05 Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes on eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2018-2020.

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Laze".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Slovenia concerning a surveillance programme for achieving disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising the fish farm "Laze", the streams "Rajni potok", "Sevnična" and "Impoljski potok". This fish farm is a small hatchery producing brown trout for the purpose of repopulation of open waters based on breeding material partly caught in the streams constituting parts of the compartment.

The surveillance programme has been prepared as a two year programme with reduced sample size, based on systematic surveillance of the health status of the compartment for the previous four years.

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from Italy on a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Santo Massimo" in the province of Rimini.

The Commission informed about a declaration from Italy on disease free status for IHN and VHS for the compartment "Santo Massimo" located in the Province of Rimini. The compartment comprises two separate structures, the hatchery "Santo Massimo" produces fry of brown trout and pike for the purpose repopulating of mountain rivers in the province, and the lake "Lago Zagatini", from where the brood stock of pike are caught.

The surveillance programme has been prepared as a two year programme for targeted sampling based on four previous years of systematic surveillance of the health status of the compartment.

Links to all the declarations presented under A.06, and A.07 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.08 Information on the establishment of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

The Commission briefly presented the background of the platform, its role, membership and operations as laid down in Commission Decision 2017/C 31/12. It was underlined that the interest of the Platform was about bringing successful experience to be shared rather than pointing out what should be better done by others. Also it was stressed that commitments from the businesses are expected. The first meeting of the platform will take place on 6 June 2017 (Member States will receive an invitation in due time) and a call for applications has been published for non-institutional members that will be closed on 6/3/2017.

Austria, France and the Czech Republic raised questions. As regards the level of expertise the Commission declared that as a starting point, it was likely that discussions will be essentially strategic while it may evolve to more technical issues when general orientations have been agreed. The appointment of the non-institutional members will follow the criteria published in the call for applications. The Commission will endeavour to make a balanced representation on various dimensions while it is conscious that due to the limited number of members, it might not satisfy all demands.

In the margin of the point, Lithuania asked if the Commission had expressed a position regarding the claims made by NGO on the bad welfare situation related to the export of live animals to non-EU countries. Denmark wanted to know how to tackle the fact that some animal welfare organisations seem to have a different perception of the situation than the competent authorities as regards the situation. The Commission replied that it was well aware of the problem and that many actions have been already engaged and will be continued in order to support better enforcement of the legislation. In the meantime, it stresses the importance of providing factual data on the situation, in particular by systematically use TRACES for reporting non-compliances as well as ensuring proper follow up of notifications made by other competent authorities, in particular from Bulgaria, which is the main exit point for such trade.

A.09 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on African swine fever in Latvia.

The findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission in Latvia on African swine fever were presented. The Committee noted the risk expert recommendations. The importance of an efficient surveillance system along with sound biosecurity was reiterated.

A.10 Update from Latvia and Lithuania on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.

Latvia and Lithuania presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. Latvia provided an update on the epidemiological investigations related to the two outbreaks of 2017. The situation in Lithuania was reviewed by the Committee and improvements in the epidemiological situation were noted.

A.11 Review of the African swine fever strategy for the Eastern part of the EU.

The Commission presented the proposed changes in the African swine fever strategy for the Eastern part of the EU done, taking into account the input received by Member States in an earlier Working Group. The reviewed document would need to take stock of the experience gained since the occurrence of the disease in the Baltic States and Poland and promote a more targeted approach to the disease. The Committee provided additional comments which will be taken into account in a further revision of the strategy.

A.12 Update from Hungary, Romania and Slovakia on the preparedness measures in place and surveillance data collected for African swine fever.

Hungary, Romania and Slovakia presented their actions undertaken in terms of preparedness measures in place for African swine fever and provided the data collected and on surveillance.

A.13 Presentation by EFSA of the assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2016 by Member States claiming freedom from that parasite.

EFSA presented the analysis and critical assessment of the sampling strategy, the data collected, and the detection methods used in the 2016 EM surveillance programmes submitted by Finland, Ireland, Malta, the United Kingdom and Norway.

Finland, Ireland, the UK and Norway drew a representative sample from wild definitive hosts present in their territory while Malta implemented a risk-based sampling from the dog population due to the absence of wild definitive hosts species in its territory.

None of these countries has recorded positive samples in 2016.

Under the assumption of an unbiased representative sampling and considering the sensitivity of the tests applied, the four Member States (Finland, Ireland, Malta and the UK) and Norway have succeeded in implementing surveillance activities able to detect EM at 1% prevalence maximum, with a 95% confidence level, fulfilling the requirements of EU law.

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 on the financing of the 2017 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, and official controls in the food and feed area.

Two Member States posed questions on the topic. They requested more information on a few specific (and rather marginal) projects. The representative of the Commission asked the Member States concerned to send their questions in detail and in writing. The Commission will then provide clarifications.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

Following the review of the disease evolution in the Union the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States. Due to further outbreaks of HPAI in concerned Member States and new outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in Spain, these Member States have established new 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 the protection and surveillance zones that have been established by the competent authorities of the Member States in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC and fixes the duration of the regionalization taking into account the epidemiology of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 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.

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 improvements in the epidemiological situation in Lithuania discussed earlier.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.05 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 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. Certain Member States (France, Italy, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Romania) noted the difficulties to align their computer databases and were seeking the interim measures for alignment. The vote was postponed in order to further refine the text.

Vote postponed

B.06 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.

Belgium presented the amendments to the national plan for the approval of poultry establishments for intra-Union trade that concerns technical updates for the testing methods for animal health relevant *Salmonella* serotypes and *Mycoplasma*, as well as the approval of laboratories for the performance of these tests.

The Commission informed about the legal requirement for the approval of amendments made by a Member State to its plan in order to take account of the progress made in methods of disease prevention and control. A draft Implementing Decision which envisages the approval of the revised Belgian plan was presented, the vote was postponed however.

Vote postponed

C.01 Exchange of views 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 presented the draft document and explained that the annual/multiannual work programme sets out: objectives pursued, expected results, method 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. Expected results per disease were also 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 will be presented during the next PAFF Committee in April.

The Annex to the draft decision was already preliminarily discussed during the meeting of the Plenary Task Force held on 8 February and comments were received from several Member States. The Commission already replied to those.

Member States welcomed the document and some made further comments on the priority list. The Commission took note of these comments and requested Member States to send further comments (if any) by 10 March.

C.02 Exchange of views 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 aim is 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)) for another five-year period, 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.

The possible vote on the document is foreseen during the PAFF Committee on 6-7 April 2017.

C.03 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.04 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.

The draft text aims to introduce the harmonization of the lists of approved or registered plants in order to improve traceability of animal by-products and derived products. Member States proposed certain improvements to the text. The Commission took a note of Member States' comments.