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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Update on the adoption of the SMP Regulation and Veterinary Work Programme for 2021-2022.

The Commission presented the state of play of the on-going trilogue negotiations on the SMP Regulation and welcomed the agreement reached on Tuesday 10 November on the MMF 2021-2027 that allows to speed the finalisation and adoption of all the related sectorial legislations.

The Commission explained that trilogue negotiations started during the Finnish Presidency. The inter-institutional negotiations resumed under the German presidency in summer 2020 with a series of technical meetings by the end of August 2020. A third political trilogue has been held on 28 October 2020 but pending issues still need to be solved. In particular in relation to the food strand, still to finalise a compromise to add as beneficiary the animal and plant health national laboratories and the co-financing rate. Further technical trilogues are on-going and the possible last political trilogue is planned for 25 November 2020. Hence, the adoption of the SMP will be under the Portuguese Presidency (most likely by March 2021).

Under the SMP umbrella, a single Financing Decision and Work Programme will be adopted. All SANTE activities will be included in an Annex to the Financing Decision (i.e. veterinary programmes, phytosanitary programmes, EURLs and Food and Feed activities that include the new activities: animal welfare, AMR, food sustainability, food fraud, food waste, etc.).

The adoption of these two documents will therefore be postponed and will also depend on the choice of the instrument for the delegation of powers to the Commission: either delegated acts or implementing acts (as it is the case under the current 2014-2020 CFF). The Financing Decision and the Work Programme will therefore not be adopted:

- before April/May 2021 in the case of an adoption through implementing acts or
- June/July 2021 in the case of delegated acts.

Member States will submit their veterinary programmes. The timing for grants preparation and finalisation could then go to September/October 2021.

Transitional provisions to apply retro-activities in relation to the EU financial support from January 2021 is under preparation as horizontal approach: this would avoid, for example, a disruption on the implementation of measures to fight against animal diseases and plant pest.

The Commission informed that a letter will be sent to CVOs by mid December 2020 at the latest, to inform Member States on the steps to be taken from 1st January 2021, considering the legal gaps due to the late adoption of the SMP.

The Commission made clear that, the timelines presented are purely indicative, as this matter evolves and Member States will be kept informed regularly at PAFF/ CVO meetings.

A.03 Information on the outcome of the reallocation exercise for the 2020 veterinary programmes.

The Commission presented the outcome of the reallocation exercise concerning the 2020 veterinary programmes. A global decrease of 2.4 M€ is observed between the initial allocation and the reallocation. Major increases and decreases were explained. The Commission received no comments or questions.

A.04 Update by the OIE and the Commission on the progress of the ADIS project and deployment strategy.

The OIE and the Commission presented the current state of play in regards to the ADIS interface development. The presentations were focused on the project development, explanations on the data dictionary (e.g. meaning of data fields, list of diseases, countries, control measures, origin of disease) and a demonstration of the new ADIS interface. By the end of the presentations, Member States were invited to provide any comments on the data dictionary within the end of the month.

A.05 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemopoetic necrosis (IHN): zone du Claireau.

Standard declaration pursuant to the legal obligation in Article 44 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemopoetic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment of Etang de Vaux.

Standard declaration pursuant to the legal obligation in Article 44 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemopoetic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Franouse.

Standard declaration pursuant to the legal obligation in Article 44 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC.

The Commission briefly explained key elements of the three declarations above, explained where they will be made available for further scrutiny by the Member States and stated that according to the procedure in Directive 2006/88/EC these take effect 60 days from the date of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing (https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en),

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

Belgium, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and Germany presented their current ASF epidemiological situation. Belgium presented information to prove the absence of ASF virus circulation in its wild boar population and to declare the eradication of ASF.

A.09 Information from the Commission and Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission presented the overview of recent developments with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and information regarding the genetic characterization of the HPAI viruses that are circulating in the EU in this period, as it was provided by the EURL. Germany, the Netherlands, France, Denmark and Sweden informed about the epidemiological situation with HPAI in their territories.

A.10 2019 Annual surveillance report and tool to visualize migratory routes and the distribution of migratory wild birds. (EFSA).

EFSA informed that the report with the results from avian influenza surveillance carried out by Member States in poultry and wild birds in 2019 will be published soon and informed about the tool that it is developed to visualize and interpolate migratory routes of the wild birds (connectivity) showing the distributions of those birds. With this tool it was possible to show to which countries the wild birds of the species that are most affected by HPAI, are likely to move in the following months, thus raising a warning for the probable spread of the virus in the following months.

A.11 European citizens' initiative 'End the Cage Age' - overview of Commissions' procedures.

The European Citizens' Initiatives (ECI), introduced to the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, contribute to enhancing the democratic functioning of the EU. They grant the right to citizens to approach the Commission directly with a request to submit a proposal for a legal act of the Union – similar to the right conferred to the European Parliament and to the Council. The ECI 'End the Cage Age' calls on the Commission to propose legislation banning the use of cages for ten species and categories of farmed animals. 'End the Cage Age' is the 6th ECI that met the required thresholds: its organisers collected almost 1.4 million supporters and met the threshold in 18 Member States. In accordance with the rules laid down in the ECI-Regulation (EU) 2019/788, the Commission met the organisers on 30 October 2020. Within six months after submission of the ECI and after a public hearing in the European Parliament, the Commission will adopt a communication, where it sets out its legal and political conclusions, the actions it intends to take, if any, the reasons for these actions and the envisaged timeline. If the organisers, together with the European Parliament, decide to postpone the public hearing due to the COVID-19 health situation, the communication has to be adopted within three months after the hearing.

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 the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

Commission Implementing Decision was presented for vote to Member States. All Member States agreed that certain restricted areas in Poland were reverted from Part III to Part II or to Part I; certain areas in Part I in Poland were added to Part II, and Part I was also enlarged; all restricted areas in Germany were added to the Annex to CID 2014/709 and all restrictions were lifted in Belgium.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.03 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 Germany.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals.

Due to a delay in internal procedures, the point was withdrawn from the agenda and will be presented at the next meeting of the PAFF Committee.

Vote Postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing Category 2 materials.

The draft provides for rules on exports of organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing meat-and-bone meal of Category 2 materials. The possible vote has been postponed to the next PAFF Committee.

Vote Postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel for combustion.

Discussion and possible vote have been postponed to the next PAFF Committee meeting.

Vote Postponed

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation correcting French language version of Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive.

Following a request of the French competent authority DGT prepared a draft linguistic corrigendum correcting French language version of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

In the last week of October and first week of November 2020 the Netherlands and Germany notified outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in holdings where poultry were kept. The Commission adopted interim protective measures in relation with these outbreaks. Since then, several other Member States also notified outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in holdings where poultry are kept and the draft Commission Implementing Decision was drafted in order to consolidate, at Union level, the measures taken by these Member States and to adapt them to the epidemiological situation.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the United Kingdom.

Following confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in poultry in the United Kingdom, the Commission adopted interim protective measures. These measures were presented in the draft Commission Implementing Decision and were agreed by the Committee.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning special control measures relating to African swine fever.

The Commission informed the Committee on the ongoing discussions and progress made in a Working Group of Experts on draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning special control measures relating to African swine fever.