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 25 OCTOBER 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 a declaration from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) of the independent compartment Bertram Käppeler, Anlage Hausen, D-72505 Krauchenwies".

The Commission informed the forum about one declaration from Germany, Bundesland Baden-Württemberg, Landkreis Sigmaringen concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS of a compartment independent of the surrounding health status near Hausen, situated in a VHS-free zone on the Andelsbach and Kehlbach rivers (D-BW-VG-04). The compartment produces rainbow trout, brown trout and char for human consumption or as fries for further keeping. The declaration is based on more than two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern and complies with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. The Commission explained that more details are available on the national site of Germany, in accordance with the EU rule and official staff is available for further clarifications. The Commission reminded the delegates to the procedural aspects i.e. the declarations will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States. Link to the presented declaration will be placed to the following SANTE web page: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm.

A.03 Information concerning four declarations from Norway on disease free status for Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) of dependent compartments Vindvika in Bodo Municipality, Havsundet in Bjugn Municipality, Tollaksholmen in Bokn Municipality and Hestholmen Ø in Kvitsøy municipality, respectively, and one notification of withdrawal of ISA disease free status of a compartment in Gjemnes, in Nesset and Tingvoll Municipalities.

The Commission informed the forum about 3 declarations from Norway concerning disease-free status as regards ISA of compartments dependent of the surrounding health status in various municipalities, all sea sites. The compartments produce

salmon from smolt stage and send them after 2 years to land base for further keeping. The declarations are based on more than two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogen and comply with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. The Commission explained that contrary to the agenda with 4 declarations, only 3 declarations are presented because in last minute Norway withdrew one (Vindvika) due of an ISA outbreak nearby. The Commission also explained that that more details are available on the national site of Norway, in accordance with the EU rule and official staff is available for further clarifications. The Commission reminded the delegates to the procedural aspects i.e. the declarations will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States. Link to the presented declarations will be placed to the following SANTE web page:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

Under the same point the Commission also informed the forum about one withdrawal of status of a previously ISA-free dependent compartment in Gjemnes, Norway, following outbreak of ISA in July 2017, as well as that subsequently the affected epidemiological units have been depopulated. More information is available at: https://www.mattilsynet.no/fisk_og_akvakultur/fiskehelse/fiske_og_skjellsykdommer/ila/mattilsynet_oppretter_kontrollomraade_for_ila_i_tingvoll_nesset_og_gjemnes_kommuner_i_more_og_romsdal_fylke.27187.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from Portugal on disease free status for Bluetongue virus serotype 4 (BTV4).

Portugal held a presentation on their disease free status regarding Bluetongue virus serotype 4 (BTV4).

A.05 Information from the EU Reference Laboratory on the surveillance for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds carried out in Member States during 2016.

The representative from the EU Reference Laboratory made a presentation on the avian influenza surveillance in Member States during 2016. 18,138 poultry holdings were sampled by the 28 Member States. 124 poultry holdings were seropositive for H5 and ten for H7. As in previous years there was a high proportion of detections in ducks and geese. 119 H5 seropositive holdings underwent follow up testing and 7 were H5 virus positive and all 10 H7 seropositive holdings underwent follow up testing and 3 were H7 virus positive.
12,381 birds were sampled by passive surveillance in 2016 belonging to 22 Orders and 269 species with more than 800 positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N8. Member states were asked to provide for comments on the draft annual report 2016.

A.06 Information from Denmark on poultry establishments and hatcheries.

The item was postponed.

A.07 Update from Italy on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The **Italian** representative gave an update on the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N8 in Italy. 58 outbreaks have occurred since the beginning of the year in domestic poultry in five different regions in northern Italy. Detailed explanations on the control measures taken, the epidemiological investigations and the laboratory tests including phylogenetic studies were provided. A large further restricted zone has been established around protection and surveillance zones.

The **Bulgarian** representative gave an update on the outbreaks in Bulgaria. The highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N8 has caused two new outbreaks in a duck holding in Dobrich Region and in backyard poultry and Haskovo Region. The source of infection is still under investigation. Control measures including killing of poultry on infected farms and zoning around outbreaks was implemented.

A.08 Information from the Commission on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza and the provisions for the establishment of further restricted zones.

The item was postponed.

A.09 Information from EFSA on the scientific opinion on avian influenza.

The representative of EFSA held a presentation on the recently published EFSA opinion on avian influenza and on a scientific report on the 2016/2017 epidemic. The main recommendations concerned biosecurity measures, passive and active surveillance in poultry and wild birds. Concerning infection with low pathogenic avian influenza, it was stated that infections in poultry are mostly limited to the farm of virus entry. No specific factors that would allow recognising an increased risk for mutation were identified.

A.10 Animal health requirements, in particular as regards Equine infectious anaemia (EIA), for registered horses for competitions moved from Romania to other Member States (Commission Decision 2010/346/EU).

The representative of the Commission reminded the Committee about the rules on movement of equidae within the territory of the Union. When moved to another Member State, registered equidae, in particular horses taking part in equestrian events, must be accompanied by the health attestation set out in Annex II to Directive 2009/156/EC. This attestation does not specify the place of origin and destination, is valid for 10 days and does not require a TRACES notification.

Contrary to the health attestation, a health certificate issued in accordance with the model set out in Annex III to Directive 2009/156/EC ensures pre-notification of the intended movement to the competent authority of the place of destination through TRACES.

Furthermore, without a mandatory residence on a particular holding or in a particular Member State, movements within the Union cannot be compared with specific cases of entry into the Union from third countries, such as temporary admission or re-entry after temporary export.

Because the Romanian authorities may be unaware of a movement from Romania into other Member States if a registered equid is accompanied by a valid health attestation issued in another Member State, Decision 2010/346/EU prohibits the "dispatch" from Romania of equidae and their germinal products, except where specific derogation is provided. This "dispatch" is understood as providing certification for the movement of an equid from Romania to another Member State. Where the competent authority of Romania makes use of the derogation provided for in Article 3 of Decision 2010/346/EU, the equidae are to be accompanied by the animal health certificate in accordance with the model set out in Annex III to Directive 2009/156/EC in order to ensure traceability and the implementation of measures at the place of destination.

In order to prevent further problems in trade, the Commission representative suggested to review Decision 2010/346/EU. The format of a Commission Implementing Regulation could provide for obligations of operators moving registered equidae accompanied by a health attestation as set out in Annex II to Directive 2009/156/EC through Romania, and also recommended the Romanian authorities to take into account the adopted protection measures when authorising international equestrian events. Concluding, the Commission representative encouraged Romania to progress in its eradication programme for equine infectious anaemia.

A.11 Rules on intra-Union trade in bovine animals and swine to and through approved assembly centres.

The representative of the Commission reminded the Committee about the rules on intra-Union trade in bovine animals and swine. In accordance with Article 5(2) of Directive 64/432/EEC bovine animals and swine may be dispatched to another Member State from the holding of origin or from an assembly centre, where in case of animals for breeding and production they must have remained in a single holding of origin for a period of 30 days prior to loading, in accordance with Article 6 of that Directive. Animals for slaughter, in accordance with Article 7 of Directive 64/432/EEC, must be destined directly to a slaughterhouse or to an approved assembly centre, from where they must be removed, under national rules, after the market directly to a slaughterhouse to be slaughtered as soon as possible but at the latest within three working days of arrival at the assembly centre. Animals for breeding and production should be destined to a holding, which should be understood as a place where animals are held or regularly kept, including an assembly centre, in accordance with a definition of a holding referred to in Article 2(4) of Directive 90/425/EEC. If animals for breeding and production are destined to an assembly centre as a place of destination they must be removed from that assembly centre, under national rules, to a holding where they must be kept for at least 30 days prior to subsequent movement to another Member State.

It was also reminded that, as provided for in Article 5(5) of Directive 64/432/EEC, the animals on their way from a holding of origin in one Member State to a place of destination in another Member State may pass through an approved assembly centre located in a Member State of transit different from Member States of origin and destination. The animals passing through an assembly centre located in the Member State of transit shall be certified in the Member State of origin to a consignee in the Member State of destination. In the assembly centre located in the Member State of transit only a bigger consignment can be formed, consisting of the animals from that first consignment transiting through the approved assembly centre and of additional

animals separately certified by the official veterinarian of the Member State of transit or of animals from another Member State consigned to the same consignee as those in the first consignment. In that case the official veterinarian in the Member State of transit issues a second certificate for animals from the first consignment which has a validity of 10 days counted from the date the original certificate was issued, which is endorsed with the number of the original certificate(s) accompanying the animals to that assembly centre and to which the original certificate(s) or an officially endorsed copy thereof is attached. The animals from holdings in the Member State of transit that are joining the consignment should be certified to the common destination (based on the national movement documents, as described in the first indent of Article 5(2) of Directive 64/432/EEC) by the same second certificate issued by the official veterinarian in the Member State of transit and covering both regrouped consignments. Where, as mentioned above, animals from another Member State are to be included in the consignment to the common destination they will be included in the above second certificate as well. Concluding, animals from the first consignment, the Member State of transit and another Member State will be accompanied by the certificate referred to in Article 5(5) of Directive 64/432/EEC to which the original certificates issued for the first consignment and for the consignment from another Member State are attached, in each case the consignee being the same.

At the end, the representative of the Commission urged Member States that the above rules should be respected, and in particular highlighted the case of assembly centre being a place of destination for animals for breeding and production where 30 days residency period is obligatory before subsequent movement of those animals to another Member State.

The Committee was also informed that rules on intra-Union trade in animals will be soon discussed during the expert groups dealing with delegated acts supplementing Animal Health Law.

A.12 Update from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The Czech Republic presented its eradication plan for African swine fever as well. The Committee noted the need to correlate the possible sources of infection for any outbreak to scientifically accepted routes of entry of African swine fever into outbreaks or ensure sufficient evidence is available. Emphasis was also put on the need to improve the control over illegal movement of wild pigs in the EU.

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 on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States (SANTE/7119/2017).

Following the review of the disease situation in Bulgaria and Italy the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza due to further outbreaks in those two Member States which 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.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the approval of the eradication programme for Aujeszky's disease for the region Lombardia of Italy.

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft Implementing Decision regarding the approval of the control programme for the eradication of Aujeszky's disease for the region of Lombardia in Italy.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision designating the European Union reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease, amending Council Directive 92/119/EEC as regards the European Union reference laboratory for swine vesicular disease, and repealing Commission Implementing Decision 2012/767/EU.

The draft text nominates a new EU reference laboratory (EURL) for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) as from 1 January 2019 since the current EURL for FMD, the Pirbright Institute, is located in the UK and thus cannot be maintained due to the Brexit. The Pirbright Institute in UK is at the same time the EURL for swine vesicular disease (SVD), but has not received EU financial support for this function for the last 2 years and therefore not carried out a specific work programme. In addition, SVD is no longer listed by the OIE, the epidemiological situation of SVD is improved in the EU and differential diagnosis of SVD and other vesicular diseases with FMD is included in the tasks of EURL for FMD, therefore the objective of this Decision is also to delete from Annex II to Directive 92/119/EEC the name of the EU reference laboratory for SVD.

The document was not submitted for vote as internal procedures were not yet finalised.

Vote Postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Part 2 of Annex E to Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the requirements for small hive beetle and the description of the commodities in the health certificate for trade in bees and bumble bees.

The Commission presented the draft and explained the changes since last discussed. Several Member States asked for clarifications and explanations, while one also suggested the addition of one particular notion, related to EU guidelines. All questions were answered and the Commission prepared a slightly different Revision 2 of the document taking on board the suggestion for the addition. The Commission also asked Italy to continue regularly updating the Committee about the epidemiological situation as regards small hive beetle in Italy and about the implementation of this Decision.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation designating the European Union reference laboratory for African horse sickness and other orbiviruses and amending Annex II to Council Directive 92/35/EEC, Annex II to Council Directive 2000/75/EC and Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The objective of this Regulation is to extend the area of responsibility of Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria-Área de Sanidad Animal in Spain, which is the EURL for African horse sickness (AHS), by taking over the activities of the EURL for bluetongue and by having assigned new responsibilities for other orbiviruses. The AFRC Institute for Animal Health, the Pirbright Laboratory, which is the EURL for bluetongue, is located in the UK and thus cannot be maintained due to the Brexit. The EURL for African horse sickness and other orbiviruses should start functioning as of 1 January 2019.

The document was not submitted for vote as internal procedures were not yet finalised.

One Member State asked for clarification as regards different procedures for appointing new EURLs, either launching a call for selection and designation, or moving the tasks of EURL located in UK to another already existing EURL. The Commission replied that the approach was, where possible, to merge tasks of EURLs, and in case of EURL for bluetongue and EURL for AHS it was justified as both diseases are caused by viruses belonging to the same family and the synergies in technical expertise, laboratory capacity and networking with national reference laboratories already exists between both EURLs.

Vote Postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of the Czech Republic.

The Commission presented for vote the draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of the Czech Republic based on the plan presented earlier by the Czech Republic.
The Commission explained how these measures were in line with the requirements of article 16 of Council Directive 2002/60/EC of 27 June 2002.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 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 for vote the 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 explained how these measures took on board the latest development on the epidemiological situation of African swine fever in the Union.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Information from Sweden on Newcastle disease in poultry.

The Swedish representative made a presentation on an outbreak of Newcastle disease in a laying hen farm located in Linghem, municipality of Linköping, County of Östergötland. The flock had not shown increased mortality, but small eggs with alteration of the shell. Measures according to Council Directive 92/66/EEC on Newcastle disease control were taken including culling of the poultry on the infected farm and the establishment of protection and surveillance zones. The last outbreak had been confirmed in August 2017.