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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

1. Report on the African Swine Fever EUVET mission to Italy (SF/FC) – Report on an EUVET mission on Africa Swine fever in Italy that took place on 2-5 July 2024.

An ASF EUVET mission was conducted in Italy from July 2-5, 2024, with experts from Lithuania, the Czech Republic and Germany (team leader). The EUVET identified five main critical issues and proposed solutions:

- (i) Coordination: Regions/provinces act independently without coordination. Solution: Develop a unified strategy for northern Italy.
- (ii) Hunting Strategy: The purpose of the hunting strategy is unclear. Solution: Hunting should primarily aim to prevent ASF spread. Hunting is a tool, not a solution.
- (iii) Surveillance: Surveillance, especially carcass searches, needs prioritization. Solution: Focus surveillance efforts in restricted zone 1.
- (iv) Fencing: Financial and technical challenges delay fencing efforts. Solution: Increase financial and human resources for fencing.
- (v) Plan B: ASF may spread further east and south towards Tuscany. Solution: Urgently develop an extended control and eradication plan (Plan B) for ASF, covering Emilia-Romagna and Tuscany. Italy expressed gratitude to the Commission for the successful mission.

2. Situation of HPAI in Germany.

Germany presented the updated epidemiological situation with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). A new outbreak of HPAI has been confirmed since the last PAFF meeting, in an establishment where laying hens were kept. The subtype of the virus detected in the outbreak is H7N5, not the H5N1 HPAI virus subtype that was the predominant virus found in wild birds and poultry since autumn 2020.

A.02 Presentation from EFSA on the latest overview report on the epidemiological situation with avian influenza in Europe and worldwide.

EU Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (EURL), as joint contributor to the EFSA overview report, presented an update of the genetic characterisation of the avian influenza viruses (AIV) circulating in Europe in birds and mammals within 2023-2024 epidemic season for highly pathogenic avian influenza. Information has been provided also on AIV of interest for animal and public health that are circulating outside Europe. EURL and the Commission highlighted the need for surveillance and real-time genetic characterization of AIV in accordance with the EURL guidance to promptly identify viruses with mutations that can increase their zoonotic potential, to track the virus spread and identify novel incursions of viruses which may represent a threat for human or animal health.

Due to technical problems EFSA could not present from remote and therefore the presentation of the main conclusions and options for response following assessment of the epidemiological situation with avian influenza in EU and worldwide during March - June 2024 has been postpone to a future PAFF meeting.

A.03 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Croatia, Romania, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland presented the epidemiological situation in their territories and measures taken.

In Croatia, the epidemiological situation is, at this stage, quite stable also thanks to the measure taken after the strong epidemic wave faced in Autumn 2023.

In Romania the disease continues to be confirmed in both domestic pigs and wild boars, but compared to the previous years, thanks to the enhanced measures established, the number of outbreaks is decreased.

Germany confirmed outbreaks in wild boars and domestic pigs in a disease-free area. A genotype study demonstrates different source of origin of the recent outbreaks, differentiating the origin of the outbreak confirmed in domestic pigs close to the border with Poland, respect to the epidemic currently spreading in the internal territory. Germany also described in details measures put in place in all the affected areas, included the new ones.

In Italy the disease is continuing spreading in wild boars in the North of the Country and in addition another cluster in the Southern part has been reactivated following the confirmation of several outbreaks in wild animals.

Latvia confirmed an outbreak in kept porcine animals in Restricted zone II. The Competent authority applied all the measures provided by the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and by the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 and enhanced biosecurity controls in the farms in the affected area.

Lithuania, confirmed an outbreak in domestic pigs in an area listed as restricted zone I in July. The Competent Authority applied all the measures provided by the Delegated Regulation 2020/687 and by the Implementing Regulation 2023/594 and enhanced biosecurity controls in the farms in the affected area.

In Poland, from the beginning of July, there were several outbreaks in domestic pigs as well as in wild boars confirmed . The epidemiological situation in Poland is very dynamic and outbreaks were confirmed both in already restricted zones and disease-free areas.

A.04 EFSA - presentation on Epidemiological analysis of African swine fever in the European Union during 2023.

A scientific officer at EFSA presented the 2023 epidemiological report on ASF in the EU. It was noted that, since the publication of the last ASF Regulation, EFSA has a permanent mandate to deliver an annual technical report (the latest published in May 2024) and a biennial scientific report on ASF risk factors (the first due in October 2024). EFSA explained the data collection process and the cooperation among Member States in providing information. It was highlighted the seasonal pattern of ASF, with a notable increase in cases during the summer. The Commission emphasized that EFSA will further investigate the reasons behind this recurring peak. Due to poor connection from EFSA, interpreters were unable to fully interpret the presentation. EFSA will complete their presentation in September.

A.05 Information from the Commission on disposal of catering waste from means of transport operating internationally.

Following the exchange with representative of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Commission provided a comprehensive presentation of the EU animal by-products legislation on disposal of catering waste from means of transport operating internationally (ICW). The Commission presented the scope of the animal by-products legislation, position of ICW within the legislation, in particular risk to animal health as well as obligation and options for safe disposal of ICW. Member States welcomed the presentation and understood it as an useful assistance in their daily work with ICW. The presentation is available at the PAFF website.

A.06 Information from the Commission on collection, transport and use of wool.

The Commission presented a comprehensive compilation of the EU rules on handling of wool at all stages from generation, collection, transport till disposal or use of wool to assist Member States and the EU wool industry. The Commission presented the base line rules and possible derogations, alternatives, and considerations available to Member States to facilitate handling wool at their national territory or in trade between Member States. Member States appreciate the presentation and ask to extend the presentation also with a comprehensive presentation of rules for imports of wool from third countries. The Commission addressed additional request of Member States and complemented the presentation with the requested topics. The presentation is available at the PAFF website.

A.07 Evaluation of the Animal Health Law.

The Commission has started the process of evaluating the animal health law. As a follow-up to the information given in the March Committee meeting, a first analysis of the public feedback received during the publication on the “have your say”-website was presented. The Commission has launched a study, which will be performed by an external contractor: ecorys.

The contractor ecorys was introduced and presented itself and the next steps. After the summer break, the contractor will reach out to various stakeholders, including EU Member States' competent authorities to obtain feedback on the implementation of the Animal Health Law. The Commission asked Member States for their support and cooperation in the process.

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 Regulation as regards the listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established.

A draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/690 as regards listed diseases for which the disease-free status of compartments may be established, was presented for discussion and possible opinion. The context of the development of the draft was explained, notably its link with the ongoing development of a Commission Delegated Regulation on the approval and recognition of disease-free status of compartment of terrestrial animals for category A diseases. The inclusion of relevant linked provisions in the ongoing revision of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 on the control of listed diseases was also mentioned. There were no comments on the text.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

Due to the very dynamic epidemiological situation in several Member States, the Commission presented the draft, which will be voted using the written procedure giving a reasonable time to Member States.

The draft addresses the epidemiological situation since the adoption of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1946 which lastly amended the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594, considering new outbreaks in wild porcine animals in Poland, as well as new outbreaks in kept porcine animals in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and Germany in kept porcine animals in a disease-free area. Also, the epidemiological situation in certain zones listed as restricted zones III in Germany has improved as regards kept porcine animals.

Vote Postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.

The Commission briefly explained the elements of the draft, including a specific late development related to infection with bluetongue virus in Germany (delisting of Bundesland Hesse from being free). The Commission explained that the epidemiological situation in Germany seems to be dynamic while data collection by competent authorities is still ongoing and the status of several other free areas might need to be re-visited and possibly re-considered as soon as possible once comprehensive data arrives.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 on animal health rules for animal by-products and derived products as regards the digitalisation of records, the model commercial document, the model health certificate for movement of animal by-products from restricted zones and the model health certificate for transport of unprocessed manure.

The amendment of Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 provides for the digitalisation of records, the amendment of the model commercial document, the model health certificate for movement of animal by-products from restricted zones and the model health certificate for transport of unprocessed manure.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 OH Surveillance – data collection and dashboard.

The Commission invited EFSA to provide an update on the data collection framework in the context of one health surveillance action under the EU4Health programme. How the data would be collected, validated, and visualised was explained. It was also highlighted that the national coordinator of this action (as identified by each Member State) was invited to sign a form to consent on data sharing; such consent was necessarily to be approved by the national chief veterinary officer (CVO).

M.02 Epidemiological developments of Blue Tongue Virus - on the request of Spain.

Spain briefly presented the epidemiological developments in the last weeks in Catalonia, including aspects related to vaccination, surveillance, geographical and trade elements, and other relevant epidemiological factors. According to the analysis of the competent authority, the virus spread by natural movement of vectors over the lowest parts of the Pyrenees. The Commission appreciated the thorough explanation of a complex and still developing situation and its drivers, and the close collaboration with Spain in the last days, weeks. One delegate asked a question about vaccination, which Spain answered.