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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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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.

Information from Greece on Sheep Pox and Goat Pox (SPGP).

Greece presented information on the occurrence of sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP) in the regional unit of Evros. In total seven outbreaks of the disease have been reported between 20 and 23 August 2024. This is the first occurrence of SPGP in Greece after the eradication of the last epidemic that affected Lesbos and Fthiotis (last outbreak March 2024). Measures in line with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 are being implemented, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around each outbreak, all surrounded by a further restricted zone that includes the entire regional unit of Evros. Movements of animals outside the outer perimeter of the further restricted zone are prohibited. Origin of the disease is under investigation.

A.02 Information from Member States on peste de petits ruminants (PPR).

Greece presented an update of the PPR situation in its territory. In total 54 outbreaks of the disease have been reported since the beginning of the epidemic. In the past weeks a number of outbreaks were detected in various parts of the country, far from the initial outbreaks in West Attica, Corinthia, Rodopi, Ilia, Iraklio, Triala, Drama and Karditsa, as a result of targeted surveillance, in connection with commercial movements of animals before the detection of PPR and the establishment of zones. In spite of these new outbreaks analysis of the data indicate that the disease is past the high point of its curve. On top of the measures at EU level, the competent authorities of Greece have implemented exceptional measures like temporary prohibition of all movements of small ruminants within the country as well as suspension of movements outside the country, to curb disease spread and minimise risk of disease transfer to other countries.

Romania presented an update of the PPR situation in its territory. In total 61 outbreaks of the disease have been reported since the beginning of the epidemic. The vast majority of these outbreaks have occurred in the east part of the country, in or around the county of Tulcea. On 26 August 2024 an outbreak was confirmed in Timis, at the west part of the country, with no other outbreaks in between. The competent authorities of Romania have implemented a temporary suspension of movements of small ruminants outside the country, to minimise risk of disease transfer to other countries. The numbers of new

outbreaks indicate that the epidemic is past its high point. Technical assistance was offered by an EUVET mission (29.07-01.08.2024).

A.03 Information from Member States on bluetongue (BT).

Several Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Luxemburg) have reported about the continued spread of BT Serotype 3 after its introduction in the Netherlands in 2023. The countries have reported significant mortality in sheep in newly affected areas and on the voluntary vaccination that Member States are applying. Disease free status is immediately suspended in the affected areas and the Commission is going to withdraw the status and vote on it at the next Committee meeting. Member States are exploring options within EU rules for some trade options and asked SANTE to provide in its website a platform to better share these trade options and share their information related to epidemic events leading to free status suspension.

A.04 Information from Member States on African swine fever (ASF).

Item withdrawn from the agenda.

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 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece (PLAN/04SPGP/2024).

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece, following the confirmation of seven outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox in the regional unit of Evros, close to the border with Türkiye. Measures include the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around each outbreak, all surrounded by a further restricted zone that includes the entire regional unit of Evros. Movements of animals outside the outer perimeter of the further restricted zone are prohibited.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Greece.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2132 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Greece. Measures include amendments of the former zoning, in view of additional PPR outbreaks in the regional units of in the regional units of Larisa, West Attica, Corinthia, Rodopi, Ilia, Iraklio, Trikala, Drama and Karditsa.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2119 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania. Measures include amendments of the former zoning, in view of additional PPR outbreaks in the counties of Tulcea, Constanta, Timis and Ialomita.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 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.

Withdrawn from the agenda - already treated by written consultation prior to the meeting.