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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 Austria on an outbreak of IBR.

Information from Austria on an IBR outbreak: the delegate of Austria shared the details of a recent IBR outbreak in a dairy establishment and the preliminary results of the epidemiological inquiry. The origin of the outbreak is not certain yet but cross-border trade of incoming live animals to the establishment took place before the outbreak. That element is also being investigated by the competent veterinary authorities of the two Member States, while they are both disease-free from IBR. Further, large-scale local testing is still foreseen by the Austrian competent authority. The Commission welcomed and further encouraged the cooperation of the two Member States on this issue, with emphasis to maintain safety of the cross-border trade.

A.02 Information point on revised guidelines for Animal Health and Welfare Emergency measures, model grant agreement, and draft Commission Decision replacing Decision (EU)2015/144.

The Commission provided a short presentation of the work done and way forward to update and revise the documents relating to the Emergency measures following the entry into force of the Single Market Programme and the Financial Regulation. In particular the work relates to the draft Commission Implementing decision on the submission of applications, the guidelines and the model grant agreement.

A.03 EU funding of veterinary programmes for 2021-2022: update on the outcome of the evaluation procedure and next steps.

HADEA presented an update concerning the information given at the previous PAFF Committee of 16 November concerning the budget allocations proposed for 2021-2022 (including third countries) and the date of signature of the grant agreements. The budget allocations and related co-financing rates were slightly modified to correct mistakes in some submissions from Member States, the list of approved programs in third countries was presented, and the timeline of signature of the grant agreements beginning of 2022 was confirmed. It was also reminded that Member States are responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted in their EU co-financing requests.

A.04 Information from the Commission and exchange of views with Member States on the use of certain derogations for movements of horses between Member States.

The Commission presented requirements for traceability, movement between Member States and certification laid down in Animal Health Law and its delegated and implementing acts for equine animals.

Derogations from animal health and certification requirements were also presented and discussed, and in particular those referred to in Article 144(1) of Animal Health Law. Member States shared their concerns and sought for clarification of the provisions of Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688. Member States requested more time for the analysis of possible derogations for movement of equine animals between Member States foreseen under Animal Health Law in order to ensure proper implementation of the provisions.

A.05 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission provided an update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788 of 12 May 2021. These updates addressed the outbreaks in Poland and Lithuania. Member States reported on the occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 in other animal species (tigers, hippos and gorillas) with supposed epidemiological link infections from humans.

A.06 Simulation Exercise on Rift Valley fever in Spain.

Spain presented their simulation exercise on RVF which was organised in the frame of the one health approach. The Commission summarised the RVF situation in Libya and how this point was discussed at the recent REMESA meeting. The Commission indicated it was exploring the possibilities of an EUVET assistance to Libya on RVF in close cooperation with OIE and REMESA secretariat, if requested by Libya. The Commission also informed Member States on the publication of CDR 2021/2156 establishing an EURL for RVF and the next steps for the call for selection and designation that will be launched early in 2022.

A.07 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.

Germany, Latvia, Slovakia and Poland provided an update on the evolution of the African swine fever epidemiological situation on their territories since the last meeting of the PAFF Committee. Those countries described the occurrences of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar that were at the origin of the revision of the zones included in the last revision of annex I to Implementing Regulation 605.

A.08 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Several Member States affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in poultry or captive birds presented details on the epidemiological situation with the disease and the measures taken. Considering the epidemiological situation and the circulation of the HPAI virus in the wild birds population, the Commission urged the Member States to maintain high level of vigilance and awareness among the stakeholders in the poultry sector. In addition, the Commission reminded on the importance for regular genetic analyses to be performed by NRLs on the HPAI viruses

detected in wild and domestic birds population, in particular of those detected for the first time in a free area.

A.09 General overview of the Food Chain activities 2022 Work programme under the Single Market Programme (SMP).

Presentation of the content of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2022. Reminder of the new legal base, general overview of the food chain activities work programme under the Single Market Programme for 2022 and information regarding the future work programme adoption processes.

A.10 EUVET Report – African swine fever in Germany.

After the notification of ASF in domestic pigs and wild boar, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in Germany, an EUVET mission was organised. The mission took place remotely on 9-10 December. The team leader of the mission provided an overview of the situation in Germany, and the recommendations of the experts to determine the current epidemiological situation in those newly infected territories and to prevent any further spread of ASF in Germany.

A.11 Update on ADIS development.

Commission presented the latest release of ADIS, some clarifications on notification for HPAI and provided an update on the progress for development of ADIS Union Reporting module with a foreseen release in January 2022 and a training planned for February 2022. It was clarified that the module for interoperability with WAHIS was postponed to the second half of 2022 in order to ensure the Union Reporting module would be delivered in time to meet the legal deadlines.

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 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 main drivers and elements of the draft including recent changes and still open smaller issues. The Commission indicated that it plans to send the draft to Member States for vote via written consultation in the coming days and indicated the places where further changes might be expected. There was no discussion, except from a few written comments appreciating and supporting the draft.

Vote Postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260 as regards certain movements between Member States or parts thereof of aquatic animals subject to national measures and Annex I thereto as regards the disease status of Ireland in respect of Ostreid herpesvirus-1 μ var (OsHV- 1 μ var).

This amendment to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260 sets out certain derogations concerning movements of aquatic animals to Member States or parts thereof which are subject to national measures in accordance with Article 226(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and also delists an OsHV-1 μ var free compartment in Ireland. A Member State requested information concerning movements from compartments which are free from the relevant diseases. The Commission clarified that this may be considered, depending on the scientific information which will be provided by EFSA in the future, concerning the diseases which are currently referred to in Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The draft Implementing regulation was presented for vote to the Member States. It takes into account the revision of ASF restricted zones in Germany, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The Commission informed about the draft concerning the amendment of the zoning at Union level in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza following the development of the epidemiological situation in certain Member States, and about the planned timing for the written consultation and the adoption.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

M.01 SARS CoV-2 in tigers (Denmark).

Please see summary under point B.05.

M.02 Translation error – CDR (EU)2020/2154.

The Hungarian delegation informed on a significant error in the Hungarian version of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/2154. The Commission acknowledge the issue, asked for the help of the Member States to check if that error is found also in other linguistic versions and to signal it in due time so the corrigendum could be launched as soon as possible.

M.03 IHN in Denmark.

Two Member States requested information concerning the methodology which was used to test the samples which have been presented by Denmark in support of their recent provisional declarations of freedom from IHN. Clarifications were offered by Denmark and by the Commission. The Commission also reminded Member States of the options which are open to them to seek additional information concerning the recent provisional declarations. These options are set out in Article 83 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.