

**Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss requirements on the entry into the EU of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin under Regulation (EU) 2016/429**

**11 April 2018, Brussels**

**1. Approval of the agenda**

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and approved at the beginning of the meeting. In addition, the Commission informed that requirements for the entry into the Union of honey would be discussed under miscellaneous as it was not possible to have the discussion in the previous meeting.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries representatives participated in the meeting. The Chair noted the absence of the European Council and the European Parliament.

**3. List of points discussed**

**3.1. Introduction, opening**

The Commission referred to the possible structure of the future legislation on entry into the Union and updated Member States on the state of play of its development. In this sense, the Commission noted that the working document presented at this meeting includes requirements for entry into the Union of ungulates and for products of animal origin and it takes into account part of the outcome of the listing and categorisation exercise. There are still some outstanding issues that can't be clarified until ongoing discussions on requirements for intra-EU movements (both under the Animal Health Law and the Official Controls Regulation (OCR)<sup>1</sup>) are finalised. The Commission also noted that requirements for entry into the Union of poultry, germinal products, aquaculture and equidae will be discussed in separate expert groups, which will deal with both movements within and entry into the Union of those commodities.

**3.2. Discussion on the animal health requirements for the entry into the union of ungulates and of products of animal origin**

**Part I: General rules**

The Commission enumerated the list of species and categories of animals and products that would be covered and explained the relevant issues and latest changes in the definitions. In this regard, the Commission noted that the inclusion of meat extracts, lard and rendered fats in the definition of meat products is still under discussion internally in order to align the public health and animal health requirements for certification. The Commission reminded that those relevant definitions which are currently in other legal acts won't be included.

The Commission noted the addition of two articles in the general part on the national legislation in exporting countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

## **Part II: Animal health requirements for entry into the Union of ungulates**

The Commission presented the new part related to entry into the Union of ungulates. General requirements which apply to all categories of ungulates include now an article about the transfer of ungulates from one aircraft to another, when necessary. The Commission explained that provisions included in this article are not in the current legislation, but have been added in order to provide the possibility to complete the transport in case of an unforeseen incident.

Member States highlighted that paragraphs about vaccination in the exporting country must be revised taking into account the current situation in the Union of some of the diseases for which no vaccination is required.

The Commission commented that articles on derogations for direct slaughter into the Union have been updated and aligned for the sake of consistency, as there are differences between species derived from particular situations. The Commission informed that a new approach as regards the requirements for ungulates other than Bos, Bison, Bubalus, Suidae, Tayassuidae, Ovis and Capra has been drafted and explained the rationale behind this. Taking into account on the one hand the sensitivity and specificity of available diagnosis tests, and on the other, the real situation of the type of ungulates entering and the outcome of the listing and categorisation exercise, a specific chapter for Camelidae and Cervidae has now been included in the working document. For instance a new protocol for diagnosis of infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex in camelids has been developed by the EURL. The Commission reminded that horses are not covered by this Chapter.

The Commission asked Member States whether post-arrival quarantine is a concept that should be included or not. Some Member States supported this inclusion.

## **PART III: this part was not revised and no discussion took place.**

## **Part IV: Animal health requirements for entry into the Union of products of animal origin**

As regards requirements for entry into the Union of fresh meat, the Commission drew the attention of Member States, once again, to the article in relation to the proposed approach for the definition of ungulates, which defines the species of origin of kept, wild and farmed game and dictates the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections they must be subjected to.

As regards meat products the Commission highlighted a change in the article about the treatment of meat products. A general requirement to ensure that treatments are applied in the third country of origin has been added. One Member State asked about the effect of this provision in the triangulation between countries which are listed for a non-specific treatment.

In relation to fats and rendered fats the Commission further explained that there are certain provisions in Directive 92/118/EEC in relation to their treatment. However, those are not aligned with Directive 2002/99/EC, since the 70 degree treatment is not enough to mitigate the risk related to African swine fever. Taking into account that public health requirements for lard and rendered fats are different to the requirements for meat products, the Commission proposed to add an article and a definition for lard and rendered fats in the next version of the working document. The Commission pointed out that an article on requirements for entry of blood might be needed as well. In relation to requirements for entry of casings, the Commission explained that new treatments -in line with EFSA opinion- have been introduced and highlighted their possible impact on trade. The Commission explained that requirements for treatments of gelatine and collagen will be included in a next version.

One Member State reiterated their concern about the lack of definition for "shelf-stable products" in the article in relation with entry into the Union of composite products. The Commission noted that the policy in force since 2007 did not provide such definition and this did not have any negative effect.

### **3.3 Miscellaneous**

The Commission explained the requirements included in the OIE Terrestrial Code in relation to imports of honey and reminded that currently EU legislation provides only for public health requirements for entry into the Union of this commodity. In relation to the different options covered by OIE, the Commission explained the difficulty to apply those requirements in the Union and questioned the animal health risks linked to honey for human consumption.

### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

The Commission obtained useful information on the views of the Member States on issues which may have to be considered in future legislation. Such inputs are important for the Commission while drafting a possible future delegated act for the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.

A follow up expert group meeting will be organized to discuss a revised text, including pending requirements for the entry into the Union of other products of animal origin, germinal products and live animals.

The Commission encouraged Member States to reflect on the issues discussed at this meeting and to provide written feedback by 4 May 2018.

### **5. Next steps**

The outcome of the discussions and opinions provided by participants during this expert group meeting will be used by the Commission in future work towards the preparation of possible future delegated acts under the AHL.

### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled in June 2018.