Brussels, 4 February 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group – E00930
to discuss two draft Delegated Regulations related to the listing of laboratories to perform rabies serology in the frame of non-commercial movements of pet animals
Brussels, 3 February 2022

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A preliminary agenda was circulated and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The documents to be discussed were provided in advance. These documents were:

- draft Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) SANTE/7274/2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the designation of an EU laboratory to organise the proficiency testing for carrying out rabies antibody titration tests for the purposes of non-commercial movements of pet animals from third countries and territories and setting up a system to list laboratories that can perform these tests;
- draft Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) SANTE/7040/2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of as regards the validity requirements for the rabies antibody titration tests.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public. Experts of the Member States, except Cyprus, Finland, and Portugal participated in the meeting. The chair noted the absence of representatives from the European Parliament European and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission presented an overview of the legislation that was in force before the entry into application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (the Animal Health Law) and its supplementing legislation (particularly Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692) regulating the approval of laboratories that can perform rabies serology test.

The objective of the drafts is to mirror, for the non-commercial movement of pet animals into the EU from third countries, the system now in force for the commercial movement of pet animals, as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/692. This concerns mainly the listing of the laboratories in third countries that can perform the rabies serology test, and the validity of the tests.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

During the discussion, several comments were raised:

- one Member State raised concerns about the EU funding of the proficiency test (PT) to be organised by the EURL; the Commission replied that the EURL can charge fees in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) 2017/625;
- the same delegation also pointed out that all laboratories should participate in the PT and not only those laboratories placed in third countries not listed in Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404; the Commission recalled the need to align

the rules to the general system put in place by Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625;

- another Member State asked why ferrets are still subject to rabies requirements and particularly, the titration test when entering into the EU; the Commission recalled that the discussed drafts do not aim to review Regulation (EU) No 576/2013;
- one Member State reminded that the certificates should also be updated along the lines of these two drafts.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the two documents by 11 February 2022.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve the text of the documents.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Commission does not intend to organise another expert group meeting to discuss the documents. However, the revised version of the documents, after internal consultations within the Commission services, will be presented to the experts electronically.