



## **ANNOTATED AGENDA**

### **Expert Group on identification, movement and certification of equine animals**

**4 April 2017, 10.00-18.00**

**Conference Centre Albert Borschette – Rue Froissart 36 – Bruxelles, CCAB-2A**

### **I. DRAFT AGENDA**

1. Introduction, opening: SANTE Unit G2.
2. Exchange of views on a content of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council ("Animal Health Law") and suggestions for a future Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Animal Health Law as regards identification, movement and certification of equine animals, and in particular as regards:
  - a. Categories of equidae;
  - b. New obligation: Registration of establishments where equine animals are kept and of their movements between those establishments;
  - c. Understanding of 'a unique code' referred to in Article 114(1)(a) of Animal Health Law;
  - d. A physical means of identification or other method which unequivocally links the animal with the identification document;
  - e. The competent authority issuing a single lifetime identification document;
  - f. Rules on the information to be included in and specific provisions for a single lifetime identification document provided for in point (c) of Article 114(1) of Animal Health Law that has to accompany equine animals when they are moved;
  - g. Requirements for entry into the Union of equine animals.
3. Exchange of views on a draft Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the content and format of zootechnical certificates issued for purebred breeding animals of the equine species contained in a single lifetime identification document.

*Working Document SANTE/7097/2016 rev.3*

4. Miscellaneous.

## II. NOTES

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### 1. Aims of the Expert Group meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to provide for a focused exchange of views, experience and good practices among representatives of the competent authorities of the Member States (MS) responsible for animal health and animal breeding policy development and implementation in relation to equidae and of the stakeholders in equine sector. Our objective is that the exchanges during the meeting will help the MS to learn together for the best implementation of existing rules (and beyond). It will provide also feedback to the Commission on the perceived state of art of the EU policy (and beyond). As such, it will facilitate its improvement via further dedicated work. In addition, views and needs of the industry will be expressed and confronted.

In particular, outcomes from the discussions may be channelled towards, and used later on, in the context of the Animal Health and Welfare Section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF)<sup>1</sup>, of the Standing Committee on Zootechnics (SCZ)<sup>2</sup>, and/or during further Commission work towards delegated acts under the EU Animal Health Law (AHL)<sup>3</sup> and/or under the EU Animal Breeding Regulation (ABR)<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, this meeting is neither a working group of the Standing Committee on PAFF or on Zootechnics, nor a dedicated meeting on delegated acts for the AHL. It is simply meant to cater for more thorough and technical discussions by experienced representatives of the MS and of the industry on a variety of issues related to equine animals, than could be done in either forum.

This meeting is covering legislation in two, animal health and animal breeding, areas which together gives rules for identification, movements and certification of equidae. Therefore, in the first part of the meeting our intention is to focus on the provisions in Directive 2009/156/EC<sup>5</sup> currently in force and in upcoming Animal Health Law as well as its empowerments for Delegated Acts which are to supplement Animal Health Law providing detailed provisions on identification, movement and certification of equine animals.

Discussion dedicated to the animal health part will influence an animal breeding part by giving indication on the further proceeding with a draft Delegated Act supplementing Animal

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory\\_committee\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/regulatory_committee_en)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/committees/sc\\_zoo\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/committees/sc_zoo_en)

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1)

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation') (OJ L 171, 29.6.2016, p. 66)

<sup>5</sup> Council Directive 2009/156/EC of 30 November 2009 on animal health conditions governing the movement and importation from third countries of equidae (OJ L 192 23.7.2010, p. 1)

Breeding Regulation relating to the content and format of zootechnical certificates issued for purebred breeding animals of the equine species contained in a single lifetime identification document.

These notes provide background information on the current situation, on what has been done or is planned at EU level concerning these both areas and to ask relevant questions to explore their various aspects. The participants of the meeting are asked to complement this effort by coming prepared and to scrutinise beforehand their rules, practices and experiences from these specific angles.

These notes frame the majority of the discussions during the meeting. They are not all-inclusive though. If the participants of the meeting feel that important element(s) have been omitted, feel free to raise those either during the meeting, before or after. Should you have any relevant documents, data etc. feel free to bring them along. Similarly, if you have any questions or want to send written comments, either before or after the meeting, please e-mail to [alf-eckbert.fuessel@ec.europa.eu](mailto:alf-eckbert.fuessel@ec.europa.eu) and [ewa.camara@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ewa.camara@ec.europa.eu) (DG SANTE Unit G2, Animal Health and Welfare).

### **3. Description of item under point 3 of the draft agenda**

The Commission has consulted a draft Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the content and format of zootechnical certificates issued for purebred breeding animals of the equine species contained in a single lifetime identification document (Working Document SANTE/7097/2016) with the experts from competent authorities of the Member States during the Expert Group meetings which took place on 15 November 2016, 9 January 2017 and 7 February 2017.

The text of draft Delegated Act presented during the expert group meeting which took place on 15 November 2016 was supported in general by the Member State experts. The main issue that was raised and discussed related to the format of the individual identification number of purebred breeding animal of the equine species. It was agreed that the format and content of the individual identification number referred to in point 3 of Chapter I of Part 1 of Annex II to Animal Breeding Regulation cannot be decided until the detailed requirements for the means and methods of identification, including their application and use, have been adopted in accordance with Article 118(1)(a) of Animal Health Law. Nevertheless, form fields should be provided in the zootechnical certificate to enter the unique life number assigned to purebred breeding animals of the equine species in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

During the expert group meeting which took place on 9 January 2017 some Member State experts came back with the request to reinstate a reference to the Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) in the Delegated Act, as a method recognised by breeders ensuring traceability of purebred breeding animals and food safety. This request is addressed in recitals 11, 12 and 13 and in Article 3(2) of this Delegated Act. There was also a request for clarification of a status of Section V (certificate of origin) of the model identification document set out in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2015/262 as of 1 November 2018, the date of application of Animal Breeding Regulation and this Delegated Act. This request is addressed in recital 14 and Article 3 of this Delegated Act.

In addition, based on the request of the Commission legal services, clear references between Animal Breeding Regulation and Animal Health Law as regards the individual identification number and single lifetime identification document were made. The individual identification number in accordance with point 3 of Chapter I of Part 1 of Annex II to Animal Breeding Regulation should be understood as 'unique code' referred to in Article 114(1)(a) of Animal Health Law, what is reflected in recitals 4, 5, 10 and 13 and in Article 2(b)(ii) of this Delegated Act. A single lifetime identification document by which equidae are to be identified in accordance with Article 114(1)(c) of Animal Health Law, where the zootechnical certificate for purebred breeding animals of the equine species is to be contained and the content and format of which is to be set out in this Delegated Act, is to be established in accordance with Article 118(2)(b) of Animal Health Law. This is reflected in recitals 5 and 6 and in Articles 1 and 2 of this Delegated Act.

During the expert group meeting which took place on 7 February 2017 only minor corrections of the text in two footnotes in the zootechnical certificate were made. During that meeting it was decided that in order to proceed with this document it is necessary to consult the competent authorities of the Member States (MS) responsible for animal health and the stakeholders in equine sector.

The Delegated Act was also made available to the European Parliament and the Council.

There were no comments received from the Council.

Mr M. Dantin, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on the Commission proposal for a Regulation on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in and imports into the Union of breeding animals and their germinal products, provided comments by letter of 13 December 2016 requesting to define the identification number referred to in point 3 of Chapter I of Part 1 of Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 in the format of the UELN. The Commission considers, that since this identification number is unique and lifelong, it can only have a UELN compatible format and use, if such format and use were provided for in the delegated act adopted in accordance with Article 118 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 for the unique code provided for in Article 114(1)(a) of that Regulation.

In addition, the Delegated Acts has been consulted with stakeholders during the period between 24 January 2017 and 21 February 2017<sup>6</sup>. 31 feedbacks were received in total, including opinion of 23 following stakeholders: Institut Français du Cheval et de l'Équitation, the World Horse Identification Registration Data Exchange Committee (WHIRDEC), Lusitano Breed Society GB, Equiventus, Forum Fokkerij PPV, Groupe des entreprises du secteur du cheval agricole FR, the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO), National Purebred Spanish Breeders' Association of Spain (ANCCE), the Breeders and Owners Association of Menorca Horses, the World Breeding Federation of Sports Horses (WBFSH), German Equestrian Federation/ Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN), Asociación Nacional por Caballos Desportes/ the Spanish Sports Horse Association (ANCADES), the Norwegian Horse Centre (NEC), the British Association for the Purebred Spanish Horse Ltd., Unión Española de Ganaderos de Pura Raza Hispano-árabe (UEGHá), Horse Sport Ireland, Asociación Española de Criadores de Caballos Árabes (AECCA) – feedback provided twice, Weatherbys Ireland GSB, Swedish Horse Industry Foundation (HNS), Asociación de Criadores de Pura Sangre Inglés de España (ACPSIE), the European and Mediterranean Stud Book Liaison Committee (EMSBLC) and the Finnish Trotting and Breeding Association (Suomen Hippos), and 7 anonymous opinions.

The following requests were submitted:

1. Preservation and mandatory use of UELN.
2. A single lifetime identification document to be kept as one indivisible document from the date of its issuing and for all purposes (identification, breeding and animal health).
3. One competent authority issuing a single lifetime identification document as currently provided for in Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-376856\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-376856_en)