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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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CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information on African swine fever in Member States.

Lithuania and Poland updated on the African swine fever situation respectively.

A.03 Declaration of freedom from VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fishfarm "Ichthyogenic Center of Premicuore" (IT).

The declaration demonstrates that the proposed compartment and conducted surveillance program apparently are in compliance with current legislation. No comments nor discussion. The declaration is published on the website of the Italian Authorities:

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/p2_6.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=1845&area=sanitaAnimale&menu=acqua

A.04 Declaration of freedom from VHS and IHN in a zone comprising the stream of Soye and the fish farm "Pisciculture de Moulin de Soye" (FR).

The Commission presented some elements of the declaration in relation to relevant legislation. This also included the fact that after consultations between French Authorities and the Commission, the declaration was presented as for a dependent compartment instead of a zone. The Commission also reminded Member States of the legal deadlines for comments.

A.05 Declaration of freedom from VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm "Belle Fontaine"(FR).

The declaration demonstrates that the proposed compartment and conducted surveillance program apparently are in compliance with current legislation. No comments or discussion. Both declarations from France are published on the website of the French Authorities: <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/maladies-des-animaux-aquatiques>.

A.06 Information from Bulgaria on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Bulgaria gave an overview on the disease situation as of the beginning of the year with 27 confirmed outbreaks in poultry mainly in fattening duck farms. 14 of these outbreaks have occurred since early October in four regions (Plovdiv, Haskovo, Stara Zagora and Yambol). The outbreak was confirmed on 22 November 2018 in a backyard poultry flock. From that last outbreak no further virus spread was detected so far. All outbreaks were caused by the highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8. Bulgaria has intensified surveillance in duck farms and before movements from the farms. No wild bird was found positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza during 2018.

A.07 4th meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

The 4th Meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare took place on 19 November 2018. Commissioner Andriukaitis announced that the Commission will design a second EU Reference Centre on the welfare of poultry, rabbits and fur animals. He confirmed that the Commission will launch an evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy (2012-2015) following a recommendation from the European Court of Auditors. The Platform agenda included 3 specific sessions dedicated to: “Enforcement” (i.e. transport subgroup progress and the composition of the subgroup on pig welfare), “Voluntary initiatives” (i.e. working progress of the four voluntary initiatives) and “Information and knowledge sharing” (i.e. Platform digital tool, working program of the EU Reference Centre on the welfare of pigs and New Zealand animal welfare system overview).

In reply to the questions from Member States, the Commission clarified the scope of the second EU Reference Centre and stated that possible options for any future legislative proposal including on the welfare of fish will be carefully considered in light of the results of the Evaluation of the EU Strategy on Animal Welfare. Detailed information on all EU Platform’s meetings is available on DG SANTE website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/meetings_en

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 Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented certain amendments of an Annex of Implementing Decision 2014/709 EU for vote due to the new developments of African swine fever in Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I and II to Decision 2003/467/EC in relation to the officially tuberculosis-free and the officially brucellosis-free status and Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC in relation to the officially brucellosis (B.melitensis)-free status of certain regions of Spain.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision to Member States. The history of the eradication, the epidemiological situation and the measures intended to be taken in the future for the maintenance of the free status of the regions was presented by Spain. Member States had no questions nor comments.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States.

B.04 and B.05

The Croatian representative presented the results of the surveillance for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), since the beginning of 2018 when vaccination against the disease stopped in this country. The Commission provided an update on the occurrence and control of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in South East Europe and the outcome of the latest GF-TADs LSD expert Group meeting on October 2018. One Member State highlighted the need to devise less restrictive measures for countries that, like Croatia, implement preventive vaccination and the need to intervene in neighbouring countries where LSD is endemic. In response the Commission explained that it is doing its best to ensure balanced and proportionate measures in relation to preventive vaccination and improvement of the LSD epidemiological situation in neighbouring countries. This was followed by a presentation of the text of the above draft decisions, which remove Croatia from the zones “free with vaccination” for LSD as well as from the list of Member States with an approved LSD vaccination programme.

Vote taken: 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) 2016/2009 approving the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease submitted by the Member States.

Please see under B.04.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Information from Bulgaria on the latest results of surveillance for peste des petits ruminants.

The Bulgarian representative presented the latest results of surveillance for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in their country, showing a very small seroprevalence within the already restricted area. In responses to questions raised by Member States the Commission explained that the EURL has already conducted confirmatory tests in seropositive samples, from the previous round of PPR surveillance in Bulgaria, and is also testing a PPR vaccine used in Turkey to check any possible connection to PPR in Bulgaria. A discussion, on measures to prevent movement of PPR seropositive animals from Bulgaria that may create trade complications, will be planned for a future PAFF Committee meeting.

M.02 Request from Germany regarding EFSA opinion on hay and straw.

Upon request for clarification by Germany, the Commission indicated that it had transmitted to EFSA two mandates, for scientific and technical assistance and for a scientific opinion on African swine fever, which would include, inter alia, an update of the risk assessment provided by EFSA in 2014 in different matrices susceptible to transmit ASF.

M.03 Information from Germany: ADNS Notification.

Germany sought clarification on the procedure for updating ADNS maps and how this was related to the new Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) development. The Commission indicated that the ADNS regions could be updated before the deployment of ADIS. It also provided an update on the development of ADIS and the procedure to be used to update its map database.

M.04 Bulgaria: Illegal imports – fish/birds.

The Bulgarian delegation presented a case in which an occasional control on a mean of transport within the EU revealed the presence in quantity of smuggled live fish and birds. The control was carried out in cooperation with Romanian authorities and included not only veterinary but also CITES controls.

M.05 Presentation by AI EURL (UK) on characterisation of virus relating to HPAI outbreaks in Bulgaria.

The EURL presented results of in depth laboratory investigations of the viruses detected in Bulgaria during the current outbreak. Three different introductions were identified. However, so far the virus has remained rather stable.