



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2019)5467754

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

12 - 13 June 2019

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 from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia on the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2018.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia presented the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2018. The trend in the eradication of ovine and caprine brucellosis in 2018 has been favourable in general, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in these Member States. As regards Greece, it should be noted that only the purchase of vaccines against sheep and goat brucellosis is co-financed by the EU.

A.03 Information from Spain, Portugal, and Italy on the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2018.

Spain, Portugal, and Italy presented the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2018. The trend in the eradication of bovine brucellosis in 2018 has been favourable in general, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in all these Member States, with the exception of some regions or species such as in buffaloes in Campania for Italy for instance.

A.04 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom on the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2018.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, and the UK presented the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2018. The trend in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis in 2018 has been favourable in general, with a slight decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in most of these Member States, but remains high in some others like in the UK or in the region of Castilla la Mancha in Spain. The presentation from Ireland was postponed at their request to a later date.

A.05 Information from the Commission on animal health protection measures for trade in salamanders and application of, and reporting under, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/320.

The Commission reminded Member States of the relevant upcoming deadline for reporting at the end of June and of the period of application of the Decision (end of 2019). It also explained the seemingly limited trade, based on TRACES data and asked about the experiences of the Member States. As regards scientific developments and stakeholder opinion, it seems that, while some new data has been generated, no significant breakthrough took place which would allow or necessitate the amendment of the Decision. Work progressed in the OIE too, on a Bsal Chapter in the Aquatic Manual but it will not finish until May 2020. All concerned seem to support the existence of the Decision and its prolongation. The Commission asked Member States to share their data and opinion, especially if those are different from the above. One Member State supported prolongation, while the others remained silent.

A.06 Declaration from Italy in relation to freedom from VHS and IHN in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm 'Impianto Ittiogenico di Minozzo'.

There were no discussion nor comments. 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=sanita Animale&menu=acqua.

A.07 Declaration from Slovenia concerning commencement of a surveillance programme regarding VHS and IHN in a dependent compartment.

There were no discussion nor comments. The declaration is published on the website of Slovenian authorities:

www.uvhvvr.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/zdravje_zivali/akvakultura/proglasitve/.

A.08 Results of the Coordinated Control Plan on the online sales of dogs and cats.

The Commission presented the results of the coordinated control plan on official controls on the online sales of dogs and cats. Eighteen countries participated and the plan revealed that few online ads provide basic information regarding the animal (identification, vaccination, age, country of origin) and the status of the trader. As a consequence, many ads were subject to further inspections which often revealed non-compliances.

One Member State warned the limited meaning of such statistics and asked if the results will be also presented to the forthcoming EU animal welfare platform meeting. One Member State underlined that results of the plan raise serious concerns and some actions should be envisaged in the future. This Member State also mentioned that, in addition to websites, there is an increasing offer of pet animals on social networks, which are even more difficult to check. The delegate suggested that a calendar for actions should be established.

The Commission replied that the results are indeed punctual and cannot be extrapolated. The control plan is a starting point of a wider reflection which should involve all stakeholders. For that reason, the Commission will present the results to the EU animal welfare platform of 17 June and will consider the suggestions that will follow. The Commission also reminded the Member States that the legal base on dogs and cats is limited to animal health issues and until now there is no legal base for animal welfare.

A.09 Presentation by Romania of the equine infectious anaemia situation with a view to possible regionalisation.

Romania explained its national eradication programme for equine infectious anaemia (EIA) and presented the results. There has been a substantial decrease in incidence and prevalence of EIA in an equine population that decreased by about 50% since 2010. The regional distribution of the remaining EIA cases suggest to apply the protection measures laid down in Commission Decision 2010/346/EU only to certain parts of the territory of Romania.

On the inquiry of one Member State, Romania explained the measures taken to control EIA in the Tulcea region and the challenges faced by the authorities to control EIA in feral horses in the Danube delta.

Member States indicated their principle support for a careful regionalisation, as foreseen in Decision 2010/346/EU.

A.10 Presentation of the amended draft of the 'Strategic approach to the management of African Swine Fever for the EU'.

The Commission thanked Member States that provided comments to the amended draft 'Strategic approach to the management of African swine fever for the EU' and informed that a working group will be organised back-to-back to the next meeting of the PAFF Committee (8-9 July 2019) with experts and Member States to finalise the document.

A.11 Information on African swine fever situation in Poland, Hungary and Lithuania.

Poland, Lithuania and Hungary provided an update on the African swine fever epidemiological situation in their territories.

A.12 Presentation on the EUVET missions on African swine fever in Belgium and Luxembourg.

The findings and recommendations of the EUVET-missions to Belgium (2-3 April and 8-9 May 2019) and to Luxembourg (5-6 May 2019) on African swine fever (ASF) were presented to Member States. Questions on technical aspects of the findings and recommendations on wild boar management were answered by the Commission's representative.

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 Part 1 of Annex E to Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the animal health certificate for trade in dogs, cats and ferrets.

The Commission presented the document highlighting the need to adapt the animal health certificate set out in Annex E to Directive 92/65/EEC by updating certain references to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878, which are applicable since 1 July 2018 and concern animal health measures to control *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs.

The Commission also explained the need for a transitional period until 31 December 2019 during which the current certificates are acceptable for trade in dogs, cats and ferrets.

No discussion took place.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 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 Annex to Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU was amended to add in Part III two areas of Lithuania, previously in Part II, where two outbreaks of ASF occurred in domestic pigs, and to enlarge Part II in Poland in an area bordering Part I, where different cases of African swine fever (ASF) in wild boar have occurred. There were no questions or remarks from Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2019 work programme on IT tools in the fields of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and official controls in the food and feed area.

The IT Systems Unit of DG SANTE presented the draft for the food and feed financing decision that should provide the funding for the development and operation of IT systems on the domain of food and feed safety. There is a 7% increase in the budget as compared to last year. This change is due to important developments in both the animal as well as plant domains of the food pillar. Member States are invited to communicate the detailed plan/budget for the financing decision. Member States are expected to vote on this in the next PAFF Committee meeting.

M.01 Information from Belgium on LP Avian influenza - H3N1.

Belgium provided information on circulations of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H3N1 in poultry farms (laying hens, broilers, breeders, meat turkeys) located mainly in the north west of Belgium as from January. Currently in total 71 cases of H3 have been confirmed by PCR, from those 6 as H3N1. The virus does not seem to have particular characteristics of pathogenicity or zoonotic potential. Belgium is applying the national measures to control the virus circulation, additional measures will be applied as from 13/06/2019, excluding obligatory culling in the infected farms. France informed of H3 infection in poultry farm near the Belgian border, the epidemiological investigations are ongoing.

M.02 Information from Czechia on the submission of the co-financed veterinary programmes for 2020.

The Czech delegation and several other delegations mentioned the technical difficulties encountered this year with the on-line submission of the EU co-financed programmes. The Commission provided all explanations and clarifications requested and confirmed that all possible corrective actions have been implemented in very short time to ensure that no Member State would be penalized as regards EU funding requests. It was clarified that all pending issues have already been solved at this date and that work is ongoing to improve the situation for the future submissions. Member States were invited to contact the Commission bilaterally, would any additional question arise.