



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 EU Reference Centre for the welfare of aquatic animals.

The Commission presented the process of selection of the new centre, and its main activities, and informed Member States that the centre will start working already in 2024.

A.03 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.

Greece, Italy, Germany, and Croatia provided a brief update on the ASF epidemiological situation in wild boar and domestic pigs.

A.04 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Norway presented the epidemiological situation with highly pathogenic avian influenza and the measures taken. Italy also informed on an outbreak confirmed in one poultry establishment located in Veneto region.

A.05 Information from Greece on sheep pox and goat pox.

Greece informed the Commission and the Member States about the epidemiological situation of Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) in its territory. Following the detection of an SGP outbreak in the island of Lesbos, in October 2023, the disease spread in the Phthiotis regional unit, in mainland Greece (region of Central Greece) in December 2023. To date there are 7 outbreaks in mainland Greece (3 of those detected in January 2024) all within the same municipality (Lokron). Protection and surveillance zones around these outbreaks have been extended accordingly, surrounded by a further restricted zone, due to last until the end of April 2024, along with the further restricted zone of Lesbos, for preventive reasons. All holdings in the protection zone have been checked while inspection of the holdings in the surveillance zone continues. No new outbreaks have been detected since 24 January 2024.

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 Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented for vote a draft Commission Implementing Regulation to amend Annex I. The revision concerned the enlargement of restricted zones I and II of the Italian Northern Region (Lombardy, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, and Tuscany) and of restricted zone I, II and III in Greece (Region of Central Macedonia at the border with Bulgaria and North Macedonia). Also, a reduction of restricted zones I and III was proposed for the Italian Sardinia Region, and of restricted zone I and II for the Federal State of Brandenburg in Germany.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2025-2027 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests.

The Commission presented changes introduced following Inter Service Consultation to the draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing priorities and funding requirements for veterinary and phytosanitary programmes for the period 2025-2027.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU regionalization for outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been updated to take into account the development of the epidemiological situation in Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Poland.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VIII to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the negligible risk status for classical scrapie of the Czech Republic.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation adding Czechia to the list of Member States with a negligible risk status for classical scrapie.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Disease notification timeliness.

The Commission provided an update on the ADIS Pilot phase for linking with WAHIS database.

M.02 Reporting from HaDEA on 2023 vet programmes payments.

HaDEA presented the modalities and timeline for the submission of the final reports for the payment of the veterinary programmes 2023. Member States and third countries will first have to submit their data in DG SANTE SDCP IT tool which will open by 4 March, and then extract the pdf for each work package (disease) and upload it in EGRANT before 30 of April 2024.