

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards registration of transporters and approval of certain establishments keeping terrestrial animals, and identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals –E00930

31 May 2018, Brussels

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A provisional agenda was circulated in advance and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The working document (hereinafter 'the document') to be discussed was provided in advance. The document was a revised version of the working document presented during the expert group meeting on 31 May 2018. The amendments introduced in the working document were the outcome of the comments received by the Commission from the Member States.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries' representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted that the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament were not represented in the meeting.

3. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The conclusions of the meeting were the following:

1. Regarding the definitions, the experts pointed out that in case of assembly centres and animal shelters for dogs, cats and ferrets, they should not contain references to the movement conditions. The Commission undertook to amend the text of the document accordingly.
2. It was agreed that within the terms used as isolation and quarantine, the latter requires a separate airspace for animals from those kept in the establishment.
3. The experts suggested that hatcheries which are only operated as a collection centre of hatching eggs originating from different poultry breeding establishments, should also fulfil the requirements for approval in accordance with Article 97(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law'). The Commission undertook to reflect on this issue.
4. In case of assembly operations of poultry, a question was raised whether such operations should be allowed at the same time on the establishment where assembly operations of ungulates takes place, in particularly in view that pigs might be getting infected with avian influenza. In addition, the experts asked to clarify whether the definition of assembly operations of poultry included establishments where exhibitions of birds and assembly of racing pigeons take place. The Commission undertook to reflect on this issue.
5. Regarding the registration of common grazing land as an establishment, the Commission explained that it has been agreed by Member States as reflected in the Commission Decision 2001/672/EC, that there is always an operator responsible for such grazing land.

6. The Commission undertook to add sex of animals as an obligatory record-keeping requirement for operators keeping ovine animals in case specific movement requirements concerning infections with *Brucella ovis* are to be set for rams.
7. The experts suggested adding a tattoo as a second means of identification for sheep, as it is currently applied in some Member States. In addition, the experts proposed to maintain a possibility for ovine and caprine animals intended for slaughter before the age of 12 months to indicate on the ear tag an individual number of the animal instead of the unique registration number of the animal's birth establishment. The Commission undertook to amend the text of the working document accordingly.
8. There was an agreement that the movement document for sheep and goats should not contain the data field for the year of birth of each animal. Such data is kept by the operator of the establishments keeping ovine and caprine animals and transferred between Member States by means of animal health certificate.
9. The experts welcomed draft provisions for the identification of camelids. The Commission invited the experts to provide their written comments on the draft provisions and to indicate whether those animals as well as cervids should be accompanied by a movement document when they are moved and whether their movements should be recorded in a computer database.
10. The experts acknowledged the difficulties to apply physical means of identification for cervids, particularly reindeers, and they were invited by the Commission to share their experiences with identification of cervids.
11. Some experts proposed to introduce a derogation to apply visible means of identification to those ungulates kept for hobby purposes. The Commission undertook to reflect on this issue.
12. The experts suggested to remove a requirement to issue a group identification document for rodents kept in travelling circuses and animal acts as no movement requirements for those animals are laid down. The Commission noted the proposal.

4. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented document by **15 June 2018** in order to best accommodate their technical views.

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 document.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been provisionally scheduled for 18 July 2018 to discuss a revised document.