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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2016-2017 for the
implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses**

ANNEX

Multiannual work programme for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses for 2016-2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses (hereinafter 'veterinary programmes') have been co-financed by the Union for many years and have unequivocally contributed to the improvement of both animal and human health (as programmes against zoonoses are also covered) within the Union.

The following definitions¹ apply:

- **Eradication programme:**
Programme to result in biological extinction of an animal disease or zoonosis. The final target of an eradication programme shall be to obtain the free or officially free-status of the territory according to Union legislation, where such possibility exists.
- **Control programme:**
Programme to obtain or maintain the prevalence of an animal disease or zoonosis below a sanitarily acceptable level.
- **Surveillance programme:**
Surveillance programme refers to activities to collect and record data on specific diseases in defined populations over a period of time, in order to assess the epidemiological evolution of the diseases and the ability to take targeted measures for control and eradication.

The list of animal diseases which qualify for funding is set out in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014.

2. LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material², in particular Title II, Chapter I, Section 2 thereof.

3. PRIORITIES FOR THE YEARS 2016 AND 2017

The priorities for Union financial support to national veterinary programmes are, according to Annex III of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014:

- diseases with impact on human health;
- diseases with impact on animal health, taking into consideration their potential spread and the morbidity and mortality rates in animal population;

¹ Definition as in Annex to Commission Decision 2008/341/EC of 25 April 2008 laying down Community criteria for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses (OJ L 115, 29.4.2008, p. 44).

² OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 1.

- diseases and zoonoses which risk to be introduced and / or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries;
- diseases which have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences;
- diseases with impact on trade with third countries and intra-Union trade.

According to these criteria and the current epidemiological situation, the diseases that may be co-funded in priority for the years 2016 and 2017 have been divided into 3 groups and are the following:

Group 1: diseases with impact on both human and animal health:

- bovine brucellosis;
- bovine tuberculosis;
- ovine and caprine brucellosis.

Group 2: diseases with main impact on human health:

- zoonotic *Salmonella*;
- rabies;
- bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
- transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in ovine and caprine animals.

Group 3: diseases with impact on animal health, on trade (with third countries and intra-Union trade), that have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences and which risk to be introduced and / or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries:

- bluetongue in endemic or high risk areas;
- classical swine fever;
- avian influenza (AI) in poultry and wild birds;
- African swine fever (ASF);
- aquaculture disease³:
 - Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS);
 - Koi herpes virus disease (KHV).

4. BUDGET

The indicative budget for veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2016 is EUR 166 000 000 and in 2017 is EUR 163 000 000.

The indicative percentages of the overall budget allocated per diseases (as listed under point 3 above), are the following:

- Group 1: diseases with impact on both animal and human health: 45%;
- Group 2: diseases with main impact on human health: 40%;

³ The Union financial contribution for the listed aquaculture diseases is managed under EMFF by DG MARE. For that reason, the related eligible costs are not listed in this Decision.

- (c) Group 3: diseases with impact on animal health, on trade (with third countries and intra-Union trade), that have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences and which risk to be introduced and /or reintroduced into the Union territory from third countries: 15%.

However, if the epidemiological situation in relation to one or more of the diseases listed under group 3 will evolve in a way with may affect significantly the farming community, this allocation will be revised in accordance.

5. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The objectives of the national veterinary programmes implemented by the Member States aimed at controlling, preventing and eradicating animal diseases and zoonoses are as follows:

The **general** objective is to contribute to a high level of health for humans and animals along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases, ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment while enhancing the Union food and feed industry's competitiveness and favoring the creation of jobs.

The **specific** objectives are:

- to contribute to a high level of food safety and safety in food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production;
- to contribute to improving the animal health status in the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals.

The **operational** objectives are:

- the reduction of the number of cases of diseases in humans in the Union which are linked to food safety or zoonoses (rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, salmonellosis, BSE and TSE);
- an overall reduction of disease parameters such as incidence, prevalence and number of outbreaks or cases (bovine tuberculosis, bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis, bluetongue, classical and African swine fever, rabies, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, aquaculture diseases);
- the increase of the number of Member States or regions thereof which are free from animal diseases for which a financial contribution is granted (bovine tuberculosis, bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis, bluetongue, classical and African swine fever, rabies, aquaculture diseases);
- the prevention of introduction of transboundary diseases in the Union territory (rabies, classical and African swine fever);
- the achievement of targets fixed by the Union legislation as regards the reduction of prevalence of zoonotic *Salmonella* in certain poultry populations (breeders, layers and broilers of *Gallus gallus*, breeding and fattening turkeys of *Meleagris gallopavo*);

- the increase of the number of Member States with a negligible BSE risk (as defined in Annex II, Chapter C.I of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001⁴);
- the early detection of the presence of pathogenic strains of avian influenza viruses in order to prevent further contamination of domestic poultry populations.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS OF NATIONAL VETERINARY PROGRAMMES

The results, as expected by the Commission by end of 2017, compared to the 2013 results, are set up as follows:

- Eradication programmes
 - Bovine brucellosis, Bovine tuberculosis and Ovine and caprine brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*): decrease of at least 40% of the herd prevalence and the herd incidence in the MSs with an eradication programme⁵;
 - Rabies: decrease of 30% the number of cases in wild animals in the Union;
 - Aquaculture diseases: reduction of the number of outbreaks compared to the average number of outbreaks in 2009-2013.
- Control and eradication programmes
 - Classical swine fever: no outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Union;
 - African Swine Fever: reduced number of outbreaks in domestic pigs in the Union;
 - Classical BSE: reduced number of cases in the Union, majority of MSs with a negligible BSE risk;
 - Classical scrapie: increased number of free MSs;
 - Bluetongue: increased number of free MSs.
- Surveillance programmes
 - Avian Influenza: reduced number of outbreaks in domestic birds.
- Control programmes
 - Zoonotic *Salmonella*: increased number of Member States with all poultry populations below Union target.

7. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD CRITERIA

Taking into account their specific nature, the programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance will be implemented under the sole responsibility of Competent Authorities of the Member States. As provided for in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 these authorities are considered to be identified beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Therefore the grants will be awarded without prior publication of the call for proposal.

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1).

⁵ However, has to be taken into account that this % could be lower in a MS close to the eradication, being the last step of the eradication more difficult to manage and estimate.

Eligibility criteria for submitted programmes

- Programmes are submitted by the Central Competent Authorities of the Member States that will also supervise and co-ordinate the implementation of these programmes. Only programmes for which the implementation is compulsory in the MS, will be co-funded;
- The programmes are submitted within the deadline set in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (31/05 for programmes the implementation of which will start in 2016);
- Programmes submitted are compliant with the provisions of the relevant Union legislation (Commission Decisions 2008/341/EC and 2008/425/EC (with the amendments of Decision 2012/282/EU), and Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014);
- Programmes submitted target an animal disease or zoonosis listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014;
- Programmes that deal with the re-occurrence of diseases/or a disease (listed under Section 4) for which an officially free (OF) status has been achieved in previous years and for which there is a risk of losing the OF status (the whole country or some regions) or programmes to be implemented to avoid the introduction/re-introduction of a trans-boundary disease;
- For African Swine Fever, the 2016 co-funding will be limited to Member States which have experienced ASF cases in 2014-2015 and / or which share a border with third countries where ASF cases occurred in 2014-2015;
- Eradication programmes are eligible until eradication is achieved; subsequent programmes aimed at demonstrating the health status of animals intended for trade or at obtaining the status of officially free from a disease are not eligible.

Award criteria for submitted programmes

Award criteria make it possible to approve all programmes that can guarantee compliance with Union objectives and priorities. To this end, each programme presented with a view to obtaining Union co-financing will be individually evaluated based on the following criteria:

- consistency of the submitted programmes with the objectives and expected results;
- overall quality of the submitted programme (relevance of the planned activities in terms of type of measure proposed and quantities);
- compliance of the submitted programme with the requirements of Union veterinary legislation / rules;
- progress expected compared to the situation of the disease in previous years, in line with the operational objectives and expected results;
- cost efficiency of the programme including management costs.

Given the specific nature of those programmes, each of them has to be evaluated on its own merit and only assessed against the criteria listed above. Therefore, no comparative assessment between submitted programmes needs to be made.

8. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE GRANTS

January 2016 for the veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2016 and January 2017 for the the veterinary programmes to be implemented in 2017.

9. MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS

According to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the general rate for grants shall not exceed **50%** of the eligible costs.

Nevertheless higher co-financing rates could be justified for different eligible measures, taking into account the characteristics of the diseases or the situation of the concerned Member State/s.

In accordance with Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **75 %** of the eligible costs in respect of:

- (a) Cross-border activities implemented together by two or more Member States in order to control, prevent or eradicate pests or animal diseases.

The potential application of point (a) will depend on the programme submitted. How Member States will cooperate should be clearly described in the programme.

- (b) Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90 % of the Union average.

The potentially eligible Member States under point (b) are currently: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

In accordance with Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the maximum rate of 50% may be increased to **100 %** of the eligible costs where the activities benefitting from the Union contribution concern the prevention and control of serious human, plant and animal health risks for the Union, and:

- (a) are designed to avoid human casualties or major economic disruptions for the Union as a whole;
- (b) are implemented in third countries.

Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 sets out in detail which costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the national programmes may qualify as eligible. According to Commission Decision C(2014) 1035 of 24 February 2014 authorising the use of unit costs under the annual and multiannual programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses the grants may take the form of a combination of reimbursement of actual costs and reimbursement on the basis of unit costs. Unit costs may be used for the costs of sampling and the costs of tests. The detailed values are set out in the Annex to Decision C(2014) 1035.

10. ELIGIBLE COSTS

In accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the following costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the veterinary national programmes may qualify for grants:

- (a) costs of sampling animals;

- (b) costs of tests, provided that they are limited to:
 - (i) costs of test kits, reagents, and consumables which are identifiable and specifically used for carrying out those tests;
 - (ii) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in carrying out the tests;
- (c) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled, limited to the market value of such animals if they had not been affected by the disease;
- (d) costs of slaughtering or culling of the animals;
- (e) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their destroyed products of animal origin, limited to the market value of those products immediately before any suspicion of the disease arose or was confirmed;
- (f) costs of purchase, storage, inoculation, administration or distribution of vaccine doses or vaccine and baits used for the programmes;
- (g) costs of cleaning, disinfection, desinsectisation of the holding and equipment based on the epidemiology and characteristics of the pathogen; and
- (h) in exceptional and duly justified cases, the costs incurred in carrying out necessary measures other than those referred to in points (a) to (g), provided that such measures are set out in the grant decision referred to in Article 13(3) and (4).