Minutes of the third meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft delegated act amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 on rules for prevention and control of certain listed diseases.

E00930

on 23 October 2024, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda approved was as circulated prior to the meeting as part of the invitation.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public. The meeting was organised hybrid (physically Brussels, CCAB) while the remote experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health attended it via the Interactio platform. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council. Circulated draft: PLAN/2023/2432.

3. Points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The Chair recalled that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 on rules for prevention and control of certain listed diseases. (SANTE/2023/2432) (the draft).

The revised version of the draft was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Commission presented the proposed/revised amendments for terrestrial animals as they evolved in the draft based on further internal reflections and on comments sent by the Member States after previous meetings.

The Commission explained the rationale for all the amendments with the presentation.

In addition to the amendments already presented in previous meetings, several other new proposed amendments were presented, that intend:

- to facilitate certain movements deemed to be safe but are currently prohibited,
- to clarify on the activities required in the affected establishment (e.g. cleaning and disinfection, repopulation, lifting of measures),
- to facilitate reading and understanding of the risk-mitigating treatments for products of animal origin.

In addition, certain amendments as presented in the previous meetings have been dropped (e.g. certain derogations) or revised (e.g. conditions for lifting the measures in the surveillance zone).

3.2. Exchange of views as regards possible amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 on rules for prevention and control of certain listed diseases.

The experts thanked the Commission for the new possibilities and clarifications brought with the new or revised amendments.

The discussions on the draft concerned the amendments for the diseases of terrestrial animals.

Some experts raised questions related to the new proposed amendments to article on derogations from measures in the restricted zone for establishments that keep up to 50 captive birds. The Commission explained that the proposed revision intends to correct a duplication and a non-intended derogation for these establishments.

Certain experts asked the Commission to further reflect on adding more clarity on the derogations possible for movement of manure from a restricted zone, considering that it may not be evident for the readers that Articles 35 and 53 also apply to manure. The Commission noted the comment and will consider it in the next revision of the draft.

Several experts commented on various modifications to treatments. One Member State asked the Commission to clarify what risk mitigating treatments are applicable to certain pet food, e.g. dog chews.

Certain comments were raised on the point related to the health mark (modification to Annex IX) asking the Commission to simplify the description of information in those marks and to ensure consistency with the rules on marking of meat as laid down in hygiene rules.

4. Conclusions

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and invited them to provide any additional feedback in writing by 22 November 2024.

5. Next steps

The Commission will use the outcomes of the discussion and the opinions obtained during this expert group meeting and possible written comments received to develop a revised version of the draft.

The Commission plans to organise a last meeting of the Expert Group for discussions on this draft during the month of February 2025.