



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ZOOTECHNICS**

(Joint meeting with the PAFF Committee section Animal Health and Welfare)

11 SEPTEMBER 2014

A.01 Presentation by the Commission and approval by the Committee of new Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committee on Zootechnics.

Rules of Procedure have been presented and commented on by Member States. Issue has been postponed to a later stage.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation implementing Council Directives 90/427/EEC, 94/28/EC and 2009/156/EC as regards methods for the identification of equidae (Equine Passport Regulation) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

Several Member States took the floor to express their support and to receive final clarification on minor issues. Those were included in an addendum to Revision 11 and formed part of the text voted.

In addition, certain Member States raised principle concerns about the following:

1. the need for a careful review of EU legislation on residues, with particular regard to imports, and for thorough controls at slaughterhouses to ensure that only correctly identified equidae are permitted for slaughter;
2. the need for an irreversible exclusion from the food chain of equidae permanently imported from third countries that, at the time of importation, have not an approved residue plan in accordance with Council Directive 96/23/EC;
3. the need to completely separate the zootechnical from the veterinary issues relating to equine identification in the future Animal Health Law and that equidae should be identified similar to other livestock.

The Commission explained that the current text is based on the existing legislation and that principle changes to the law depend on the decisions taken by co-legislators in respect of the new Animal Health Law, the Regulation on official controls, and the Regulation on Zootechnics.

Certain Member States criticised the following:

1. coexistence of different passport models for an extended period of time;
2. the missing declaration in the passport of equidae born before 30 June 2009 as food producing animals;
3. the missing obligation to declare change of ownership in the passport;
4. the cost involved in redesigning the central database following the obligation to insert additional data as compared to Regulation (EC) No 504/2008.

The Commission replied to all of them in particular by reminding Member States that most of these points had already been discussed in preparation of Regulation (EC) No 540/2008 and were eventually agreed as a compromise between differing opinions of Member States.

Several Member States acknowledged the improvement for the management of the passports resulting from the possibility that passport information can now be adapted by an issuing body where the holding of the equine animal is located irrespective of the issuing body which issued the identification document.

In particular the Commission dealt with the following issues at the request of Spain:

The Commission clarified the legal base of the proposed provisions and that the passports are issued by the bodies based on the information in the application plus the information provided by the authorized veterinarian. Consequently there would be no stocks of pre-printed blank passports at risk to be used for illegal actions and therefore, as laid down in Article 8(b)(ii), the requirement of having serial numbers would not apply to the situation in Spain. The obligation to laminate Part A of Section I in order to prevent alterations is limited to passports which are not directly printed by the issuing body following entry of the required information. The coexistence of different formats of equine passports is already a reality; not only because the passports issued by different issuing bodies in Spain are different but also because of trade in and imports into the Union of equidae and the modifications made by Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 to the format of the passport established by Decision 93/623/EEC.

Spain welcomed Article 27(2) which allows the update of the passport information by an issuing body where the holding of the equine animal is located irrespective of the issuing body which issued the identification document, as a great improvement for the management of the passports.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.