

**Minutes of the meeting of the expert group
to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act on the movement
within the Union of terrestrial animals under Regulation (EU) 2016/429**

11 October 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 to be discussed was provided in advance.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public and attended by representatives of the competent veterinary authorities of Member States and EEA countries. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission reminded Member States about the structure of the entire delegated act on supplementary animal health requirements for movement of terrestrial animals within the Union, and indicated that the intention of the meeting was to discuss particular parts of the working document, which were either amended following comments received or not discussed in previous meetings. In particular, these parts concerned disease prevention measures in relation to transport within the Union, assembly operations of kept ungulates and poultry and detailed requirements for movements of animals into confined establishments, for the movements of primates except humans, dogs, cats and ferrets, other carnivores, travelling circuses and animal acts and wild terrestrial animals.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The main issues discussed at the meeting were the following:

- 4.1. The Commission confirmed that the competent authority may delegate activities required by this Delegated Act to veterinarians other than official veterinarians. This delegation possibility is laid down in the AHL and in the Official Controls Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/625).
- 4.2. Some experts proposed to include derogations from the requirements for cleaning and disinfection of the means of transport immediately after every transport of animals between establishments in the same supply chain. This was supported, under the condition that the means of transport are cleaned and disinfected by the end of each day.
- 4.3. Some experts commented on the possible conflict between the rules for assembly operations and the animal welfare rules laid down in Regulation (EU) No. 1/2005 (Transport Regulation). The Commission presented its understanding of the requirements in transport regulation in relation to places of departure, rest or transfer and destination. The Commission is of the opinion that the 3 assembly operations provided for in the AHL do not cause, from a legal perspective, animal welfare issues if the requirements of transport regulation are correctly implemented.

- 4.4. In relation to assembly operations, Member States asked for clearer rules as regards the time of cleaning and disinfection of establishments, to which the Commission replied that minimum intervals could be introduced if this is what Member States support.

In addition, in reply to questions from Member States on the need for 3 assembly operations, the Commission clarified that the right to 3 assembly operations is given in the AHL to operators. The relevant empowerment in the AHL was only to set the time frame and the conditions for assembly on means of transport. The time frame, as proposed in the document, has been set at 14 days between the establishment of origin and leaving the MS of origin, and 20 days in total to arrive at the destination. The time frames were discussed, with some delegations supporting the time limits proposed in the document, whereas others supporting the increase of those limits to cover for the specific structure of their industry. The Commission will reflect on possible ways to accommodate the needs of Member States.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working document by 6 November 2018.

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 text of the working document.

6. NEXT MEETING

During the next meeting of this expert group planned for 26 November 2018, the intention is to present a revised version of the draft delegated act.