



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.001(2016)313891

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 12 JANUARY 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

A.01 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2016 and following years: list of the programmes technically approved and final amount allocated to each programme.

Information, as per Article 13 of EU Regulation 652/2014, to the Member States on the list of national programmes technically approved and EU co-financing amount allocated to each programme for 2016. Only few clarifications have been requested by some Member States that very welcome the finalisation of the procedure. The Commission reminded the Member States that the final approval of the veterinary programmes for 2016 will be by means of grant Decisions that have to be signed by the Commission's Authorised Officer by 31 January (and then the grants will be sent to Member States).

A.02 Information from Germany on low pathogenic influenza in poultry.

The German representative reported on an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N2 confirmed on 7 December 2015 in a mixed poultry (chicken, ducks, geese) holding in the commune of Cham, Land Bavaria. All poultry was stamped out and disposed of. A 1-km restricted zone was established around the infected holding and numerous contact holdings were investigated, all revealing negative results. No trade of poultry, poultry meat and eggs has taken place to other Member States and third countries.

A.03 Information from Greece on the situation as regards lumpy skin disease.

The Greek delegation presented an update of the epidemiological situation of Lumpy Skin Disease in their country, including the occurrence of new outbreaks and the progress of the relevant vaccination campaign. Information was also provided by the Commission representative on the procedure for the procurement by the European

Commission of Lumpy Skin Disease vaccines that will be used to establish an EU vaccine bank and also to assist Greece in completing their vaccination campaign.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union.

Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in France.

Following the confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on the French territory on 24 November 2015, Implementing Decisions (EU) 2015/2239 and 2015/2460 were adopted confirming the extent of the protection surveillance zones and subsequently the establishment of a further restricted zone in the south-west of France. This further restricted zone comprises the departments of Dordogne, Gers, Gironde, Haute-Vienne, Landes, Hautes-Pyrénées, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Lot-et-Garonne and communes of the departments of Lot, Charente and Corrèze.

France has reported HPAI outbreaks located outside the area listed as the further restricted zone in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460. In addition, a first outbreak was confirmed in the department of Haute-Garonne. Due to the development of the epidemiological situation, France is enlarging the further restricted zone to include the whole department of Lot and Haute-Garonne and by adding further communes in the department Corrèze.

The Commission has examined the control measures taken by France and it is satisfied that the borders of the further restricted zone, established by France are at a sufficient distance to the actual holdings where the HPAI outbreaks have been confirmed.

Please see also agenda point M.01.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in Lithuania.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States, as regards the entries for Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. The document and its annex were voted and supported by the Committee.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annexes to Decision 2003/467/EC establishing the official tuberculosis, brucellosis and enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free status of certain Member States and regions of Member States as regards bovine herds.

The United Kingdom and Italy have submitted to the Commission documentation demonstrating respectively for the Isle of Man and for several regions in Italy compliance with the conditions laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC for officially tuberculosis-free status as regards bovine herds.

Spain has submitted to the Commission documentation demonstrating for the region of Navarra compliance with the conditions laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC for officially brucellosis-free status as regards bovine herds.

France has requested to suspend the enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free status as regards bovine herds for La Réunion, which does no longer comply with the conditions laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC for such status. Consequently the relevant Annex to Decision 2003/467/EEC should list in detail the officially enzootic-bovine-leukosis free regions in France.

The draft was presented in detail and no questions were raised by Member States.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of the Province of Brindisi in the Region Puglia of Italy as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*).

The point was postponed pending the receipt of additional satisfactory information on recent outbreaks of *B. melitensis* in Italy.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 2010/221/EU as regards national measures for preventing the introduction of certain aquatic animal diseases into Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Commission informed that the draft was presented to Committee for discussion at the meeting 30 November 2015. Since then the Commission only received some minor comments from the United Kingdom. The draft presented for vote had been revised in line with those comments.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on draft Guidelines for Member States for EU funding of veterinary programmes.

The Commission presented the draft Guidelines for Member States for EU funding of veterinary programmes. The present Guidelines aim to provide comprehensive guidance to the Member States on some important concepts, the conditions for

eligibility of direct costs, the categories of eligible direct and indirect costs, the description of the eligible measures and the specific components of the direct eligible costs per programme. The Commission has requested that Member States provide comments and suggestions to finalize the document. The final draft will be presented to the Member States in an upcoming session of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

M.01 Information from France on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry on its territory.

The French representative informed about the disease situation for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry in the south-west of the French territory. A total of 68 HPAI outbreaks have been confirmed since the first detection of HPAI of subtype H5N1 (“non-Asian strain”) in a backyard flock in the department of Dordogne. Three different HPAI subtypes (H5N1, H5N2 and H5N9) were detected in the outbreaks and seven outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza. In some cases several subtypes were detected on a single holding. Disease control measures were immediately put in place including stamping-out of poultry on infected holdings, disposal of poultry, cleaning and disinfection measures and epidemiological investigations. Protection and surveillance zones were established around the outbreaks. In addition a further restricted zone was put in place around those zones comprising the entire area of eight departments: Dordogne, Gers, Gironde, Haute-Vienne, Landes, Hautes-Pyrénées, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Lot-et-Garonne and communes of the departments of Lot, Charente and Corrèze. Movements of live poultry out of the further restricted zone are prohibited with the exception of the secured transport of day-old chicks and hatching eggs as confirmed by Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460. In that zone about 70% of the French domestic ducks and geese production is located while only 14% keep other poultry species (galliformes: chicken, turkeys). Furthermore in order to focus on immediate visits to farms located in the high risk protection zones and those identified as epidemiological links, a derogation from the clinical visits to farms before slaughter was granted. Infection was detected almost exclusively in duck holdings mainly kept for ‘foie gras’ production. These ducks do very rarely show symptoms of infection, while galliformes display clinical signs that are typical for HPAI. This fact is a particular challenge for any form of surveillance. So far no infection was detected in wild birds. The French delegation explained the complexity of this type of poultry production with outdoor keeping, rather low number of poultry on the holdings, short production cycles and several movements. Member States raised questions in relation to the epidemiology of the infection and the measures applied in the different zones. The temporary suspension of farm visits before slaughter and alternatively re-enforced inspection after slaughter, was also discussed. France developed a strategy to face this unprecedented situation. It aims at eradicating infection by control measures based on the immediate culling of infected flocks and progressive accelerated depopulation of flocks combined with restrictions on restocking in defined areas. Biosecurity is to be increased and surveillance to be adapted. Preventive tools such as the qualification of breeder flocks and a single database for registration and movements are to be put in place. It is assumed that virus eradication will be achieved within 3-6 months.

During the meeting the Committee was informed about a strong suspicion of disease in a holding outside the further restricted zone in the department of Haute –Garonne

which was confirmed later that day as an outbreak which had to be considered in the draft Commission Implementing Decision (see agenda point AHAW B.01).

M.02 Information from the United Kingdom on avian influenza in poultry

The United Kingdom's representative informed about the detection of avian influenza of the subtypes H5 in a holding keeping 38,000 chicken breeders in Dunfermline, Scotland. Results for pathogenicity were pending, but the clinical picture on the farm suggested presence of a low pathogenicity virus strain. There are no obvious epidemiological links to other farms. Based on the current results, the Scottish Government will cull the poultry on the site and has put in place a 1-km temporary control zone around the holding.

Following the meeting the outbreak was confirmed as being of low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1.

M.03 Information from Slovenia on the Bluetongue control measures in place.

The delegation of Slovenia informed the Commission and the Member States of the start of the vector free season on 17 December 2015. They also informed about their intention to make use of the derogation provided for in the second subparagraph of point A(1) of Annex III to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007, regarding the movement of live animals from Bluetongue restricted areas as of 17 February 2016.

M.04 Information by the Netherlands on calves transport.

The Netherlands declared that their veterinary services decided in 2015 to refuse authorisations for the transport of calves of less than 2 months of age over 8 hours since they consider that the EU legislation on animal transport (Regulation 1/2005) could not be complied with. In their views trucks were not properly equipped for providing adequate drinking to the calves. The Commission representative reminded that this issue has already been pointed out in the past. The Commission sent a letter to all Member States in December 2009 (Reference SANCO D5 D(2009) 450351 of 4/12/2009) where the main risks were identified. IE declared that they had a long experience of exporting calves to the continent and had a good cooperation with FR. After 17 hours of ferry boat calves are unloaded and rested in France for 12 hours. No problem occurs anymore. The Commission concluded that further exchanges between Member States should be encouraged to monitor and solve possible problems. A copy of the Commission letter of 2009 could be sent to the Member States interested.