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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised

A.02 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Italy, Croatia and Greece provided an update on the evolution of the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories. This evolution was reflected in a revision of the regionalization control measures in those Member States.

A.03 Information from Spain on sheep pox and goat pox.

Spain provided an update on its sheep pox and goat pox situation. The Commission indicated that, in view of the stabilisation of the epidemiological situation the Commission will reassess the measures in place and might come forward with a revision of such measures.

A.04 Presentation from EFSA on the latest overview report on the epidemiological situation with avian influenza.

EFSA presented the main conclusions and option for response following assessment, jointly with ECDC and EURL for avian influenza, of the epidemiological situation with the disease in Europe and worldwide in the last two months, as included in the published scientific report. Based on the assessment it is expected that outbreaks in wild birds will continue during the summer months all across Europe (juveniles fledging and dispersing from their colony sites). In the coming weeks, only sporadic HPAI outbreaks are expected to occur in poultry in Europe, however, more extensive secondary spread cannot be excluded if outbreaks occurred in high-density poultry production areas. Therefore, EFSA has mentioned the importance of preparedness and prevention strategies, primarily in areas with high density of poultry. EFSA also recommended enhanced surveillance in wild and free-roaming domestic carnivores in areas with extensive HPAI virus spread in the wild birds population and epidemics in poultry.

A.05 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Germany, France, Poland and Sweden presented the updated situation with HPAI. In addition, France informed that a formal decision on the implementation of a vaccination strategy against HPAI may be taken by the French Minister of Agriculture in July and the implementation of such strategy, in establishments keeping ducks, may start in October 2023. To respond to the risk of a probable circulation of the virus in wild birds during summer in the area with high risk of spread of the virus between establishments, France has decided to reduce for the next months the density of the ducks in that area.

Poland informed on the findings of HPAI virus in cats. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

Finland informed on findings of HPAI virus in four fur farms keeping Arctic foxes, after notification nervous symptoms and mortality of the animals. Several other fur farms are being investigated after notification of similar symptoms. The farms are located in areas where HPAI has been detected in gulls. The preliminary investigations indicate as probable source of infection the contact of the animals with the infected wild birds.

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.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.

The Commission briefly presented the elements captured in the draft. Member States took note without discussion.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever.

Considering the dynamic evolution of ASF in certain countries, the Commission proposed to postpone the vote to take into account further revision of the ASF restricted zones in certain Member States.

Vote Postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards transitional measures for the export of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel for combustion.

The draft amendment of the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 introduces a prolongation of the existing derogation for exports of meat-and-bone meal from Ireland, which would expire on 31. December 2023. The prolongation applies for additional 18 months till 30 June 2025.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU regionalization for HPAI has been updated to take into account the restricted zones established by Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden for the recent outbreaks of HPAI confirmed by these Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Update on ADIS Union Reporting.

The Commission presented the progress in Union Reporting by Member States based on Article 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002. It encouraged Member States who did not yet submit these reports to do via ADIS. It also informed that the ADIS public pages with Union Reporting data would be released in September 2023.

M.02 Update of the epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) situation.

Spain and Italy delivered comprehensive presentations on the latest developments for epizootic haemorrhagic disease, including presence in wild deer in Spain. The Commission appreciated the information and transparency by these Member States, which enhances the understanding of all concerned about how this disease behaves in the EU, after its first appearance in late 2022.

M.03 Information to Member States on the implementation of business rules in TRACES.

Several Member States requested the Commission to communicate business rules more than 4 weeks before they are implemented in TRACES. The Commission clarified that Member States were informed about the initiation of this exercise since December 2022 via a note to CVOs, and received further relevant information through the TRACES contact points. The Commission highlighted that the 4-weeks' notice was agreed in meetings with Member States and that no feedback was received for the 3 groups of rules that were successfully implemented since March 2023. Therefore, the Commission urged Member States to take advantage of the 4-weeks notice to review the rules, as agreed.