



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 13 JANUARY 2015 - 14 JANUARY 2015  
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

**A.01 Update from Member States concerning the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8.**

Germany gave a presentation on the last two outbreaks in poultry in Lower Saxony confirmed on 16/12 and 20/12. It also reported on an outbreak confirmed on 07/01 in the zoo of Rostock where white storks started dying. Derogations from killing for non-infected birds and from zoning in the urban area are applied.

Italy gave a presentation on the outbreak in fattening turkeys confirmed on 15/12.

**A.02 Information from Portugal on the implementation of the vaccination plan against avian influenza in breeding mallards.**

Presentation postponed.

**A.03 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team mission on lumpy skin disease in Cyprus.**

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the CVET mission in Cyprus. The Committee was concerned by the evolution of the current situation and the future likelihood of reintroduction of the virus.

**A.04 African swine fever - Update from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied.**

Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia provided an update on the current epidemiological situation and control measures applied. The Commission informed on the recent mandate submitted to EFSA in order to assess the new epidemiological data

collected after one year of the occurrence of African swine fever in the Baltic states and Poland.

**A.05 Information from Italy on the African swine fever situation in Sardinia.**

Italy provided an update on the new African swine fever situation in Sardinia which focused on an improved chain of command and better combat of illegal activities.

**A.06 Updated information from Member States on the bluetongue control measures.**

In addition to the Member States that already indicated their intent to perform vaccination against bluetongue during the previous Committee meeting, Italy clarified several of its regions were already enforcing compulsory vaccination. Croatia provided an update on the current bluetongue situation.

**A.07 Information on the scientific opinions of EFSA on sheep pox, peste des petits ruminants and lumpy skin disease.**

EFSA has presented the terms of reference, main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations concerning the recently adopted scientific opinions mandated by DG SANTE respectively on sheep pox, peste des petits ruminants, and lumpy skin disease.

**A.08 Presentation of EFSA assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2014 in the context of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011.**

The EFSA's representative presented the assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2014 in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 that was made public end of October 2014 at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3875.pdf>.

**A.09 Presentation from EFSA on the scientific report on highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8.**

EFSA presented the epidemiological situation in the EU and possible virus entry routes which are not fully understood yet. EFSA concluded that all possible pathways including wild birds, via humans, vehicles, equipment, fomites, live animals and/or animal-derived products contaminated with virus need further investigation.

Given the apparent low pathogenicity of HPAI H5N8 for several wild bird species, focussed strategic and proportionate enhancement of both active (targeted) and passive (scanning) surveillance of both living and dead wild birds is recommended. The following discussion with Member States focussed on the pros and cons of active surveillance in wild birds, which will needs to be done according to clear and well-defined objectives.

**A.10 Discussion on trade in pooled semen of animals of the porcine species.**

The Commission pointed in its presentation that currently, according to existing legislation, trade in pooled semen of animals of the porcine species is not allowed. This position was strongly supported by the Netherlands. The United Kingdom will provide the Commission bilaterally with any additional information on that issue.

**A.11 Information concerning a declaration from Croatia of disease free status for the entire territory of Croatia with regard to Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) Disease.**

Croatia presented a declaration submitted to the Commission of disease freedom as regards KHV for their entire territory in accordance with Article 49 of Directive 2006/88/EC. The declaration is based on targeted surveillance for more than four years without detection of the actual disease.

As this is a declaration of disease free status for an area covering more than 75 % of a Member State, the declaration shall be approved and the disease free status adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 62(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC. As a following up of this presentation the Commission will therefore submit a draft proposal for amendment of Decision 2009/177/EC to the Committee for discussion and vote before adoption.

**A.12 Response on the Questionnaire sent by the Commission to Member States related to the existing minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine, ovine and caprine animals.**

The Commission presented the main conclusions drawn based on 23 Member States' responses on the questionnaire. The majority of the Member States found the current system of harmonised minimum level of controls for identification of bovine, ovine and caprine effective and sufficient as to prevent non-compliances. The current system also ensures a continued trend of reduction of non-compliances and sanctions in future and thus fulfilling its objectives. Member States agreed that the possible modifications to the current system could be subject of discussed under the implementing acts of the new Animal Health Law.

**A.13 Outcome of the evaluation procedure on eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2015 and following years: final list of programmes selected and final amount allocated to each programme.**

The final outcome of the assessment by the Commission of the veterinary programmes submitted for cofunding was presented to the Member States. Some Member States asked questions as regards procedural aspects and eligible costs (DE , AT , UK , ES , IT , PL , GR , FR , LU, PT). Nevertheless no Member State expressed disagreement as regards individual allocations. The changes are the consequence of some adjustments requested by the Member States after the PAFF Committee of 18

November, but mainly due to the increase of the EU contribution for bluetongue vaccination in Romania from 1,4 M€ to 10,2 M€, following the introduction of a revised programme.

**A.14 Grant for an action (EURLs).**

In support of new procedures previously explained to Member States, an example of “grant decision” was presented for information and with a view to replying to potential questions of clarification. No specific comment and no specific question were raised.

**A.15 Grant Decision approving national programmes and associated funding.**

The Commission presented the Member States the template for Grant Decisions approving national veterinary programmes and associated funding. Member States were invited to send their comments in writing to the functional mailbox of Unit G5.

**A.16 Grant Decision for an action (veterinary emergency measures).**

The Commission presented the Member States the template for Grant Decisions for an action concerning veterinary emergency measures. Member States were invited to send their comments in writing to the functional mailbox of Unit G5.

**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 and in third countries.**

No items raised.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-free status of the Federal States of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Berlin and Mecklenburg –Western Pomerania in Germany.**

The aim of this draft Decision is to add 5 additional regions in Germany, the Federal States of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Berlin and Mecklenburg –Western Pomerania, to Annex II of Decision 2004/558/EC which are considered to be free of BHV1.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission implementing Decision recognising the Isle of Man as free of varroosis and amending Decision 2013/503/EU.**

The Commission presented a draft adding the Isle of Man to the list of EU Member States or territories thereof which are recognised as free from varroosis based on guarantees based on Article 15 of Directive 92/65/EEC. As a consequence and in order to protect such status, restrictive measures will apply to the introduction of live bees and bumble bees and certain apiculture products into the territory of the Isle of Man.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the inclusion of Hungary in the list of Member States or regions thereof free of Aujeszky's disease.**

The Commission presented the new draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the inclusion of Hungary in the list of Member States free of Aujeszky's disease. Hungary presented the relevant current and past surveillance data [LINK TO PPT]. All present Member States supported the draft text.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion.

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

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing decision amending Decision 2010/221/EU as regards national measures preventing the introduction of certain aquatic animal diseases into parts of Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The amendment of that Decision was proposed based on the following grounds:

- A declaration submitted from the United Kingdom notifying that OsHV-1 microvar is detected in pacific oysters from the River Crouch in Essex, which is an area currently declared free of that disease.
- Information submitted from Finland about their decision on withdrawal of their eradication programme regarding Bacterial kidney disease. This decision should result in deletion of the entry for Finland in Annex II to Decision 2010/221/EU.
- A declaration from Ireland notifying that OsHV -1 microvar is detected in the compartment Askeaton Bay, which is an area currently listed in Annex III of Decision 2010/221 as being subject to surveillance program as regards this disease. Consequently the entry of this compartment in Annex III to Decision 2010/221 should be deleted.

The current proposal was forwarded in accordance with these points, no comments were received from the Member States.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.**

Item has been withdrawn from agenda.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union's contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia in 2014.**

Discussion postponed.

**M.01 Application of model health certificate for trade in cattle set out in Decision 2014/798/EU.**

Germany, supported by France and Luxemburg, signalled some difficulties with the practical use of a new format, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 599/2004, of model health certificate for trade in bovine animals. Decision 2014/798/EU, which lays down such new model health certificate, was adopted by the Committee in October 2014. Mainly the problems relate to point I.31. where sex of the animal must be indicated and the exchange of data between national data bases and TRACES. Member States were requested to send to the Commission by mail all their reservations to the model health certificate. The Commission will reflect on them and inform Member States about the outcome of the analysis.

**M.02 Transport - Welfare Implications.**

The Member States were informed of a problem that has arisen concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 with regard to transport of ornamental fish. It is apparent that the rules of Regulation 1/2005 are interpreted differently across the EU, especially as regards authorisation of transporters. The Commission would like to ask the MS whether they would support the establishment of a small expert group to draft guidance on this issue.

France, Germany, Austria, Portugal and UK all indicated their support.

Additional question from Germany:

The German delegate inquired if the Commission followed up on their request to consult EFSA concerning the welfare implications for the transport and slaughter of pregnant cows. Commission representative replied that the issue was not considered of common MS interest and not prioritized. GE delegate requested to further discuss the issue in the next Committee to seek opinion of other Member States.

**M.03 Slovakia provided an update on the recent case of rabies in a wild fox.**

Presentation given.

**M.04 Request from France to the Commission to be informed about the decision taken by Member States with regard to the introduction of unvaccinated dogs and cats onto their territory in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 and Directive 92/65/EEC.**

The Commission representative committed to prepare a request in this regard to the Member States as soon as possible and to publish the available information under a new topic on the dedicated Directorate General for Health and Food Safety website [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm).