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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 Commission and exchange of views with Member States on the rules concerning the traceability and movement between Member States of equine animals.

The Commission provided some clarification and update on the EU rules related to identification, traceability and certification of equine animals. The Commission informed about preparing "Frequently Asked Questions" on the most important aspects of related to this subject.

A.03 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the scientific opinions as regards disease control measures for category A diseases of terrestrial animals in the framework of the Animal Health Law.

EFSA presented scientific opinions on disease control measures for category A diseases of terrestrial animals. Based on the terms of references 1 to 3 of the Commission mandate, EFSA developed 15 scientific opinions, one on the methodology and 14 separate opinions, one for each Category A disease of terrestrial animals. In its presentation EFSA outlined the key conclusions and recommendations for each disease. The Commission thanked EFSA and welcomed new scientific information which is reassessing the existing measures and filling the knowledge gaps. The Commission will use the scientific output for updating the EU disease prevention and control rules.

A.04 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the scientific opinion as regards disease control measures for category A diseases of terrestrial animals in the framework of the Animal Health Law, Terms of Reference 4 on prohibitions in restricted zones and risk mitigating treatments for products of animal origin and other materials.

EFSA presented a scientific opinion assessing the prohibitions in restricted zones and risk mitigating measures for products of animal origin and other materials for Category A disease of terrestrial animals. In the presentation EFSA outlined the key conclusions,

recommendations and pointed out towards data gaps where further studies may be needed. The Commission thanked EFSA and welcomed new scientific information. The Commission will use the scientific output for updating the EU disease prevention and control rules.

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

Germany, Ireland, France, Croatia, Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands presented the epidemiological situation with HPAI and the measures taken to prevent, control and eradicate the disease in poultry and captive birds.

A.06 Information from Sweden on the Newcastle disease outbreak in poultry.

Sweden provided information on the outbreak of Newcastle disease confirmed at the beginning of November 2022 in a laying hens establishment located in South-East part of Sweden.

A.07 Information from Norway on the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry.

Information has been provided by Norway on two outbreaks of HPAI of subtype H5N1 and one outbreak of Newcastle disease confirmed in laying hens establishments. All three outbreaks have been confirmed in a small area in the south of the country where there is a high density of poultry establishments.

A.08 Information from the Commission on the follow-up of eight EFSA scientific opinions on *Listing and categorisation of animal diseases within the framework of the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) No 2016/429)* of certain antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.

The Commission referred to and summarised the main elements of the previous presentations European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) gave during the September meeting, including the excellent scientific and methodological aspects of the scientific opinions of EFSA. As regards EFSA's findings, risk assessments and recommendations, the Commission noted the uncertainty related to the scrutinised pathogens and showed examples and some reasons for uncertainties. In summary, the Commission concluded that taking into account the criteria for listing of diseases in the AHL and on the basis of the EFSA opinion, none of the 8 diseases should be proposed for listing. The Commission nevertheless offered possibility to Member States to consider this further and come back with comments (if any). Member States took note.

A.09 Information from Spain on sheep pox and goat pox.

Spain presented an update of the SGP epidemiological situation, with an emphasis to the outbreak in the province of Almería (in the Autonomous Community of Andalucía). In response to this outbreak and the outbreaks in the neighbouring province of Granada, a further restricted zone has been established, in line with a recently adopted Commission Implementing Decision. It was also announced that two more outbreaks have been recently confirmed in the province of Cuenca (in the Autonomous Community of Castilla – La Mancha), outside the previous restricted zone in the same region. Detailed information on these latest outbreaks to follow.

A.10 Report on the sheep pox and goat pox EUVET mission to Spain.

The EUVET Team Leader presented the main findings and recommendations of the mission that took place in October 2022. The origin of the outbreaks in Spain remains obscure, although various explanations have been proposed (presumably movements of people, goods or vehicles from North Africa). Common grazing is identified as a major risk factor for disease spread, while livestock density in the affected areas further hampers eradication. Recommendations emphasise, among others, on the importance of biosecurity measures, disease awareness, timely reporting of suspicions from farmers and coordination between all stakeholders and authorities involved.

A.11 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on the scientific opinions as regards assessment of listing and categorisation of infection with Equine Herpesvirus-1 within the framework of the Animal Health Law and clinical impact, diagnosis and control of that disease in Europe.

EFSA presented its scientific opinions on the assessment of listing and categorisation of infection with Equine Herpesvirus-1 within the framework of the Animal Health Law and clinical impact, diagnosis and control of that disease in Europe. Those opinions were prepared based on the mandate given by the Commission, according to the criteria of the Animal Health Law: Article 7 on disease profile and impacts, Article 5 on the eligibility of the disease to be listed, Article 9 for the categorisation of the disease according to disease prevention and control measures as in Annex IV and Article 8 on the list of animal species related to infection with Equine Herpesvirus-1.

A.12 Information from the Commission on the intended specific trainings (BTSF & STMs) on African swine fever in 2023.

The Commission provided a short information on the new initiative related to trainings on ASF through BTSF and STMs planned for next year.

A.13 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Italy, Latvia, and Slovakia presented an update on the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories. Italy made progress in the eradication of ASF in Sardinia.

A.14 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS CoV 2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission informed the Committee on updates received from MS on the epidemiological situation for SARS CoV-2 in mustelidae and raccoon dogs; the updates concerned new outbreaks in Poland and Italy; the coordination between animal health and public health authorities was noted.

A.15 One Health Surveillance in Animals and the Environment.

The Commission invited EFSA and HADEA to provide an update on their activities and next milestones. It was reiterated that the EFSA/ECDC assessment requires the MS input to ensure all viewpoints are taken on board. The importance of a collaborative process and thus promoting consortia among applicant Member States was underlined.

A.16 Information from Italy on recent outbreaks of Brucella abortus in bovine animals.

Italy presented information about two primary outbreaks of Brucella abortus biotype 3 in bovine animals concerning the affected establishment, the disease eradication measures and the epidemiological investigations. Contact of the bovine animals from the affected establishments with wild boar and deer present in the area, as well as with hay and feed, was mentioned as possible source of infection. As the occurrence of Brucella abortus biotype 3 in wild boar and deer has not been reported so far, the Italian authorities are requested to provide data on the infection of wild animals with Brucella, possibly biotype 3. Additional information is also required on the origin of hay and feed as a possible source of infection.

A.17 Information from France on recent outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease in porcine animals.

France presented sufficient information about two outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease, one in kept porcine animals and one in kept wild boar, concerning the affected establishments, the disease eradication measures and the epidemiological investigations. The status free from infection with Aujeszky's disease virus of the regions concerned may be maintained.

A.18 Information from Member States on the applications for disease-free status for Category B diseases.

Point postponed to next PAFF Committee meeting.

A.19 Information from the Commission on a draft amendment of Implementing regulation (EU) 2020/2002 as regards disease notification and the information for submissions by Member States for approval and reporting of compulsory and optional eradication programmes and in applications of disease-free status.

The Commission presented its intention to amend Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 in order to streamline the information flow and reduce the administrative burden on Member States regarding approved eradication programmes for several diseases, together with other clarifications needed for better implementation of the Regulation. A draft document will be presented for discussion and vote in a coming committee meeting.

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 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

The Commission presented to the Committee the most recent changes to the draft text following the internal consultations and taking account of comments by the Member States.

Vote Postponed

B.03 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.

Point withdrawn from the agenda.

Vote Postponed

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission 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 amended to include restricted zones established for new outbreaks confirmed by certain Member States in poultry or captive birds.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down emergency measures in relation to confirmed cases of infestation with *Aethina tumida* (Small hive beetle) in the Member States and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/597.

Point withdrawn from the agenda.

Vote Postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The Implementing Regulation was voted to revise restricted zones III to restricted zone II in Latvia and Slovakia. Revisions in Poland were not included in the current draft.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 724 as regards the implementation of actions under the Single Market Programme.

In a joint Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health setting of the PAFF Committee, the Commission presented the content of the three draft Commission Implementing Decisions (points B.07-B-09).

The draft Commission Implementing Decision in subject (B.07) dealing with the 2022 SMP work programme was voted.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 3467 as regards the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests under the Single Market Programme.

Summary on points B.08 and B.09:

In a joint Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health setting of the PAFF Committee, the Commission presented the content of three draft Commission Implementing Decisions (points B.07-B.09).

The draft Commission Implementing Decisions under B.08 and B.09, dealing with the SMP 2023 work programme were voted “no opinion”, and subsequently will be presented at an Appeal Committee to be held on 14 December 2022.

Vote taken: No opinion.

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards the implementation of actions under the Single Market Programme.

Summary on points B.08 and B.09:

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The draft Commission Implementing Decisions under B.08 and B.09, dealing with the SMP 2023 work programme were voted “no opinion”, and subsequently will be presented at an Appeal Committee to be held on 14 December 2022.

Vote taken: No opinion.

M.01 Update on the epidemiological situation of EHDV in Italy.

Italy presented a comprehensive update of the EHDV outbreaks in Italy, namely in Sardinia and in Sicily, including reference to the relevant EU rules on movement of animals from the affected zones. A few questions were asked and answered.

M.02 Spain - EHD.

Spain presented a very short update of the situation in Spain, also with reference to the relevant EU rules on movement of animals. A few questions were asked and answered. In summary of the two points, the Commission appreciated the efforts by the two Member States and their compliance with the EU rules on movements of susceptible animals from affected areas. The Commission confirmed that the EU movement rules are considered to be fit for purpose, unless Member States signaled otherwise. The Commission also mentioned the possibility to seek scientific advice from EFSA, if Member States would need such.