

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group
to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act on supplementary
animal health requirements for movements of ungulates to other Member States under
Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – E00930

17 May 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 Council of the European Union and the European Parliament at the meeting.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission presented the general context of the working document and its place amongst the delegated acts in preparation under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ (AHL).

The Commission informed about the structure of the delegated act on supplementary animal health requirements for movement of kept terrestrial animals within the Union, and explained which part of the delegated act is covered by the working document to be discussed at the meeting.

The Commission highlighted in its presentation those listed diseases which will result in establishing supplementary animal health requirements for movement of ungulates between Member States. The Commission pointed out that the proposed text reflects the outcome of the discussions on listing and categorisation of diseases and the need for adjustments according to this (for example the proposed new requirements regarding surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)). The listed diseases were presented for each animal species and related to the trade measures foreseen for each category of diseases.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- 4.1. The need to include “wild terrestrial animals” in the scope of this delegated act was questioned. The Commission explained that the working document to be discussed in this meeting constitutes only a part of the delegated act on supplementary animal health requirements for movements of ungulates to other Member States and applies only to kept terrestrial ungulates. At a later stage, a part on supplementary animal health requirements for movements of wild terrestrial animals to other Member States may be presented for discussion.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law) (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1).

- 4.2. The experts emphasised the importance of consistency in the use of definitions in delegated and implementing acts. The definitions of species of ungulates in the delegated act discussed are in line with the taxonomy agreed during the discussions on the listing and categorisation of diseases.
- 4.3. Some experts proposed to include definitions of “animals for breeding and production” or “animals for fattening” to reflect specific uses of “animals not intended for slaughter”. The Commission explained that the term “animals not intended for slaughter” will cover all categories of animals with the higher health standards for movements to an establishment rather than to a slaughterhouse. This new approach would also prevent the creation of additional categories of animals which do not fit into existing definitions, such as "pet pigs" or "pet goats".
- 4.4. Some experts requested the reduction of time at slaughter house, mainly to avoid mixing of consignments entering slaughterhouses. The Commission supported this approach and highlighted that the lesser conditions for movement of animals intended for slaughter can be justified by "one-way" movement of such category of animals to slaughterhouses.
- 4.5. On request, the Commission confirmed that the rules for disease prevention measures in relation to transport apply to all movements of kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs within the Union, including movements within a Member State. It was commented that not all of the proposed supplementary requirements in relation to transport are relevant to all animal species. The Commission will review the text to clarify all ambiguities.
- 4.6. Answering the question of one expert, it was confirmed that the requirement for a residency period laid down in the AHL implies that the animals have to be continuously resident in one single establishment prior to departure for a period proposed in this delegated act.
- 4.7. There were different opinions whether the disease-free status should be granted to an establishment (ex -holding) or an epidemiological unit (a herd). It was also suggested that disease and species specificity should be taken into account while the disease-free status is granted. The Commission informed that the line taken in the working document corresponded to the disease-free status of an establishment.
- 4.8. Some experts stated that there would a problem with granting brucellosis-free status of establishment and requested for an amendment of the text regarding infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis*, and *B. suis* in order to clarify to which animal species the requirements apply. Account should be taken also of lack of good enough diagnostic methods for brucellosis in porcine animals. The Commission will consider redrafting the text in line with this to address the above mentioned problems.
- 4.9. Most experts have not supported additional animal health requirements in relation to infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex for porcine animals, as available diagnostic methods for this species are not sensitive enough. However, two Member States were in favour of testing porcine animals kept outdoors for that disease.

- 4.10. The Commission clarified that the requirements in the working document regarding infection with rabies virus only concern confirmed cases involving kept animals.
- 4.11. The Commission explained that some of the zoonotic diseases, especially the TSEs, will not be dealt with under the AHL. However, certificates laid down in the implementing act based on Regulation (EU) 2017/625 will include parts related to these diseases.
- 4.12. The Commission invited the experts to reflect on the need for supplementary animal health requirements regarding diseases in category C+D+E for movement of kept ungulates to Member States or zones not free or not having an approved eradication program for the specific disease.
- 4.13. Some experts suggested separating in the working document animal health requirements for ovine animals from those for caprine animals.
- 4.14. The experts welcomed the provisions proposed in sections on camelids and deer. One expert suggested using the term “cervids” instead of “deer”. The Commission acknowledged the problems related to testing of these species for particular diseases, especially regarding infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, and invited the Member States to provide their experience with different testing procedures. One expert proposed not to include supplementary animal health requirements unless reliable tests are available.
- 4.15. The experts commented on the difficulties to define the establishment of origin in the case of deer kept outdoors, often in mixed herds with several operators in remote areas, as is the case with the reindeer. The Commission confirmed that an establishment in such circumstances can cover such areas and that establishments can overlap geographically.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working document by 1 June 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 on 29 June 2018, a revised version of the working document will be presented, supplemented with some new chapters.