



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)7226310

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
16 May 2024

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from the Commission on antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks.

The Commission recalled the Animal Health Law (AHL) rules on sharing of information between the Commission and Member States on Union and national antigen, vaccine, and diagnostic reagent banks and suggested a modus operandi for this information sharing, to be done once a year at face-to-face PAFF meetings in full respect of the confidentiality rules laid down in the AHL. Member States did not object on way forward suggested by the Commission.

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

Greece informed the Commission and the Member States about the epidemiological situation of Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) in its territory. To date there has been one outbreak of SGP in Lesvos Island (October 2023, no new outbreaks ever since) and 8 outbreaks in the Phthiotis regional unit, in mainland Greece (region of Central Greece), all within the municipality of Lokron. Following the confirmation of the latest outbreak in mainland Greece (March 2024) there have been no new outbreaks. Disease surveillance remains in place in the previously established restricted zones. In the absence of new outbreaks, all zones, including the further restricted zone, will have been lifted as of 1 July 2024, in line with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2725.

A.04 Information from EFSA on ongoing mandates on animal welfare and stakeholders' engagement.

EFSA, represented by the Team leader of the Animal Welfare Team (of the BIOHAW unit of EFSA) provided information on the ongoing activities on mandates for scientific opinions on animal welfare received from EC. These opinions relate to beef cattle, turkeys, animals kept for fur production, horses, stunning and killing of small ruminants and two new stunning and killing methods. EFSA also presented its strategy of

engagement with stakeholders and the recent call for project and collaboration by EFSA.

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

Bulgaria and Hungary presented the updates of the epidemiological situation with HPAI in their countries. While in Hungary no new outbreak has been confirmed, in Bulgaria, the virus has been detected in two new establishments.

A.06 EFSA - presentation on the results of the EFSA project on the survival of the ASF virus on plant-based feed, bedding and arthropods.

EFSA, represented by a scientific officer at the Animal Health Team (of the BIOHAW unit of EFSA) provided information on the results of an experimental study to fill gaps on the survival of the ASF virus in feed, bedding, mechanical vectors.

A.07 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

The Czech Republic, Italy and Poland provided a description of the evolution of the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories that determined the revision of the ASF restricted zones in those countries. In addition, Austria, where ASF is not present, presented its national action plan for ASF (according to Article 56 of the ASF Regulation).

A.08 Presentation of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Poland.

Please see under point B.01.

A.09 Update on the West Nile virus epidemiological situation and surveillance plans for 2024.

The Commission invited ECDC and EFSA to present an assessment on the current WNF surveillance data in view of the new vector season. The Committee noted the risks for public health and animal health as well as this coordination, both at national level and at EU level, represents an excellent example of practical implementation of the one health approach.

A.10 ADIS public pages for Union Reporting.

The Commission presented the public pages for ADIS on Union Notification and Union Reporting based on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 and on feedback received from Member States. The Committee reviewed the pages and noted the differences between notification and reporting within the framework of the Animal Health Law. The Commission informed that the public pages on Union Notification would be made public first to be followed by the pages on Union Reporting in a timely manner.

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 of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Poland.

Member States were informed that the Commission revisited the former practice for adoption of Interim Urgent Decisions in light of exchanges with the legal service and that even though in the past all the information was presented to the committee as regards implementing acts adopted under the urgency procedure, it was found that in line with the Comitology Regulation additional formal steps were needed also to ensure the legality of these measures against possible challenges, and therefore the past practice needs to be adapted for the future.

In light of this the Interim Implementing Decision identifying at Union level the infected zone in Poland and adopted by the Commission on the basis of its urgent grounds, was presented for vote to the Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

EU regionalization had to be amended due to new outbreaks of HPAI confirmed in Bulgaria. Therefore, Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 had to be amended to include the new restricted zones established in Bulgaria for the new HPAI outbreaks.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

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

The draft Implementing Regulation was presented for vote to enlarge ASF restricted zones I and II in Italy, for an ASF case in wild boar in restricted zone II but in close proximity to restricted zone I, and to lift certain restricted zones I and II in Czechia for absence of ASF cases in wild boar in those zones for more than 12 months. In addition, a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain urgent interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Poland (point B.01 of the agenda) was adopted by the Commission. This Implementing Decision was presented to Committee for vote. The Implementing Regulation (point B.03 of the agenda) will repeal the Interim Implementing Decision, and the revised infected zone in Poland established at Union level will be listed in Part A of Annex II to that of that Implementing Regulation.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Outbreak of Bluetongue in Germany.

Germany explained the latest bluetongue situation in the three affected Bundesländer, still being dynamic, including Rhineland-Palatinate where the competent authority recently suspended the free status following an outbreak, and some elements of the

recent vaccinations. Some questions were raised (e.g., as regards the territorial scope and the temporal extent of the vaccination, on enhanced surveillance in neighbouring areas, etc.), all clarified by Germany. The Commission took note, it will follow up these developments by way of amending the relevant Annex of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620.

M.02 Availability of certificates laid down in Regulation (EU) 2024/1044 in TRACES - requested by the Netherlands.

The Netherlands, supported by two more Member States, commented that the uploading in TRACES of the certificates laid down in Regulation (EU) 2024/1044, amending Regulation (EU) 2021/403, and the removal on the same day of the previous versions of those certificates created difficulties in the issuing of certificates in their countries and requested the parallel use in TRACES of both the previous and new versions of those certificates. The Commission noted that Regulation (EU) 2024/1044 provided that the certificates laid down therein apply as of May 16, 2024, without providing for a transitional period for the use of the previous versions of the certificates. TRACES is a tool to implement legislation and therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1044, those certificates could only be available for use in TRACES on May 16, 2024, while it was not legally possible to allow the parallel use of both versions in the system.