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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 Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.

Bulgaria and Greece informed the Commission and Member States about the epidemiological situation of Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) in their territories. Both countries continued to implement clinical surveillance for SGP. In Bulgaria no new outbreaks of SGP were recorded since the one outbreak detected in the Burgas region, in mid-September. Both the protection and the surveillance zones around the outbreak have been lifted and, in the absence of new outbreaks, the further restricted zone will be lifted as well, by 30 November. In Greece too, no new outbreaks have been recorded since the one outbreak detected in Lesbos Island, in late October. In the absence of new outbreaks, the protection zone has been lifted since 15 November while the surveillance zone will be lifted by the 24th of the same month. The further restricted zone is due to remain in place until 10 January 2024.

A.03 Report on EU Veterinary Emergency Team established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC.

The Commission informed the Committee on the EUVET activities in the year and invited Member States to assess the composition of the EUVET list of experts to ensure that it includes experts that are operative and available to support the Union in case of need.

A.04 Update by the Commission on ADIS public pages.

The Commission presented the future ADIS pages to be published online in order to modernise the ADIS publicly available data. It invited Member States to review this data prior making to it publicly available to ensure there were no mistakes in its display.

A.05 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Germany provided an update on the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories. Germany, also presented its national plan for wild boar as requested by Article 56 or Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594.

A.06 Report on the African swine fever EUVET mission to Croatia (14-16 November 2023).

The EUVET mission team leader presented the results and recommendations of the EUVET mission held in Croatia from 14 to 16 November. The EUVET team was composed by a German and a Bulgarian expert additionally. Croatia expressed its appreciation for the mission.

A.07 Information from the Commission on a PAFF working group meeting on 27 October 2023 on infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus.

The Commission briefly explained the main elements of the working group, including some substantial issues and questions raised at that technical level which create uncertainty as regards the way ahead. All Member States taking the floor appreciated the efforts of the Commission to organise the working group under short timeframe. Some reiterated what they see problematic about the current situation and rules or indicated new developments (e.g. efforts and possibility to develop a vaccine). The Commission confirmed that it remains open to take new information at any time, as a pre-requisite for further risk assessment and possible policy development.

A.08 Outcome of the budget reallocation exercise for veterinary programmes 2023.

HaDEA presented the final outcome of the budget reallocation for the veterinary programmes for the year 2023. The total budget requested amounts to 34,5 M€. The amendments to the Grant Agreements will be processed by HaDEA in the coming days and Member States are requested to sign the amendments as soon as possible as received in the Funding Portal (e-Grants). HaDEA also reminded Member States to be as precise as possible when estimating their budget reallocation needs in the future, in order to avoid as much as possible overestimations as this generate risks of important underspending at the end of the year.

A.09 Outcome of the evaluation and proposed budget allocation for the veterinary programmes 2024.

HaDEA also presented the preliminary outcome of the budget allocation for the veterinary programmes 2024. Member States have been informed that these amounts may still vary as a consequence of their clarifications provided to HaDEA during the on-going grant agreement preparation phase. HaDEA will present the final budgets allocated to Member States at the earliest at the PAFF committee meeting of December and in any case no later than the committee meeting of January 2024. The Grant Agreements will have to be signed by the Member States and by HaDEA before 31 January 2024.

A.10 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Croatia, Italy, Hungary and the Netherlands presented the epidemiological situation with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in their territory and the measures taken to prevent and control the disease. The Commission highlighted that the HPAI virus is detected in wild birds already in all the parts of the EU and therefore, prevention measures should be enhanced for poultry. In addition, the Commission called for Member States to learn from lessons learned with the control of the disease in the previous epidemic seasons and to adapt their measures to avoid the spread of the disease between establishments (secondary outbreaks).

A.11 SARS CoV-2 in a mink farm in Bulgaria.

Bulgaria provided an update on the SARS CoV-2 situation in Bulgaria. The Committee noted that this was the only mink farm in the country and noted that the one health exchanges between the animal health and public health authorities were already taking place.

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 Annex III to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme 2024-2027.

The Commission presented Annex III to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics and the adoption of the work programme 2024-2027. Issues raised by Member States have been discussed.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 as regards model animal health certificates and model animal health/official certificates for movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation amending model certificates for movements between Member States of consignments of animals and certain types of germinal products in order to, i.e.: reflect new animal health requirements introduced to Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/686 and (EU) 2020/688 by respectively Delegated Regulations (EU) 2023/647 and (EU) 2023/2515 and clarifying and making consistent the wording of certain requirements, notes and footnotes.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 concerning listed diseases of aquatic animals and the list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases.

Implementing Regulation which will amend the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 concerning the list of species which are vectors for the listed diseases of aquatic animals. A new list of species which are susceptible to infection with *Marteilia refringens* was also proposed.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 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 Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever for vote, to propose a revision of African swine fever restricted zones in Croatia, Poland, Germany, Italy, Estonia and Sweden.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 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.

The EU regionalization for outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447) needed to be updated to take into account the development of the epidemiological situation in certain Member States. The draft has been presented by the Committee for vote.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards requirements for placing on the market, and imports of animal by-products and derived products.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation aiming in adjustment of certain provisions laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards placing on the market and imports of animal by-products and derived products.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.