



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate D – Food chain: stakeholders and international relations
Unit D4 Food safety programme, emergency funding

SANTE-2018-10462

REPORT ON THE

MEETING OF THE PLENARY TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING

ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

Brussels, 7th March 2018

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication programmes

**Albert Borschette Conference Center
7th March 2018, from 10.00 to 15:30**

Participants:

Representatives from Member States:

AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, UK.

European Commission (DG SANTE)

- **Unit D4:**

Antonio DI GIULIO (ADG) – Chair

Marc VALLONS (MV)

Christian BOESINGER - FROIDEVAUX (CBF)

Pedro ROSADO MARTÍN (PRM)

Nicolas KRIEGER (NK)

Tommaso CIRASA (TC)

Chiara PINNA (CP)

Bernardo CATANESE (BC)

Oliver LORAN (OL)

Teresa MORANT (TM)

- **Directorate F:**

Lena ENGLUND (LE)

External experts:

Silvia BELLINI (SB)

Fabrizio DE MASSIS (FM)

Jedrt MAURER (JM)

Agenda: The proposed agenda was adopted. See annex.

1. Introduction

The chair Antonio Di Giulio welcomed the representatives of the Member States, the private experts, the colleagues from units D4 and F2 and the interpreters. He reminded the participants about the objectives and importance of this annual meeting.

The agenda was presented. As regards AOB, FI suggested that a point related on the financing expenditure in third countries should be added to the agenda under AOB.

2. African swine fever in Romania

Silvia BELLINI, chair of the ASF subgroup, conducted a presentation on monitoring animal disease eradication programme. Conclusions and recommendation were presented and discussion was focus mainly on the need of early detection as well as prevention based on the implementation of biosecurity measures.

The main conclusions and recommendations were:

- to reinforce passive surveillance as a key component for early detection;
- to improve the biosecurity in backyards;
- to avoid the delay in the diagnosis the tests should be conducted at regional laboratories when necessary. Diagnosis shall be done in laboratories where the real time-PCR is validated.
- to improve the management of the wild boar population; feeding of wild boar should be strongly decreased; increase involvement of the vets services, particularly when the area is considered as risk for ASF; improve the collaboration between the vets services and the hunters associations; improve the accuracy on data collection and data management at central and local level.

As final remark SB pointed out the good atmosphere during the mission.

The following questions/comments were raised:

Question 1 (BE): thanked the very detailed presentation and highlighted the need to increase the levels of passive surveillance to detect the disease early.

Answer 1 (SB): explained that the system in place is working well as the outbreaks of July were detected in a timely manner.

Question 2 (MT): asked if the control of personal imports (pig products) particularly from Moldova was effective.

Answer 2 (SB): answered that they did not evaluated this aspect as the former FVO was conducting a specific mission on this issue.

3. Rabies in Romania

Jedrt MAURER, chair of the subgroup of the Task Force on rabies, delivered a presentation focused on the assessment of the rabies's situation in Romania. She also provided recommendations and future actions for improvement.

The main conclusions and recommendations were:

- the implementation of the rabies vaccination campaigns have improved and currently it is well organized;
- it is needed to speed up the tendering procedure to avoid missing vaccination campaigns;
- it is crucial to reinforce the monitoring and surveillance for rabies (involving relevant stakeholders and veterinarian services);

No questions were raised.

4. Sheep and Goat Brucellosis in Greece

Fabrizio de MASSIS, chairman of the sheep and goats Brucellosis sub-group, presented a summary of the implementation of the Greek sheep and goat brucellosis eradication programme and the conclusions and recommendation of the mission held in Athens:

The main conclusions were:

- the efforts of the MS competent authorities were acknowledged. A positive impact on the vaccination programme was achieved in certain regions;
- data collection has to be improved, both at central and local levels.
- lack of financial and human resources.
- if the resources are not enough to manage the programme as a whole, activities shall be planned to focus on specific and limited objectives;

The main recommendations were:

- to increase and reallocate the financial and human resources devoted to this programme;
- to involve more the official veterinarians in the organisation, planning, control and supervision of the activities carried out in the programme, and to delegate more the implementation of the activities themselves (vaccination, sampling etc) to contracted veterinarians supervised by the official vets;
- to connect the database on identification and registration of holdings and animals to the data from the labs in order to survey the vaccination plan;
- to increase the vaccination coverage;
- to reassess the epidemiological situation in the islands.

FM thanked the good atmosphere and transparency during the mission held in Greece

No questions were raised.

5. Salmonella infections in Poland

As the chairman of the sub-group was unable to attend the meeting, Christian BOESINGER-FROIDEVAUX presented on her behalf the summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the “*Salmonella*” task force sub-group meeting which was held in Warsaw, Poland (5-7 April 2017).

The main conclusions and recommendations of the sub-group were as follows:

- Polish *Salmonella* programmes are well drafted, however latest updates should be added;
- a central database was being developed to record both official and FBO sampling results; it will be a good tool to supervise the correct implementation of the programmes;
- an homogenous national sampling sheet would help to ensure traceability and laboratory results reliability;
- concerning the multi country outbreak of human salmonellosis caused by Polish eggs, the members of the task force gave their comments on the possible sources of infection: breeders, feed, vaccine, visitors, transports.

The members of the task force thanked the Polish services for the great hospitality.

The following questions/comments were raised:

Comment 1 (PL): The representative of PL thanked the work of the task force even if they did not agree on all comments.

Question 1 (DE): Asked if PL presented previous outbreaks in *Salmonella*.

Answer 1 (PL): The representative answered that all results were negative before the mentioned outbreak. They suspect that the transport from one region to another was one of the sources of infestation. However it was not possible to confirm it.

Question 2 (PL): the Commission services announced previously that they would request EFSA to study the evolution of the *Salmonella* targets.

Answer 2 (Comm): EFSA is currently working on this request from the Commission services.

6. Overview report on Directorate F audits on rabies eradication in the Member States: lessons learnt, good practices

Lena ENGLUND made a presentation on the overview report that is based on series of audits and fact-finding missions carried out in member states, in order to evaluate the implementation of rabies eradication programme. These audits concentrate in the six areas:

- quality controls on baits and bait storage and on distribution;
- distribution of baits;
- monitoring;

- surveillance;
- laboratory performance;
- assessment of the effectiveness and progress of the rabies eradication.

7. Information on cost-effectiveness study and on next MFF

Chiara PINNA gave a presentation on the state of play of the establishment of a cost-effectiveness analysis in the food chain area. Based on the final and intermediate findings of the recent and ongoing studies in this field, she presented the main methodological elements proposed to set up and select the indicators, and provided with some examples for each category of indicators expected to be followed up and monitored in the context of the next MFF.

The following question and comments were raised:

Question 1 (AT): Regarding impact indicators, could you please explain how they could be reached and how targets will be defined.

Answer 1 (CP): While intermediate and final targets for output and outcome indicators will continue be defined, as they are directly linked to the measures receiving financial support at EU level, we cannot establish targets for impact indicators, as many other factors - which are not always related to the implementation of EU policies in this area - will contribute to their evolution. However, the selected impact indicators will be followed up and monitored as they will give a key and strategic indication on the effectiveness of our intervention on the wider economic, social and environmental scenario.

8. Unit cost: state of play

Marc VALLONS reminded the attendees on the analysis made on the unit costs procedure.

He informed that unit costs were introduced in 2013 and a revision is foreseen every 2 years.

The unit costs will be revised for the veterinary programmes and will be introduced for certain emergency measures.

The main objectives of this revision are:

- tailor the approach adopted with the Member States regarding the unit costs;
- simplify the reimbursement process as well as reduce the time of the payment.

MV provided information on how the process was conducted. He explained the methodology used and emphasized the importance of reliable data collected through the MSs.

He added that data was statistically processed to ensure consistency and compliance with the principles of financial management. When data was not provided, figures were extrapolated statistically from available data.

Deviations were found due to poor data collection. Therefore the COM will return to the MSs for further clarifications.

He informed that the final unit costs will therefore not be known before the deadline for submission by the MS of the 2019 programmes (31/5/2018) and that these programmes will be submitted on the basis of the old unit costs. Once the new ones are confirmed the programmes will be updated accordingly.

The following questions were raised:

Question 1 (SI): Will the IT tool already include the new unit costs for those MS where the unit costs are confirmed and no further information is needed?

Answer 1 (MV): No, all 2019 programmes will be submitted with the current unit costs.

Question 2 (AT): Must the 2019 programmes be resubmitted by the MS once the new costs are available?

Answer 2 (MV): No, this will be automatically done by the Commission systems.

9. State of play of template for submission of 2019 programmes

Christian BOESINGER-FROIDEVAUX presented the state of play of the development of the IT templates for the submission of the 2019 programmes. He informed that in order to simplify the procedure some amendments are being developed (not all of them will be available for the 2019 programmes):

- Dispatch of pre-filled pdf documents (with the text of the approved programme of the previous year);
- Use of a track-change tool to automatically highlight any modification;
- Development of a new technology based on a web page to replace all pdf documents. Advantages on the use of this new type of submission were explained. TSE and exotic diseases (LSD, SGP, PPR) will be most likely available under this new technology for the programmes 2019.

CBF explained that next year this new web based application should be available for all 2020 programmes as well as for the intermediate and final reports.

The objective of these changes is simplification and also reduction of the administration burden.

CBF informed that the pdf document for the submission of the final report 2017 was sent to the MSs on 06 March 2018. He reminded the attendees to attach the signed declaration before sending the application.

The following questions were raised:

Question 1 (MT): For those who apply for new programmes, they will also receive a prefilled document?

Answer 1 (CBF): In this case the document will be blank.

Question 2 (SI): What happened if SI wants to apply for the LSD programme?

Answer 2 (CBF): It is possible. The submission documents will be sent to the MSs on early April; 2019 programmes shall be submitted by 31/5/2018.

10. AOB:

Question from FI: There was a financial audit on the 2014-2015 Finnish rabies eradication programme which identified some shortcomings in the controls applied to the purchase of vaccine baits to be distributed in Russia. Consequently, the Commission should recover the funds already paid to Finland for the cost incurred in the vaccination in Russia in 2014 and 2015. FI mentions that this situation may interrupt the implementation of future vaccination campaigns in Russia.

Answer (MV): Informed that this case will be checked with the relevant services in SANTE.

Question from BE: BE pointed out that there were discussions recently on the feasibility that programmes in third countries could be managed by the Commission instead of by the MSs. Could you please give more details on this?

Answer (ADG): We need to make a programme workable and we will be looking at these aspects.

10.1 Reminder on external experts application before 31/03/18 for the assessment of 2019 veterinary programmes : ADG encouraged the experts to apply and to send their applications before the 31 of March 2018

10.2. TAIEX workshop on wildlife in Sofia on 08-09/03/2018

Closing of the meeting :

At 3.30 pm, the chair thanked the participants and encouraged them to contact the Commission in case additional clarifications are needed.

ANNEX



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1. Introduction

2. Task Force (TF) subgroups.

Report of the TF meetings held in 2017:

- African swine fever in Romania;
- Rabies in Romania;
- Sheep and Goat Brucellosis in Greece;
- *Salmonella* infections in Poland.

3. Points for information and discussion.

- Overview report on Directorate F audits on rabies eradication in the Member States: lessons learnt, good practices;
- Information on cost-effectiveness study and on next MFF.
- Unit cost: state of play;
- State of play of template for submission of 2019 programmes;

4. AOB