



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

11 May 2022

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

A.02 Information from the Commission on the modality (physically presence / remote) of the meetings of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

Member States were informed that the June PAFF will be planned a physical presence only meeting and that efforts would be made to alternate physical presence meetings with remote (INTERACTIO) meetings (all subject, of course, to the Covid situation across the Union). This arrangement is initially for the remainder of 2022 and will be reviewed at the end of the year.

A.03 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Member States, namely The Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria and France, with active outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry updated on the epidemiological situation and on the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease.

A.04 Report on the HPAI EUVET mission in France.

An EUVET mission took place in France on 5-7 April 2022 in relation to the evolution of HPAI in a very high density area of poultry production, in Pays de la Loire. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the mission have been presented to the Committee.

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

Italy, Germany, Slovakia and Poland provided an update on the evolution of the African swine fever epidemic in their countries.

A.06 Overview of the 2021 West Nile virus transmission season by ECDC.

ECDC presented an overview of the West Nile fever (WNF) situation in the EU for 2021 by linking the human health data with the animal health data allowing for an holistic view of the situation; the data on the WNF occurrence in animals was obtained from the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS). The areas with higher risk in the Union and the yearly fluctuations in WNF incidence were presented. The Commission

underlined that WNF needs to be reported both in horses and birds as foreseen by Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.

A.07 Update by the Commission on ADIS Union notifications and Union reporting.

The Commission presented the progress in submission in ADIS of Union reports based on Article 4 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 and encouraged Member States with outstanding reports to submit them. It also noted the progress in providing results of the eradication programmes. On the aspect of disease notification via ADIS, the Commission noted the increased number of outbreaks where the date of preliminary cleaning and disinfection was included. Finally it reported on the latest ADIS patch being released with the related improvements. Member States noted the need for a swift interface when there is a need to edit a significant number of outbreaks, this would be assessed by the Commission.

A.08 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 Member States on the epidemiological situation for SARS CoV-2 in mustelidae and raccoon dogs; the updates concerned new information on existing outbreaks in Latvia and Poland. Following questions from the Committee, the Commission clarified that a mandate for EFSA assessment was already ongoing and that it would guide the revision of future measures for SARS CoV-2 in the future.

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 emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Italy.

The draft Commission Implementing Decision was presented to the Committee.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: 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) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

Point was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.03 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.

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882, updating the list of susceptible species for the listed diseases of aquatic animals, and where appropriate, converging with the list of susceptible species which have been published by the OIE. One Member State received very late comments from their experts. These will be sent to the Commission immediately for consideration. Another Member State stated their intention to abstain

from the vote on this draft Implementing Regulation, because the list of vector species will not be amended by the Commission until an opinion from EFSA has been received.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 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 Draft Implementing Regulation was presented to the Committee. It includes revision of ASF restricted zones for certain Member States concerned.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Commission Decision 2006/563/EC concerning certain protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1 in wild birds in the Community.

The Commission presented the draft Decision for discussion, no comments were raised by Member States.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 on Union notification on listed diseases as regards disease outbreak notification requirements.

Point was presented for discussion only.

Vote Postponed

M.01 Update on One Health surveillance initiative.

The Commission referred to the EU4Health 2022 work programme which included the OH Surveillance initiative. It also referred to the ongoing work of EFSA (in coordination with ECDC) and HADEA on this initiative. It underlined the need to contribute to EFSA work of identification of priorities as soon as possible to ensure national specificities would be taken into account by the overall assessment carried out by EFSA and ECDC.

M.02 Presenteation of a Working Document on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260 as regards Member States or parts thereof for which national measures for certain diseases of aquatic animals are approved in accordance with Article 226(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

Working document on a draft Commission Implementing Decision which amends Annexes I and II to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260 by adding two zones and several compartments which are either disease-free or implementing an eradication programme for diseases other than those which have been listed in accordance with Article 9(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Four OsHV-1 μ var compartments will also be deleted from Annex I, at the request of Ireland. No comments were received from Member States.

M.03 Presentation of the Communication material on the Animal Health Law.

The Commission informed Member States about the accessibility of the information material supporting the implementation of the AHL on Commission websites.

M.04 Issues relating to TRACES raised by France.

1. Difficulty in issuing animal health certificates to accompany products from restricted zone in the context of 2021-2022 epizootic.
2. Request to convene again the TRACES NT expert group.

Following the explanation of France on the difficulties with issuing the animal health certificates for products of animal origin from restricted zones, the Commission explained the legal obligation concerning animal health certificates and about the limited possibilities for derogations. The Commission has also offered that it can provide an additional training on TRACES and invited France to send any questions related to the use of TRACES to the TRACES helpdesk.