Brussels, 27 January 2021

Minutes of the third meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft delegated act on rules for the use of veterinary medicinal products for prevention and control of certain listed diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

27 January 2021, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and approved at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public. Because of the constraints related to COVID-19 situation the meeting was attended via WebEx by the representatives of the competent veterinary authorities of Member States (MSs) and EEA countries. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. List of points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The Commission recalled that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (the 'Animal Health Law') (AHL) as regards the use of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) to prevent and control certain listed animal diseases and in particular the use of vaccines ('the draft-Delegated act'). In this sense, a revised version of the draft was circulated prior to the meeting.

3.2. Presentation and discussion on the draft-Delegated act

Presentation

The Commission started with a presentation giving an overview of the main changes introduced in the draft text of SANTE/7144/2020 after the meeting held on 24 November 2020, with the corresponding justifications.

Part I of the draft

The Commission explained the main changes in the scope, including the removal of any definition for specific immunological veterinary medicinal products, considering that neither Regulation (EU) 2019/6 nor its supplementing legislation provide for definitions for the different VMP that are regulated thereof.

The Commission also informed about the amendments introduced in Article 3, following the concerns expressed in previous meetings by certain MSs about the particularities of rabies and how the current use of vaccines against this disease in the Union will be reflected in the Delegated act. Despite that, the proposed solution showed certain weaknesses and the Commission committed to work on it.

The Commission explained changes introduced in the table set out in Annex I, where the authorised and non-authorised uses of VMPs for the prevention and control of listed diseases are established, in particular the deletion of many of the category D diseases.

The Commission clarified certain doubts raised by MSs, including how the rules laid down in the Delegated Regulation will affect vaccination against Newcastle disease and the use of vaccines in zones with disease-free status for category C diseases of aquatic animals.

Part II of the draft

The Commission explained that Part II of the draft-Delegated act, which focuses on the use of vaccines for the prevention and control of category A diseases in terrestrial animals, has been further simplified. In particular, as regards the classification of the vaccination strategies and the requirements for their implementation.

The Commission explained that certain articles have been included regarding derogations from the obligation to vaccinate; the recovery periods and for the certification requirements for movements from vaccination zones.

Part III of the draft

The Commission reminded that Part III of the draft-Delegated act covers disease-specific rules on vaccination against category A diseases. At this stage it includes a first draft of specific rules for the use of vaccines against foot and mouth disease, infection with lumpy skin disease virus ad sheep pox and goat pox.

4. Miscellaneous.

4.1. Conclusions

The Commission thanked MSs for their input and invited them to provide their written feedback by 15 February 2021.

5. Next steps

The Commission will use the outcomes of the discussion and the opinions obtained during this expert group meeting and the requested written comments to develop a revised version of the draft-Delegated act, which will include disease-specific rules for all category A diseases.

6. Next meeting

The Commission plans to organise a fifth meeting of the Expert Group around 18 of March 2021.