



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 03 FEBRUARY 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

A.01 Information from EFSA on the scientific opinion on the survival, spread and establishment of small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*).

EFSA presented the main elements of the published opinion, in particular the Terms of Reference, conclusions and recommendations. While the natural spread of the beetle is slow, movements of bees can speed it up greatly. All EU-countries are at risk as the beetle can complete its lifecycle in them, at least for a good part of the year. Good beekeeping practices, strict apiary and bee movement controls and their perfect implementation is a must.

Several Member States appreciated the presentation and asked for some clarification which was given. Italy also added that the opinion is a good basis to start reflections on the conditions of intra-EU trade of queen bees and indicated that they will submit to Member States and the Commission the last results of the second surveillance cycle, while the third one starts soon. The Commission agreed, emphasising again the need to stick to the rules and check those thoroughly.

A.02 Presentation by EFSA of the scientific opinion on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals.

EFSA presented the main elements, in particular the Terms of Reference, conclusions and recommendations of the published opinion on *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in animals.

Several Member States appreciated the presentation and asked for some clarification which was given. The Commission clarified that this opinion together with the report mentioned in A.03 will be a valuable basis for the preparation of the review of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011, due in December 2016 in accordance with Article 9 thereof.

A.03 Presentation by EFSA of the assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2015 in the context of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011.

EFSA presented the analysis and critical assessment of the sampling strategy, the data collected, and the detection methods used in the 2015 EM surveillance programmes submitted by Finland, Ireland, Malta, the United Kingdom and Norway. However, none of these countries detected any positive samples.

Finland, Ireland, the UK and Norway drew a representative sample from wildlife definitive hosts present in their territory, while Malta implemented a risk based sampling in the dog population only, due to the absence of wildlife definitive hosts species in its territory.

Under the assumption of an unbiased representative sampling and considering the sensitivity of the tests applied, three Member States (Finland, Ireland and the UK) and Norway have succeeded in implementing surveillance activities able to detect EM at 1% prevalence maximum, with a 95% confidence level.

The overall area sensitivity of the Maltese surveillance system did not reach the required confidence level of 0.95. Malta's representative explained that this was due to an insufficient sample size notably because of lack of collaboration of hunters in the collection of samples from hunting dogs.

Denmark's representative expressed its satisfaction that the surveillance activities provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 were well implemented and reported by the four Member States.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on disease-free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the "Fish farm on the river Tolminka".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Slovenia concerning disease-free status as regards VHS and IHN for a compartment comprising a new farm on the bank of the river Toliminka. The farm, which is producing marble trout, grayling, rainbow trout and brook trout for repopulation of open waters and for human consumption, receives their water supply from a farm already declared free of those diseases in 2009. The declaration is as such submitted in line with the requirements of Article 50.1(c) of Directive 2006/88/EC as a compartment independent of the health status of the surrounding waters.

A.05 Information concerning two declarations on disease-free status with regard to koi herpes virus (KHV) disease for the compartments "Teichwirtschaft Koselitz" and "Teichwirtschaft Christian Kittner".

The Commission informed the Committee about two declarations from Germany concerning disease-free status with regard to KHV.

The first declaration concerns the compartment "Teichwirtschaft Koselitz" situated in the north east part of Saxony, which consists of a holding facility and 16 different ponds for the production of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) both for placing on the market of live fish for repopulation of other ponds and slaughtered fish for human consumption. The declaration is based on targeted surveillance since 2009 without detection of the pathogen of concern.

The second declaration concerns the compartment "Teichwirtschaft Christian Kitner" situated in the eastern part of Saxony close to the border to Poland, which consists of a holding facility and 14 different ponds for the production of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) both for placing on the market of live fish for repopulation of other ponds and slaughtered fish for human consumption. This declaration is based on targeted surveillance since 2011 without detection of the pathogen of concern.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia of disease -free status as regards infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the fish farm "Dvor".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Slovenia concerning disease-free status as regards VHS and IHN for a compartment comprising the farm "Dvor". The farm, which is rearing rainbow trout, brown trout and Danube salmon for the repopulation of open waters and for human consumption, consists of two closed facilities for the rearing of susceptible species, and in addition some open ponds containing cyprinids - all units parts of the same epidemiological unit. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance with reduced sample size without detection of the pathogens of concern.

All declarations presented under the items A.04, A.05 and A.06 have been submitted in accordance with Article 50.2 of Directive 2006/88/EC, and links to the declarations presented will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.07 Information from France on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry on its territory.

The French representative gave an update on the disease situation. Since 24/11, 69 HPAI outbreaks have been confirmed in South-West France, predominately in domestic waterfowl holdings. France informed on the implementation of the disease control strategy as presented during the previous Committee meeting in January. The strategy aims at achieving HPAI virus eradication from the poultry production sector, in particular, by a prolonged standstill period after depopulation of poultry holdings. The further restricted zone from which dispatch of live poultry and hatching eggs to other Member States and third countries are restricted - unless agreed and authorised under bio secure conditions for day-old and hatching eggs - has been substantially enlarged.

A.08 Information from the United Kingdom on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry on its territory.

The UK representative gave an update on the low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak of H5N1 subtype confirmed on 13/01/2016 in a broiler breeding holding located in Scotland. Killing of poultry present on the infected holding and preliminary cleaning and disinfection were finalised by 20/01/2016. No further outbreaks were identified, but in-depth epidemiological investigations are continuing.

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.

Protection measures adopted by Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460, as amended by Decision (EU) 2015/42, include the description of the areas that the French authorities have established as a further restricted zone around protection and surveillance zones in relation to the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza. France has now implemented a vigorous disease control strategy that also foresees a substantial extension of the further restricted zone covering the whole area of 15 departments and parts of three further departments. The Annex to Implementing Decision 2015/2460 shall therefore be replaced (also see agenda item A.07 above).

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2006/80/EC as regards Poland.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision based on Polish authorities request to exclude Poland from the list of the Member States who are authorised to apply the derogation from the obligation to register the holdings that keep one pig only for personal consumption.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

M.01 Import and trade of camels - Germany.

Germany asked,

- if it was possible to import camelidae from Russia
- what should be the guarantees for tuberculosis and brucellosis freedom upon import and intra-EU trade also in view of the use of their milk for human consumption.

The Commission replied,

- that Russia has no authorization for the import of ungulates – including camelids – into the Union.
- there are no validated tests for tuberculosis and brucellosis for camelids. The tests validated on other species do not work properly on camelids. The EURL for tuberculosis carried out a study on alternative protocols for testing of camelids which should be more effective than the test currently used for bovine animals. The EU Legislation in force allows for flexible approach;
- that, the Commission is aware of the issue, which will be addressed in the framework of the preparation of the delegated and implementing acts of the animal health law.

M.02 Norway – Definition of 'bovine' animals in different legislative acts in particular in Council Directive 64/432 and Regulation 1760/2000.

Norway inquired whether yak (*Bos grunniens*) is included in the definition of bovine animals provided for in Directive 64/432/EEC and Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000.

The Commission clarified that the term "bovine animals" includes the three genera (Bos, Bubalus and Bison) of the subfamily *Bovinae* of the family *Bovidae*.

Where in Directives 2004/68/EC and 92/65/EEC and the future Animal Health Law reference is made to "Bovidae", other species such as caprinae and antilopinae are also included.

Norway requested a written confirmation by the Commission.

M.03 Information on a recent ruling of the European Union Court of Justice – Germany.

Germany wanted to inform Member States of the Judgment of the Court of 3 December 2015 following the dispute between the German Ministry and a German registered charity association, "Pfotenhilfe-Ungarn" regarding the animal health conditions that should apply to the movement of former stray dogs from Hungary to Germany for rehoming.

(<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=172562&mode=req&pageIndex=1&dir=&occ=first&part=1&text=&doclang=EN&cid=1455147>)

In its judgment, the Court considered that a non-profit association carries animals "in the context of an economic activity" when this transport is part of a supply of goods or paid services. Indeed, Regulation No 1/2005 does not distinguish between economic activities to realise a financial benefit of those which are devoid of profit. Also, limiting the scope of that Regulation to economic activities for profit could compromise its primary objective, namely the protection of animals during transport. Similarly, the Court considered that "Pfotenhilfe" is an operator who makes intra-Community trade in animals within the meaning of Directive 90/425/EEC, i.e. an exchange between Member States of animals considered by law as "goods" which can be valued in money and which are capable, as such, of forming the subject of commercial transactions.

M.04 Update the measures in Poland for African swine fever (ASF).

Poland presented the epidemiological situation and the measures in place for ASF. The improvement of diseases situation in some territories of Poland were presented to the Committee in view of a possible future reassignment of territories under Part III of the Annex of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU to Part II of the same Annex.

M.05 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on African swine fever in Romania.

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the CVET mission in Romania.

M.06 Vector free period in Austria.

Austria informed the Committee that as of 13 of February 2016, 60 days elapsed from the beginning of the vector free period in the country and that this would be used to apply eligible derogations to movement restrictions due to bluetongue.