



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 MAY 2016 - 04 MAY 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 Information concerning three declarations from Slovenia of surveillance programmes for achieving disease free status of infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS).

The Commission informed about three declarations from Slovenia of surveillance programmes for achieving disease free status for IHN and VHS. The declarations concern the compartments Kropa-Bočna, Obrh and Šumec. All programmes are prepared in line with Model B of Decision 2001/183/EC, which means two year programmes with reduced sample size based on systematic surveillance of the health status of the compartments over the previous four years.

A.02 Information concerning three declarations from Portugal on disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS).

The Commission informed about three declarations from Portugal on disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for the compartments Posto Aquicola de Castrelos, Várzea Cova and MCBrito trout farm. All declarations are based on four years of targeted surveillance of the different compartments without detection of the pathogens of concern.

A.03 Information concerning a declaration from Italy of disease free status as regards infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a compartment.

The Commission informed about a declaration from Italy of disease free status as regards IHN and VHS for a compartment in the Veneto region. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance following a period of systematic surveillance of the compartment since 2011. There has been no detection of the pathogens of concern during the surveillance period.

All declarations presented under the items A.01-A.03 have been submitted in accordance with Article 50 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.04 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on ASF in Estonia.

The Commission presented the findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission in Estonia. The Committee noted the risk ASF represents for the whole EU and underlined the need to enforce legislation as well as continuing organising awareness campaigns in order to maintain a high level of alert.

A.05 Report by Greece and Bulgaria on the LSD situation.

Bulgaria presented its Lumpy skin disease situation and the measures applied. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed on its situation for LSD and the control measures in place. The Committee noted the legal framework in place for LSD.

A.06 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on LSD in Greece.

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the CVET mission in Greece on Lumpy skin disease. The Committee noted the current situation of LSD in the EU. The Commission presented the initiatives taken in relation to the vaccine bank for LSD and underlined that this is a tool that can be used to support Member States or selected neighbouring countries in emergency situation, but that it cannot replace the purchase of national stocks of vaccines.

A.07 Exchange of views of the Committee on a possible revision of CSF regionalization measures.

The Commission explored possible derogations concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States in view of a possible future amendment of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU. The comments of the Committee were noted in view of further elaborating a concrete proposal.

A.08 Information from Bulgaria and Romania on the Newcastle disease situation in poultry.

The Bulgarian representative gave a presentation about three outbreaks of Newcastle disease confirmed between 05/02 and 11/3/2016 in small rural holdings located in the regions of Kardjaly and Haskovo. EU disease control measures were implemented and vaccination against the disease was reinforced in the peri-focal area.

The Romanian representative gave a presentation on two outbreaks confirmed on 9 and 13/04/2016 in Prahova region in commercial broiler holdings belonging to the same owner. Control measures including culling of all poultry present on the holdings were implemented. The poultry had been vaccinated against the disease. Investigations into the poultry's possible insufficient protection by vaccination are ongoing.

A.09 Information from Italy on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

The Italian representative gave an overview on the LPAI outbreaks confirmed during 2015 and reported about two outbreaks of LPAI (strains H5N2 and H7N7) in small holdings keeping various species of poultry and birds that were confirmed 6 and 15/04/2016 in the North East of Italy which is an important staging area for wild migratory birds.

In addition the Italian representative informed about an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of H7N7 subtype that was confirmed in a free-range laying hen farm on 02/05/2016 in Ferrara province, region of Emilia Romagna. Disease control measures were taken before laboratory confirmation of the infection based on the high mortality and dramatic drop in egg production. The phylogenetic analysis confirmed that the causative virus is not related to the H7N7 LPAI virus previously detected in the same region. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing. At present no epidemiological links to other Member States or third countries could be established.

Concerning Commission protective measures refer to agenda point B.01.

A.10 Update from France on the situation as regards low and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The French representative gave a presentation on HPAI in France. As of 18/04/2016 77 HPAI outbreaks of subtypes H5N1, H5N2 and H5N9 were confirmed (previous outbreak of 14/03). So far the infection has not been detected outside the restricted zone established for 15 and part of three departments in the South-West of France. An update on the implementation of the national control strategy comprising a standstill period for repopulation of domestic waterfowl holdings, controlled step-wise restocking and biosecurity measures was given. The lifting of the measures is scheduled for mid-August.

A.11 Information from Member States on vaccination against avian influenza of birds kept in zoos, approved bodies, institutes or centres during 2015.

The Commission representative reminded Member States about the reporting requirement on preventive vaccination laid down in Commission Decision 2007/598/EC. An overview document SANTE/7019/2016 with the information received so far was distributed. Member States were requested to provide for the missing information before the next meeting of this Committee.

A.12 Information from Italy on the results of the surveillance carried out in 2015 for small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and updated information on the epidemiological situation.

Italy focused on SHB surveillance activities in 2015, new elements (e.g. sentinel nuclei) and situation (occurrence on 21 April, first in 2016). Commission appreciated the efforts and the technical robustness. Commission also highlighted recent EFSA opinion according to which restrictions and surveillance are essential to protect other areas. The spread of the beetle via its natural movement is very slow. Spread would be greatly sped up by man-mediated illegal movement of infected colonies. Therefore full compliance of beekeepers with rules is essential, not only in restricted areas but those who may receive honeybees coming from such areas. Commission asked Member States to continue awareness raising for risks. New presentation from Italy on 2016 is due in early 2017 as the EU safeguard measures apply until end March 2017. Some Member States appreciated the presentation, agreed with awareness raising, one asked about longer-term policy development for control of SHB. Such may be relevant under the acts for EU Animal Health Law.

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 protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy (document SANTE/7045/2016).

In relation to the HPAI H7N7 outbreak confirmed on 02/05/2016 in the municipality of Portomaggiore, Ferrara province, Emilia Romagna Region (see agenda point A.09) the Commission tabled a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures that describes in its Annex the areas established by the Italian authorities as protection and surveillance zones where restrictive measures apply.

Vote taken: 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 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States, as regards the entries for Latvia.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend the Annex of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in Latvia in view of updating regionalisation measures for this disease.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

- B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union's financial contribution to emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in 2015.**

Point discussed but, due to administrative reasons, vote postponed to upcoming PAFF Committee in June.

Vote postponed

- B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 3848 on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union's contribution to emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in 2014.**

Point discussed but, due to administrative reasons, vote postponed to upcoming PAFF Committee in June.

Vote postponed

- B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision C(2015)4556 on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union financial contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Estonia in 2015.**

This draft implementing Decision amends a financing decision regarding the EU financial contribution to combat African swine fever in Estonia in 2015 and has a twofold objective:

- Increase the maximum financial contribution by the Union;
- Expand the list of eligible costs.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

- B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down standard reporting requirements for national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses co-financed by the Union and repealing Decision 2014/288/EU.**

This document had been presented at a previous PAFF session for discussion. The Commission had the opportunity to reply to any question (oral and written). The document was thereafter presented at this session and was adopted without any further comments.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008 as regards the requirements for placing on the market of consignments of certain fish species intended for Member States and parts thereof with national measures for salmonid alphavirus approved by Decision 2010/221/EU.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation for amending Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008. The proposed amendments are a necessary update of the model health certificate for the placing on the market of aquaculture animals for farming, relaying, put and take fisheries, open ornamental facilities and restocking, due to recent approval of national measures for preventing the introduction of salmonid alphavirus (SAV) into Member States or territories thereof by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/169.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive.

The Commission presented the most recent activity on draft of Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive (SANTE/7111/2015).

Draft has been subject to intensive discussion with DG ENV on the most appropriate environmental standards for the combustion of manure of farmed animals.

M.01 Germany posed a question on a new fungus of salamanders, requesting information from affected Member States and the Commission.

Germany inquired about state of knowledge and action if Member States affected by the apparently emerging *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal). Belgium described regional passive surveillance and temporary import ban of salamander species on the basis of environmental rules. The Netherlands shared some scientific observations but no national measures. Finland inquired about EU position vis-à-vis listing Bsal under OIE. The Commission summarised that only fragmented info is available on this newly discovered pathogen. While some stakeholders call for import bans, lack of data does not allow to assess its relevance, feasibility and effectiveness. Member States may take measures to regulate imports but not intra-EU trade. OIE listing needs reliable and robust diagnostics, currently lacking. Local biosecurity measures and prevention of spread from kept salamander population to wild stock

seem to be beneficial as well as some treatments (heat, chemicals), awareness of salamander keepers should be raised, cooperation with environmental authorities continued.

M.02 Portugal: end of Bluetongue-free season.

In relation to Bluetongue, Portugal informed the Committee of the end of vector-free season on 28 April 2016, see also http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/docs/ad_control-measures_bt_overview_seasonally_vfp_2015-2016.pdf

M.03 Vaccination against Bluetongue in Belgium.

Belgium informed the Committee that they are going to carry out vaccination against Bluetongue in the entire country, taking into account the situation in a neighbouring Member State.

M.04 First case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Norway.

Norway informed the Committee on the first case of CWD in a reindeer in the South-West of its territory.

M.05 Request from Denmark for information on Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009.

Denmark inquired about DG SANTE's involvement in Council Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 on Community regime for dual use items, notably the list of pathogens in the Annex thereto. The Commission replied that DG SANTE /G is not directly involved in the listing of pathogens, but is aware of the Regulation and has considered the Annex for the listing of diseases under the Animal Health Law.