

**Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group – E00930
to discuss two draft Commission Delegated Regulations amending Delegated Regulation
(EU) 2020/688 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692
Brussels, 20 June 2022**

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A preliminary agenda was circulated and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The documents to be discussed were provided in advance. These documents were:

- draft COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs;
- draft COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public. Experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health participated in the meeting. The chair noted the absence of representatives from the European Parliament and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission presented the proposed amendments and the rationale behind them.

As regards the draft amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688, two aspects are to be amended, both related to captive birds:

- the temporary gathering of captive birds for certification purpose before their moving to an exhibition in another Member State;
- provisions related to flight hunting exhibitions of birds of prey extended to all bird flight exhibitions.

As regards the draft amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, the main aspects to be amended are:

- further aligning the rules for entry of poultry with the rules for movements within the EU as regards the minimum timeframe to regain highly pathogenic avian influenza freedom after an outbreak;
- providing flexibility as regards the identification of ungulates and captive birds;
- providing flexibility as regards the transit of poultry on their way to the slaughterhouse, authorising its passage through restricted zones under certain conditions;

- adapting the rules for certain non-commercial movements of pet animals to make them easier to implement;
- establishing the approval obligation for shelters in third countries from which dogs, cats and ferrets may be shipped to the EU;
- providing flexibility for the requirements for entry into the Union of certain dairy products and composite products; and
- updating the requirements for entry of aquatic animals, equine animals and ovine animals as experience has shown that some technical aspects need to be fine-tuned.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

During the discussion, several comments were raised:

- Related to the draft amendment to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688:
 - One Member State asked about the difference in the planned legal frame between racing and aerobatic pigeons; the Commission explained the difference between the two.
 - “light” assembly operation for captive birds intended for an exhibition: other animal species keepers (e.g. horses) could request the same approach; how would this temporary gathering be reflected in the certificate concerning the place of origin.
 - Some other comments, not directly related to the proposed amendments (period of validity of the certificate, endangered species);
- Related to the draft amendment to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692:
 - several Member States provided suggestions to improve the wording of the amendments that were taken into account by the Commission;
 - a Member State requested consistency between the identification requirements for captive birds in the animal health legislation and in the legislation concerning protection of endangered species and will provide examples of issues detected in this regard;
 - a Member State requested clarification on certain provisions of Article 163 concerning shelf-stable composite products and committed itself to send detailed explanation of the issues of concern in writing;
 - some Member States asked clarifications about the legal references to Articles 245 and 246 of the Animal Health Law, the use of the wording “non-commercial movements” in the context of the proposed amendments and the possible listing of approved establishments in third countries by the Commission;
 - a Member State expressed reservation concerning the approval of animal shelters.
 - a Member State asked for an explanation of the exemption set out in Article 1(6) of Regulation (EU) 2020/692 concerning aquatic animals and products landed from fishing vessels for direct human consumption. The same Member State questioned whether the proposed amendment to Article 166 concerning aquatic animal health professionals, would also enable aquatic animal health professionals to sign certificates.

- although it did not relate directly to the draft amendment to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, a Member State asked for clarification concerning the rules which apply when consignments of fishery products transit through the EU when moving from one third country to another.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the two documents by 27 June 2022.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve the text of the documents.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Commission does not intend to organise another expert group meeting to discuss the documents. However, the revised version of the documents, after internal consultations within the Commission services, will be presented to the experts electronically.

It was also highlighted that on 1 July 2022 there will be another Expert Group meeting to discuss additional amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 related to germinal products. The Commission has the intention to merge both drafts amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 in one single draft.