



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)213949

**Standing Committee on
Zootechnics
30 November 2023**

CIRCABC Link: https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9d528544-7946-4e8c-bb05-4a4451030bed/library/7dde781f-7933-4a39-8fd9-7ff6cb63614e?p=1&n=10&sort=name_ASC

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 Information from Member States and exchange of views concerning the implementation of official controls and other official activities in accordance with the Animal Breeding Regulation.

Member States presented the implementation of the official controls and other official activities in the zootechnical filed. They informed about their control's systems, irregularities detected, correction measures implemented. Seemingly there are some differences among Member States. But the most important is that they all lead to the same/similar outcomes, i.e., adequate official controls on all aspects. The Commission noted that the relevant EU legislation seems to be fit for purpose. It was assumed that the irregularities resulted mainly from weak knowledge of the legislation. In addition, some wished for a closer cooperation of animal health and zootechnical competent authorities within a Member State and between Member States due to some perceived lack of, or difficulties in doing those. The Commission agreed, encouraged the Member States to improve that aspect and suggested that the competent authorities themselves are best placed to do so.

Moreover, the Commission requested all Member States to ensure a robust baseline for obligatory public information on official controls and specifically to verify links to their national webpages displaying information in the area of zootechnics published at the Commission webpage:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/zootechnics/member_states_en.

The Commission highlighted the importance that those links are active and lead directly to information required by the Animal Breeding Regulation, in particular those required by Articles 39(2) and 44, concerning details on the competent authorities responsible for the official controls, and specifying the address to which the following is to be sent:

- the notifications referred to in Article 12 (extension of geographical territory);
- the information, requests or notifications referred to in Articles 48 (cooperation and administrative assistance) and 49 (non-compliance in third country).

In case the update of the Commission webpage is necessary, a Member State should provide the Commission with the appropriate link to its national webpage. The

Commission indicated that it may contact the Member States with a specific follow-up letter on this point.

A.02 Information and discussion on recent activities of the European Union reference centre responsible for the scientific and technical contribution to the harmonisation and improvement of the methods of performance testing and genetic evaluation of purebred breeding animals of the bovine species.

The representative of European Union reference centre (EURC) on bovine breeding (Interbull) presented the activities that have been carried out by the EURC in previous years and their follow-up in a framework of the Work Program for 2023-24, including those related to Performance Recording, Evaluation and Publication (“PREP”) Database, GenoEx - International Genotype Exchange Platform and collaboration with the EURC on endangered animal breeds. In Member States’ opinion it is important that data from genetic/ genomic evaluation done by breed societies or third parties designated by breed societies are included in the EURC’s databases, in particular for the purpose of the official controls.

A.03 Information and discussion on recent activities of the European Union reference centre responsible for the scientific and technical contribution to the establishment and harmonisation of the methods for the preservation of endangered breeds, and the preservation of the genetic diversity existing within those breeds.

The Director of the EURC on endangered animal breeds presented the activities that the EURC has started carrying out on 1 January 2023 in a framework of the Work Program for 2023-24, including the preliminary results of the survey on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 as regards breeding programmes for endangered breeds. Member States acknowledged the work already done by the EURC and welcomed the planning of meetings and webinars for 2024.

A.04 An update on the global genetic resources strategy and specific AnGR for Europe with the reference to the scope of the Animal Breeding Regulation.

The representative of the Spanish Presidency and the Chair of the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources provided an update on the global Strategy for Genetic Resources for Europe and the specific Animal Genetic Resource Strategy, in the context of their links with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 and the EURC on endangered animal breeds. The Commission noted that the work has been and remains ongoing under the political umbrella of the subsequent Presidencies at an agriculture-related fora and pertain to a much wider area (both in its thematic and geographical scope), than the above referred rules.

A.05 Exchange of views as regards the implementation of the rules and Member States’ experience related settlements of disputes between breeders and breed societies.

Member States reported that the rules on the settlements of disputes between breeders and breed societies are in place and well organised, and their implementation do not cause major problems internally and in relation to the movements of breeding animals between Member States