

Brussels, 12 October 2020

**Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group to discuss draft Delegated Regulations amending Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2019/2035, 2020/686, 2020/687, 2020/688, 2020/689, 2020/692
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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, organized as virtual on line meeting because of the COVID-19 situation. The Member States' and EEA countries representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted the participation of the European Council and the absence of a representative from the European Parliament.

3. List of points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The chair presented the agenda, the points for discussion and the overall timetable of the meeting. The points under discussion were the draft amendments of Delegated Regulations (EU) 2019/2035, 2020/686, 2020/687, 2020/688, 2020/689 and 2020/692.

3.2. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, which includes amendments in relation to the approval obligation of certain establishments keeping poultry and hatcheries, the traceability of bovine, ovine and caprine animals, and hatching eggs and the rules for assembly operations. The Commission also reminded delegations that an earlier amendment of that Regulation in relation to derogations from ovine and caprine identification has already been adopted and is currently under the scrutiny of the European Parliament and the Council. No question was raised by MSs regarding this document.

3.3. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/686. A Member State asked whether germinal products collected in a veterinary clinic or at households where pets are kept could be moved to other Member States. The Commission reminded participants that this issue was discussed in previous meetings, where it was explained that veterinary clinics and households are excluded from a definition of establishment. Therefore, they are not falling under

obligation of registration by competent authorities. This could lead to a conclusion that germinal products of dogs and cats collected therein cannot be moved to other Member States. However, the Commission undertook to look into this issue more in detail.

3.4. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/687 indicating and explaining, in particular, the proposed amendments on Articles 22 and 112. MSs asked for clarifications concerning the rules for movements of animal by-products obtained in slaughterhouses located in restricted zones for Category A diseases and the certification of such movements. The Commission clarified that according to paragraph 6 of Article 22, the obligation to certify movements of animal by-products outside restricted zones applies only to movements between Member States, if there is an alternative system in place ensuring the traceability of such products. Furthermore, in reply to a question raised by a Member State in relation to the rules laid down in current implementing decisions as regards African swine fever and lumpy skin disease, the Commission indicated that special disease control measures for African swine fever are currently under development and will be discussed in a working group meeting on 21 October 2020.

3.5. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/688. A Delegation requested stricter measures for the movement of former stray animals. The Commission agreed that the movement of these animals might represent a risk, but the experience and the favourable evolution of rabies eradication in the EU has shown that stricter measures are not needed in this moment. In addition, a Member State requested further clarifications in relation with the time period for assembly operation in those cases where no residency period is laid down. The Commission confirmed it works towards finding a solution for this issue. The Commission also confirmed that it is assessing if rules for exemptions from the certification obligation should be introduced in this Regulation for situations when Member States' competent authorities implement derogations provided for in Article 139 of the AHL.

3.6. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 indicating and explaining, in particular, the proposed amendments on Articles 83 and 86 and Annexes IV and VI. No question was raised by MSs regarding this document.

3.7. Presentation and discussion on the draft Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692

The Commission presented the draft amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/692, which includes amendments to the scope, to the definitions and to the requirements for the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.

In relation to the provisions for the entry into the Union of captive birds, the Commission proposed a solution for amending the rules for the movement and handling of racing pigeons following their entry into the Union and invited Member States to consider the need for such an amendment. No question was raised by MSs regarding this document.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and comments during the meeting and encouraged them to reflect on the issues discussed and provide written feedback no later than 30 October 2020.

5. Next steps

The outcome of the discussions and opinions provided by participants during this expert group meeting will be used by the Commission during future work towards the preparation of the amendment to the Delegated Regulations adopted under the Animal Health Law.

6. Next meeting

Depending on the written comments received, a new expert group might be organised at a later stage.