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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

Newcastle disease outbreak in Sweden.

Sweden presented information regarding the last outbreak of Newcastle disease, confirmed in a poultry establishment at the end of January 2023. The Commission reminded that Sweden is granted with the status of “free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination”. Considering that a few outbreaks of Newcastle disease have been confirmed by Sweden in poultry establishments in the last 12 months, the Commission requested Sweden to provide the relevant information that indicate the fulfilment of the requirements set in Annex V to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for the maintenance of their status.

A.02 Information from Spain on sheep pox and goat pox.

Spain presented an update of the SPGP epidemiological situation. In Castilla-La Mancha two new outbreaks have been reported recently in Cuenca, after more than a month without cases, and a third outbreak was detected in Ciudad Real. An epidemiological link between the two outbreaks in Cuenca has been established (vehicle) while the origin of the Ciudad Real outbreak remains under investigation. In response, Spain has taken additional measures, including extended protection and surveillance zones and a further restricted zone, around these new outbreaks. Sheep and goats may exit the further restricted zone only for immediate slaughter. Intensified clinical and laboratory surveillance is also in place. The situation in Andalucía remains favourable, with no new outbreaks (last restricted zones lifted on 16 January 2023). In response to the new outbreaks the Commission presented draft Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Spain (draft presented for vote under point AHW B.01).

A.03 Information from the Member States will provide an update on the African swine fever epidemiological situation in their territories.

The Commission presented the concept and initial ideas concerning the future ASF guidelines. Comments from Member States were requested by 1 March 2023.

A.04 Review of EU guidelines related to African swine fever.

Several non-affected Member States gave an update on their ASF preparedness activities, namely Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain.

Member States concerned gave an update on their ASF epidemiological situation, namely Czechia, Greece, Italy, Poland and Slovakia).

A.05 Report on the African swine fever EUVET mission to Greece.

Following the EUVET mission in Greece, dealing with the ASF situation, that took place on-spot, from 6 to 9 February 2023 the team leader presented the main findings and recommendations.

A.06 Information in the bovine identification document.

The Commission explained that information on the identity of the mother of a bovine animal moved to another Member State is not requested to be included in the bovine identification document.

A.07 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Spain, affected by HPAI outbreaks in poultry or captive birds, presented information on the epidemiological situation and the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease.

A.08 Update on Early Warning System for HPAI.

EFSA presented updates on the progress on the development of the Early Warning System for HPAI (EFSA's Bird Flu Radar) and requested Member States to express their interest in receiving access to the alert messaging system, receiving weekly the information on the areas that are at risk of introduction of HPAI virus with the wild birds. In addition, they informed and encouraged Member States to attend the training session to be organized by EFSA on 2 March 2023 on the functionalities of EFSA's Bird Flu Radar.

A.09 Bluetongue map on the website of the Commission.

On its website the Commission has been sharing, for information only, a map and a table with information on the circulating Bluetongue serotypes. The Commission has now decided to indicate only the disease free status or approved eradication programs as per Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, in this publicly available map .

Member States that are not BTV-free may publish on their national website information on the occurrence of the different BTV Serotypes 1 – 24 and to provide the link to SANTE.

A.10 Infection with SARS CoV 2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs: Scientific Opinion by EFSA and updated by the Commission on the latest reports received.

EFSA presented the outcome of the scientific opinion on the risks related to SARS-CoV-2 in animals and presented the assessment on the measures available. The

Commission considered that the elements for tailor made measures to control SARS-CoV-2 in minks and raccoon dog would be best applied by Member States making use of this updated EFSA assessment. The Committee noted that some published scientific papers would need to be critically reviewed before considering them as final as the tests might have not been carried out in accredited laboratories. The Committee also noted that there are no movement restrictions in the EU legislation for managing SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in mink farms and that specific risk management options were provided in the EFSA scientific opinion.

The Commission informed the Committee on the report received by Poland in the framework of monitoring and reporting requirements set by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788.

A.11 ADIS development and priorities for the future.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Commission presented the feedback from Member States during the training and feedback session held on December 2022. This feedback will be provided to the IMSOC Management Board in the framework of Article 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715. An analysis of the challenges presented by the WAHIS to ADIS data migration was also presented and supporting documents were provided. The chosen approach puts emphasis on minimising risks related to migrating data between databases and recognises the need for a planned migration and a structured communication effort from both WOAH and the Commission side.

The Committee noted the progress and emphasised the need to link the two databases as soon as possible also to build up on the investments done so far both on national databases, on the European database and the global one.

A.12 One Health Surveillance in Animals and the Environment.

The Commission and HaDEA presented an update on the “Direct grants to Member States’ authorities: setting up a coordinated surveillance system under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union” (which is part of the 2022 Work Program of EU4Health with reference CP-g-22-04.01). It was highlighted that EFSA scientific assessment was delivered by the end of January 2023 and that the deadline for applying was 15 March 2023. Specific recommendations were provided by HaDEA for facilitating the application procedure.

The Committee pointed out the short deadline to apply and sought for an extension as well for some technical clarification on the eligible actions for the direct grant. The Commission referred to the EFSA assessment for the technical specifications and surveillance priorities, while HaDEA indicated that the deadline was 3 months after the opening of the call (standard timeline), the constraints deriving from the Financial Regulation in terms of budget year, and the related difficulties in considering postponing the deadline for application.

A.13 Prioritization for EU expenditure on co-financing veterinary programmes 2024.

The Commission presented the main figures of the EU funding for veterinary programmes 2023 and presented a strategic revision of priorities with a view of reaching consensus on possible ways forward for short term revision of EU co-financing for 2024 that would need to be adopted in April 2023. Member States provided comments and requested further clarifications.

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 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Spain.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Spain (amendment of measures in response to the latest SGP outbreaks in Cuenca and Ciudad Real). These measures include the establishment of extended protection and surveillance zones and a further restricted zone, around these new outbreaks. Sheep and goats may exit the further restricted zone only for immediate slaughter.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The draft was presented to revise the ASF epidemiological situation in Italy, Poland and Slovakia.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU regionalisation had to be updated due to new outbreaks of HPAI in certain Member States.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.