



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 13 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 General Information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Croatia and the United Kingdom on the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015.

Spain, Portugal, Croatia and the UK presented the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015. The 2015 trend in the eradication of bovine brucellosis has been favourable in all these Member States. For the UK, Northern Ireland has been declared officially bovine brucellosis free in October 2015 (England, Scotland and Wales were already officially free for this disease). Italy postponed its presentation to the following Committee.

A.03 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, and Greece on the results of the implementation of the ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015.

Spain, Portugal, Croatia, and Greece presented the results of the implementation of the ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2015. The 2015 trend in the eradication of ovine and caprine brucellosis has been in general favourable in these Member States. Italy postponed its presentation to the following Committee.

A.04 Information concerning three declarations from Slovenia on surveillance programmes for achieving disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for three compartments.

The Commission informed about three declarations from Slovenia concerning surveillance programmes for achieving disease-free status for IHN and VHS.

The first declaration is concerning a compartment comprising the fish farm "Kisovec" and the stream Ribnica from its spring to the outlet into the stream Medija. The fish farm consists of a hatchery and 6 outside tanks and is producing brown trout for the repopulation of open waters.

The second declaration is concerning a compartment comprising the fish farms "Zalog" and "Bohinc", both managed by the same Fishing Family, and which are producing rainbow trout for further growth and for human consumption.

The third declaration is concerning the fish farm "Nova Štifta" and the stream "Studenec" from its spring to the outlet from the fish farm. The farm produces rainbow trout for further growth and for the repopulation of open waters.

All three surveillance programmes are designed as a two year programme with reduced sample size, based on systematic surveillance over the last four years.

Links to the declarations will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.05 Information on a series of study visits to some Member States to collect information about certain aquaculture production systems as a basis for the drafting of delegated and implementing acts to the Animal Health Law.

The Commission informed about a series of study visit that will be carried out in certain Member States late autumn 2016 and early spring 2017. The purpose of these missions will be to extend the knowledge of the Commission on production systems and aquatic animal health challenges in certain parts of the European aquaculture industry, and the knowledge gained will constitute an important part of the basis for drafting delegated and implementing acts to the new Animal Health Law. The mission team, which will consist of one officer from DG SANTE Directorate G, one officer from DG SANTE Directorate F and one national expert from one of the Member States, plan to visit the Czech Republic in October 2016, Greece in January 2017, Italy or Slovenia in February 2017 and Germany in March or April 2017.

A.06 Information from Italy on the latest epidemiological situation regarding small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*, SHB).

Italy presented the latest developments of the small hive beetle (SHB) situation, focusing on the outbreaks discovered from 25 July 2016, still in Calabria but far from the previous protection zones and some of the details of the epidemiological investigations and control measures. According to data at hand these outbreaks were caused by illegal movements of colonies by an unregistered beekeeper. The Commission underlined the importance Member States should attach to education of beekeepers on the risks of such illegal activities. Commenting Member States supported this and appreciated Italian control efforts and transparency.

A.07 Information by Italy on intended minor changes of the control programme for the eradication of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis in the Autonomous Province of Trento.

Italy presented the currently improved epidemiological situation as regards IBR in the province of Trento and described the intended minor amendments of the IBR eradication programme related mainly to the use of bulk milk testing for the IBR antibody detection in dairy farms with at least 30% lactating cows, as provided for in point 2.2.3 of paragraph 2 of Annex III to Commission Decision 2004/558/EC from 2017 onwards.

All represented Member States agreed to the intended amendments of the IBR eradication programme in Trento proposed by Italy.

A.08 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on ASF in Hungary, Romania and Estonia.

The findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission in Hungary, Romania and Estonia on African swine fever were presented. The Committee noted the risks arising from the occurrence of ASF in neighbouring Third Countries and the Commission presented the ongoing initiatives in these areas. The importance of passive surveillance for early detection of this disease in wild boar was reiterated.

A.09 Update from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever in these Member States as well as preventive measures and surveillance carried out in Romania.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for ASF. The situation in Poland was reviewed by the Committee with focus on the measures in place for animal movements, veterinary checks and surveillance data. Romania presented the measures in place in terms of preparedness and early warning for ASF. The Committee noted the wild boar management strategies and the need to align them to the current "African swine fever Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU".

A.10 Information from Denmark on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

Denmark reported two outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza in holdings where mallards are raised for hunting purposes. The outbreaks were quickly controlled by culling of birds present on the farms, cleaning and disinfection and epidemiological investigations in the established restricted zones.

A.11 Information from France on low and highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in poultry.

France updated on the further implementation of the measures to control avian influenza including the results of surveillance carried out in the further restricted zone which was established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460. Since the imposed standstill in domestic waterfowl holdings, four outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were detected during July and early August in two

departments which were controlled according to the provisions of Directive 2005/94/EC and for which the last restrictions are to be lifted early October. Also four outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza were identified where control measures are applied. France also outlined future enhanced surveillance activities for the whole territory of France.

(see agenda point AHW B.08)

A.12 Information from the Commission on Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2016) 214 final on the results of the review of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 of 14 July 2011 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs.

The Commission presented the legal background of *SWD(2016)214 final* as well as the main conclusions of the document drawn from EFSA's annual assessment reports and opinion.

Malta expressed concerns about one of the conclusions in *SWD(2016)214 final* which states that, in the absence of suitable wild definitive hosts in Malta, the application of preventive health measures on dogs entering Malta should be discontinued because it is not scientifically justified nor proportionate to the risk of transmitting and establishing EM infection in Malta via the movement of dogs. Malta inquired whether, in case of delisting from Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011, it could benefit from a special "free" status allowing dogs from Malta not to be treated before entering those Member States currently listed in that Annex. The Commission representative pointed to possible risks of triangulation where dogs from other Member States or non-EU countries may escape the required treatment when entering Member States currently listed in Annex I to Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 from Malta.

Ireland and the UK supported the application of a "one-island" policy for EM surveillance in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as described in *SWD(2016)214 final*. The Commission representative recalled that notwithstanding the scientific justification of such approach, a "one-island" policy is not provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 ("Pet Regulation").

No other Member State raised issues in relation to *SWD(2016)214 final*.

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.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex E to Council Directive 91/68/EEC, Annex III to Commission Decision 2010/470/EU and Annex II to Commission Decision 2010/472/EU concerning trade in and imports into the Union of sheep and goats and semen of animals of the ovine and caprine species

in relation to the rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision on the amends of several animal health certificates in order to reflect provisions of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 lately amended by Regulation (EU) 2016/1396.

Those certificates are used for intra-EU trade in and imports from non-EU countries of ovine and caprine animals and semen thereof.

The amendments concern the conditions for trade in ovine and caprine animals (for fattening and for breeding) of rare breeds and of animals moved between approved bodies, institutes or centres as defined in Article 2(1)(c) of Directive 92/65/EEC, as well as to the conditions for trade in and imports of semen of ovine and caprine animals kept at the semen collection centre in connection with their classical scrapie status.

Member States had no comments to the presented draft Decision. Some Member States informed about technical problems in relation to TRACES with certificates for trade in live ovine and caprine animals.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2009/156/EC as regards methods for African horse sickness diagnosis.

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2009/156/EC as regards an update of diagnostic methods for African horse sickness (AHS) by deleting the description of the obsolete competitive ELISA, which is no longer commercially available, by updating the procedures for the indirect and blocking ELISA tests in accordance with Chapter 2.5.1. of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE and by adding real-time RT-PCR to make that method available for the purpose of pre-movement testing. The amendments are supported by the report prepared by European Union Reference Laboratory for AHS and consulted with other reference laboratories for AHS diagnosis.

Member States had no comments to the presented draft Decision.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation designating the EU reference laboratory for diseases caused by capripoxvirus (lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox), laying down additional responsibilities and tasks for this laboratory and amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation designating the EU reference laboratory for diseases caused by capripox viruses (lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox), laying down additional responsibilities and tasks for this laboratory and amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European

Parliament and of the Council and explained the assessment procedure. This Regulation appointed the Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, CODA-CERVA (Belgium) as the EU reference laboratory for diseases caused by capripox viruses (lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox).

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/185/EC in relation to the control of Aujeszky's disease in Lithuania.

Lithuania presented the current Aujeszky's disease situation and the eradication programme submitted for approval.

The Commission presented the drafted implementing Decision concerning in particular the reference to the relevant health certificate in Council Directive 64/432/EEC, the approval of the Lithuanian national eradication programme and the update of the list of national reference laboratories as regards Aujeszky's disease.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of the Province of Brindisi in the Region Puglia of Italy as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*).

Italy presented the current epidemiological situation as regards *Brucella melitensis* in the province of Brindisi and the measures implemented to prevent the introduction of the disease in that region.

The Commission presented a drafted implementing Decision recognising the province of Brindisi as a region officially free of *Brucella melitensis*. This recognition will assist Italy to prevent the introduction of the disease in that region.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States and it explained how this decision was intended to increase the sustainability of the measures while allowing for adequate risk mitigating measures.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in France.

This agenda item was withdrawn.

The Commission explained that Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 that established the further restricted zone in relation to the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in December 2015 will elapse by 15 September 2016. The measures laid down in that Decision are no longer maintained due to the improved epidemiological situation in France. Areas still under restrictions due to previous outbreaks are published on the website of the French ministry.

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States and repealing Implementing Decisions (EU) 2015/1500, (EU) 2015/2055, (EU) 2016/645 and (EU) 2016/1183.

The representative of the Commission presented the above draft decision which introduces specific measures in relation to Member States that implement preventive vaccination against lumpy skin disease and amends the trade restrictions currently in place for the same disease. Clarifications were provided to the questions of the Member States and a revised draft was prepared to accommodate the suggestions proposed by a number of delegations during the meeting or as written comments beforehand. The revised draft was presented for a vote. The majority of the delegations present expressed their support to this new decision as a necessary step to provide for sustainable measures in the control of lumpy skin disease and facilitate the implementation of vaccination. A Member State not in favour of the decision suggested that it should amend the measures upon disease confirmation currently in place in Directive 92/119/EEC. The Commission representative clarified that this is not possible and revision of Dir. 92/119/EEC can only take place in the context of the tertiary legislation to be adopted under the Animal Health Law.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.10 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease submitted by the Member States.

The representative of the Commission presented the above draft decision which approves the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease currently in place in Greece, Bulgaria and Croatia. A revised draft of this decision was presented for a vote following suggestions of Member States.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.11 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures relating to African swine fever in Poland.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures relating to African swine fever in Poland and repealing Implementing Decisions (EU) 2016/1406 and (EU) 2016/1452 and explained that this document was presented together with the document under point B.12 because the measures would be complementary. This draft decision intended to confirm the measures provided for in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1452 of 2 September 2016 concerning certain interim protective measures relating to African swine fever in Poland.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.12 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.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in Poland and explained that this document was presented together with the document under point B.11 because the measures would be complementary. These measures would need to be reviewed at the following Committees.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.