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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Derogation for movements of kept equine animals to other Member States in accordance with Article 69 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688. Information from France and Ireland on the conditions established for such movements.

Article 69 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 (derogation based on Article 144 of the Animal Health Law) allows for derogations whereby the Member State of destination accepts registered equine animals in compliance with animal health requirements but without being accompanied by an animal health certificate. To make these derogations operational, the Member State of destination must inform the Commission and the other Member States about the conditions under such movements are authorised.

Two Member States presented conditions established for the derogation in accordance with Article 69 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.

A.03 Information on derogation in accordance with Article 139 of the Animal Health Law concerning movements of equine animals between Member States near borders and for recreational use, exhibitions, sporting, cultural and similar events, grazing or work.

Article 139 of the Animal Health Law allows for derogations agreed on between the Member States of origin and destination for movements of kept terrestrial animals, including equine animals, between Member States where such movements are near borders and for recreational use, exhibitions, sporting, cultural and similar events, grazing or work. To make these derogations operational, the Member States of origin and destination must inform the Commission about granting such derogations.

The Commission presented a brief summary of information concerning the derogations received from Member States. The Commission requested Member States to analyse the derogations already granted in order to verify the appropriateness and legitimacy spirit of those derogations, and to reflect on possible adjustments to be introduced.

A.04 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Bulgaria, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Latvia, who were all subject to a revision of the restricted zones after the last PAFF Committee meeting, either through written consultation or by vote at the April meeting of the PAFF, presented an update of their respective ASF epidemiological situation. Austria and Slovenia provided a description of the activities implemented to ensure an ASF early warning and swift reaction in their countries.

A.05 Update on the revision of EU guidelines on African swine fever.

The Commission updated the Committee on the ongoing work related to the revision of the EU guidelines on ASF and on the outcome of the first working group meeting on the subject.

A.06 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Czechia, Germany, Italy and Hungary presented updated information regarding the HPAI epidemiological situation and the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease in poultry and captive birds. In addition, Denmark and Norway informed on new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry and captive birds establishments. Affected Member States highlighted the high number of black headed gulls found infected, sometimes with high number of dead birds in the breeding colonies. The Commission urged Member States to use the early warning tools provided by EFSA to identify the migration trend of these birds and adapt as appropriate the preventive measures for kept birds in the areas where the risk of introduction of the HPAI virus increases with the spring migration of wild birds.

A.07 Information on adopted scientific opinions on animal welfare on farm.

EFSA presented three opinions addressing the welfare of animals on the farm:

1. Scientific opinion on the **welfare of broilers on farm**, adopted on 14 December 2022: this Scientific Opinion addresses the welfare of domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*) related to the production of meat (broilers) and includes the keeping of day-old chicks, broiler breeders, and broiler chickens. In the opinion, recommendations are provided on quantitative or qualitative criteria to answer specific questions on the welfare of broilers and related to, amongst others, genetic selection, use of cages, light and air quality. In addition, minimal requirements (e.g. stocking density, provision of litter, perches and platforms, outdoor access) for an enclosure for keeping broiler chickens are recommended and indicators are proposed for monitoring at slaughter the welfare of broilers on-farm.

The opinion is available here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7788>.

2. Scientific opinion on the **welfare of laying hens on farm**, adopted on 14 December 2022: this scientific opinion focuses on the welfare of laying hens, pullets and layer breeders on farm. It describes the most relevant husbandry systems used in Europe and for each system highly relevant welfare consequences, as well as related animal-

based measures, and hazards leading to the welfare consequences. Measures to prevent or correct the hazards and/or mitigate the welfare consequences are recommended. For example, the welfare consequences of non-cage compared to cage systems for laying hens and minimum enclosure characteristics are described. Animal-based measures for collection at slaughterhouses to monitor the level of laying hen welfare on farm are proposed. Main recommendations include housing all birds in non-cage systems with easily accessible, elevated platforms and provision of dry and friable litter and access to a covered veranda and to implement measures to prevent injurious pecking.

The opinion is available here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7789>.

3. Scientific opinion on the **welfare of calves**, adopted on 22 February 2023: this Scientific Opinion provides a description of common husbandry systems and related welfare consequences, as well as measures to prevent or mitigate the hazards leading to them. Recommendations on three specific issues are given: welfare of calves reared for white veal; risk of limited cow–calf contact; and animal-based measures to monitor on-farm welfare in slaughterhouses. Recommendations to improve the welfare of calves include increasing space allowance, keeping calves in stable groups from an early age, ensuring good colostrum management and increasing the amounts of milk fed to dairy calves. Calves should be provided with deformable lying surfaces, water via an open surface and long-cut roughage in racks. For veal systems, the opinion recommends amongst others that calves should be kept in small groups within the first week of life, and fed with neutral detergent fibre, preferably hay. Recommendations on cow–calf contact include keeping the calf with the dam for a minimum of 1 day after birth. Animal-based measures collected in slaughterhouses are recommended to monitor on-farm welfare.

The opinion is available here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7896>.

A.08 Information from Spain on sheep pox and goat pox.

Spain presented an update of their SPGP epidemiological situation. In Castilla-La Mancha two new outbreaks were confirmed (on 30/03/23 and 10/04/23 respectively), in the province of Ciudad Real. Epidemiological link suggests accidental infection from non-properly cleaned trucks. In response, new Protection (PZ) and Surveillance Zones (SZ) have been established. New zoning includes PZ of municipalities in 10 km radius for 44 days (until 31 May 2023) and SZ of municipalities in 30 km radius for 59 days (until 15 June 2023). The Further Restricted Zone (FRZ) will remain until 31 July 2023. Movements of sheep goats from PZ and SZ are allowed only to slaughterhouses within the same zones (PZ-PZ; SZ-SZ). All movements within PZ and SZ and from FRZ to free areas are subject to clinical inspection of animals to be moved, at least 24 hours prior-movement and are carried out in sealed trucks, checked for their cleaning and disinfection. The Commission clarified that the current EU measures in relation to SPGP in Spain are laid down in the latest Implementing Decision, amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333, that was adopted on 20 April 2023.

A.09 Information from Bulgaria and Greece on their 2023 vaccination plans against Lumpy Skin Disease, in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.

Greece and Bulgaria presented their 2023 Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccination programmes. Greece will proceed with LSD vaccination of all bovines in their entire

territory. In 2024 vaccination will stop and active LSD surveillance will be implemented in order to restore disease freedom, as per CDR 2023/361. In Bulgaria, according to their 2023 LSD vaccination programme, vaccination will apply only to young-non vaccinated and imported animals. It was however clarified that vaccination has not started yet and the relevant plan may be amended. The Commission explained that, under CDR 2023/361 the entire territories of Greece and Bulgaria are now classified as “Vaccination zone I” for LSD.

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 Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented the draft presented to enlarge restricted zone II in Latvia (one ASF case in a wild boar in restricted zone II but in close proximity to restricted zone I. Also, restricted zones II were revised to restricted zone I, and certain restricted zone I were lifted in Poland as a consequence of a favourable ASF epidemiological situation for more than twelve months and additional information provided by the Polish competent authority.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.

The Commission presented the main elements of the draft, including time frames of the underlying work and drivers thereof, and referred the still ongoing scrutiny of other applications from the Member States which will be taken into account for the next amendment. The majority of Member States who spoke appreciated the work done and thanked the Commission. Some sought clarifications (e.g., as regards future time frames) and the Commission clarified those.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 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 Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision to amend EU regionalization due to recent outbreaks of HPAI in Czechia, Germany, Italy, Hungary and Poland. However, following new outbreaks confirmed by Denmark and Italy the draft had to be revised to include the restricted zones established for these outbreaks. Consequently the draft has not been submitted for vote during the meeting.

The Commission informed that the opinion of Member States on the revised draft will be requested by written consultation.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 as regards disease notification and the information for submission by Member States for approval and reporting of compulsory and optional eradication programmes and in applications of disease-free status.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002. The main objective is to simplify the procedures for application for approval of eradication programmes, reporting on the results of the implementation of those approved programmes and the applications for disease-free status, and to provide clarifications needed for better implementation of that Regulation. Member States were invited to provide written comments before 3 May 2023.

M.01 Information from the Commission on the enter into force of new rules for prevention and control of certain animal diseases.

The Commission informed on the publication and dates for entry into force of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases (Vaccination Regulation) and for the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/751 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases.

As regards the rules provided by the Vaccination Regulation, the Commission reminded on the informing and reporting provisions, urging Member States to use the PAFF Committee for informing/reporting on the vaccination plans for Category A diseases and on the results of their implementation.

M.02 Clarification on ADIS reporting on eradication programmes.

The Commission informed Member States that it will not have consequences if the deadline for reporting on the results of the implementation of eradication programmes for the year 2022 for programmes approved in 2022 is not met.