



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2020)7703819

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
15 - 16 July 2020

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

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

Avian influenza – presentation by Hungary.

The Commission informed briefly about the situation on highly pathogenic avian influenza with H5N8 subtype in EU during year 2020. After 327 outbreaks having been confirmed in poultry in seven Member States since 31 December 2019, the situation with the disease has calmed down. No new outbreaks were confirmed since the beginning of June 2020, all outbreaks were successfully eradicated and the restrictions lifted in all affected Member States.

Hungary presented the update of the situation with the HPAI H5N8 epidemic. Disease was eradicated also in the highly affected area and all the restrictions were lifted starting with 10 July. They thanked the Commission and the French experts for the support with the EUVET mission that took place in Hungary on 6-8 July.

A.02 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom on the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2019.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Ireland and the UK presented the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2019. The trend in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis has been contrasted in 2019, with an increase of herd incidences in Portugal, Ireland and Italy, and a decrease in Spain and the UK, showing that the eradication of bovine tuberculosis is a long-term fight requesting strict implementation of key measures, including high quality skin-testing, management of the wildlife in risk areas, and close involvement of the farmer community.

A.03 Information on African swine fever by Member States.

Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and Hungary presented an update on the changes on the epidemiological situation of African swine fever in their territories and the resulting amendment of the areas under restriction in the Annex to Decision 2014/709/EU. Romania presented the intention to make use of the derogation foreseen in article 11.2c) of Directive 2002/60 to the Committee.

A.04 Presentation on the remote EUVET mission on African swine fever in Romania.

An EUVET expert gave a comprehensive overview of the recent remote EUVET mission on African swine fever in Romania and outlined the recommendations resulting from the remote mission.

A.05 Commission overview report on the welfare of animals transported by sea using livestock vessels.

The main outcomes of the overview report on the welfare of animals exported by sea were highlighted. Member States were informed of the poor implementation overall and that much effort is required for proper implementation of animal welfare rules, in particular that:

1. Member States of departure have responsibilities;
2. Veterinarians at the ports need a significant amount of technical and hierarchical support;
3. Member States at the port need to put in place contingency plans to care for the animals in the eventuality that animals at the port cannot be loaded onto the vessel in a short timeframe.

The Commission also informed Member States that the national contact points update to the consensus guidance Network Document on livestock vessels was completed and available on CIRCA.

One Member State inquired about the possibility of using EMSA's database to harmonise animal welfare controls on livestock vessels. The Commission confirmed that talks on this possibility were underway. Another Member State expressed their support for a future update of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

A.06 Presentation of the second EU animal welfare reference centre focussing on the welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals.

A detailed presentation was given and the Centre informed the PAFF Committee of the work on indicators to be used to perform official controls on the legal requirements regarding broiler chicken, laying hens and slaughter (water bath stunning) legislation that will begin later this year. The Centre also expressed its wish to meet with the Competent Authorities in September subject to Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place at that time.

A.07 Re-homing of pets: issues detected in trade.

The Commission presented the document underlining its main purpose: achieve a common understanding amongst Member States on the animal health requirements applicable to the trade in dogs, cats and ferrets sourced from shelters.

The Commission invited Member States to send comments to the current version of the document by 4 September 2020.

A.08 Information on ongoing EFSA mandate on ASF.

The Commission presented the five on-going mandates of EFSA on African swine fever. In particular, the Commission outlined the rationale behind the mandates, the

TORs and the methodology that will be followed by EFSA to draft the Scientific Opinions and Reports.

A.09 Information from France on Aujeszky's Disease.

France informed about an outbreak of Aujeszky's Disease, the results of the epidemiological investigations and the measures taken to follow up the outbreak.

A.10 Follow up on the revision process of unit costs for certain measures in the framework of veterinary programmes – presentation by JRC.

The Commission informed Member States of the progress made on the review of the methodology of the unit costs used for financial management of veterinary eradication, monitoring programmes and emergency measures. Member States received replies on the questions and comments submitted to the Commission after the latest state of play had been presented by the Joint Research Centre during the Standing Committee of June 2020 and have been given the opportunity to provide feed-back on additional steps taken in the process by 31 July 2020.

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 the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission described the amendments included in Commission Implementing Decision (document SANTE/7080/2020).

Vote Postponed: Vote will be taken by written consultation.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 2009/177/EC as regards the status of the Province of Åland in Finland as regards a surveillance program for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), of Estonia as regards a surveillance and eradication program for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN), of Croatia for koi herpes virus (KHV) disease and of certain areas in the United Kingdom for infection with Bonamia ostreae.

The various amendments which are necessary to update Decision 2009/177 were described in detail. There were no questions raised by Member States, but a comment was made by one Member State that, in their view, it's very important that the provisions of Directive 2006/88/EC are applied by all Member States, and there should be better controls in place to control trade of aquatic animals within the Union. If this was not the case, other Member States could lose their disease-free status as this Member State has, unfortunately. The Chair thanked the Member State for the comments and responded that this matter would be discussed internally.

Vote Postponed: Vote will be taken by written consultation.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers of Category 2 materials.

The Commission presented a new version of draft decision as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers of Category 2 materials. The draft will be distributed to experts for further discussion in the Expert Group meeting.

M.01 Update on Animal Health Law, BTSF activities.

Member States were informed about changes of the dates foreseen for seminars on upcoming Animal Health Law BTSF activities.

M.02 Lyssavirus virus in a cat in Italy.

Italy presented a case in a cat of west Caucasian Bat Lyssavirus infection after being bitten by a bat. There has also been human exposure to the virus through the cat.

M.03 Transit of poultry meat consignments from the Republic of Belarus via the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

Belarus being a *landlocked* country would like to transit poultry meat consignments via Lithuania to other countries outside the EU, mainly China. Lithuania is supportive of this request and has developed a *Standard Operating Procedure* providing the necessary animal health-guarantees for transiting these products originating from a non-authorised third country through the EU. The Commission services painted the context of this request referring to the relations with this neighbouring country and recalling the current legal framework as regards transits of animal products. Member States were asked to reflect whether they would be willing to allowing the requested transit which *de facto* would mean granting another derogation by Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008. The issue will be on the PAFF Committee agenda again after the summer break.

M.04 Animal welfare during transport – exchange of information between Commission and Member States on the issue with high temperatures.

This point was added to the PAFF Committee agenda in order to raise awareness once again on this issue since we are in the hottest period of the summer. In May the Commission sent a letter to CVOs to highlight the need to take action to prevent welfare related problems in case of high summer temperatures. A presentation was made on the state of play with regard to actions already taken by Member States in relation to long distance transport during high temperatures.

M.05 Applications and submissions from Member States to obtain disease free status or for approval of eradication programmes.

The Commission will request Member States via e-mail to inform about the number of applications and submission for disease freedom and for eradication programmes that they plan to submit before 1 December 2020 to have them listed in the EU legislation by 21 April 2021.