



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2017)5442797

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2017
(Section *Animal Health and 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, Austria, Ireland and the UK on the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2016.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Ireland and the UK presented the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2016. These Member States have presented the results of several indicators, such as herd prevalence and herd incidence in 2016 in comparison to previous years' results and the targets for the coming years.

A.03 Information from Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia of the results of their 2016 ASF eradication/surveillance programmes.

The epidemiological situation in the four infected Member States has remained stable during 2016 whereas additional efforts have been carried out by the Member States bordering already infected countries to improve the early detection system. The Commission allocated 7.5 M EUR in 2016 for ASF eradication and surveillance programmes.

A.04 Information from Italy on recent small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) outbreaks.

Italy explained the epidemiological situation with emphasis on latest two outbreaks in July in the part of Calabria close to Sicily. Some Member States sought clarification on details (e.g. on sentinel nucleus colonies, measures in Sicily, surveillance objectives, etc.) which were duly given. The Commission reminded the delegates that a written summary document from Italy was circulated both to the CVOs and uploaded to the CIRCABC site of this group and encouraged Member States to seek bilateral contact with Italian officials to clarify further details, as necessary.

The Commission also informed the delegates that it is reflecting how to proceed with a related item also discussed at previous meetings, the amendment of the intra-EU trade certificate for honeybees and bumble bees, given the previous comments from

Member States and the recent idea from Italy to focus on amendments for queen bees, instead of colonies.

A.05 Information from the Commission concerning the draft on the situation of certain diseases of bovine animals and swine for 2016 in accordance with Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

Document SANTE/7076/2017, "Situation on Bovine and Swine Diseases in 2016", was presented to the Member States according to the provisions of Article 8 of Directive 64/432/EEC.

The Member States were asked to check the current version of the document and to send their comments to the Commission by 3rd of October 2017.

A.06 Information from the Commission on the process of revision of the methodology for the calculation of the unit costs under veterinary programmes and veterinary emergency measures.

The Commission informed the Member States about the state-of-play of the revision of the methodology for the calculation of unit costs. The presentation focused on the purpose for the revision of the methodology, the method for determining the amounts, and the components of the revised unit costs for sampling and testing activities. The way forward was discussed. The presentation was well received by Member States.

A.07 Information on the study on intra-European Union (intra-EU) animal health certification of certain live animals.

The Commission thanked Member States for their support and invited the contractor of the study to present to delegations the results obtained. The study focussed purely on the economic impacts of a potential future derogation from the Intra-EU certification of certain categories of live animals. The study suggests an average annual direct economic benefit from a possible derogation of €22 million for EU28 as to the animal health certification requirement for the intra-EU movements of cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, pigs and horses for direct slaughter and of day-old chicks. Economic benefit varies between Member States as well as animal species (main benefits for poultry and pigs), and it concerns competent authorities (75% of benefits) more than private operators (25% of benefits).

Delegations asked clarifying questions and highlighted the necessity of taking into consideration animal health risks and animal welfare implications when further discussing a possible derogation from the animal health certification. The Commission indicated that the results of the study need to be analysed further and put into perspective as regards the possibilities for derogation provided in the Animal Health Law and other risks involved, such as those related to animal health and animal welfare. Discussions on the subject will be continued, most probably at CVO level.

A.08 Information from Italy on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry and wild birds.

The Italian representative informed in his presentation about a second wave of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N8 during 2017 as of mid-July. 21 outbreaks have occurred in poultry holdings during that period in the regions of Veneto, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna. Control measures according to

Directive 2005/94/EC were implemented including preventive killing in farms with direct and indirect contacts to outbreak farms, as well as the establishment of further restricted zones with measures targeting in particular laboratory testing before movements of poultry within these zones. With the exemption of one cluster of outbreaks, the outbreaks are most likely attributed to the introduction of viruses circulating in wild birds, as there were some virus detections in wild birds including mallards. Phylogenetic studies of the viruses point at that source and also reveal that there is no incursion of a new virus.

A.09 Information from Bulgaria and Sweden on Newcastle disease in poultry.

Bulgaria presented the situation as regards Newcastle disease in backyard poultry in Gluhar village, Kardzali municipality, administrative district of Kardzali. Measures according to Council Directive 92/66/EEC on Newcastle disease control were taken and vaccination against the disease enforced.

Sweden reported on one outbreak of Newcastle disease in a poultry farm in Vassmolösa, municipality and County of Kalmar. Only slight clinical signs were observed. Measures according to Council Directive 92/66/EEC on Newcastle disease control were applied. Sweden has a non-vaccinating status, hence no vaccination was applied.

A.10 Information from Portugal on the implementation of the plan for preventive vaccination against avian influenza in a breeding mallard holding.

Portugal presented the implementation of its preventive vaccination plan carried out on one holding keeping about 5000 valuable breeding mallard ducks. The plan had been approved under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/892. No virus was detected during accompanying surveillance.

A.11 Update from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.

The Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. Slovakia presented its measures for increasing preparedness for African swine fever. The Committee noted the evolution of the situation and emphasized the need to review the measures for African swine fever in order to address the new risks arising from the current epidemiological scenario.

A.12 Review of the African swine fever strategy for the Eastern part of the EU.

The Commission reviewed the comments received by Member States and indicated a new revision would be produced.

A.13 Conclusions and recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on African swine fever in Romania.

The Commission presented the outline of the CVET recommendations following the field visit to Romania. It was suggested that these recommendations apply to all areas of Romania bordering with Ukraine given the increased level of risk they are exposed to.

A.14 Presentation of the animal transport guides project.

The publication of guidelines on animal transport represents one of the outstanding actions of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy. The project will now continue aiming at dissemination and communication of developed materials after two years of intensive work with the key stakeholders in this area. The contractor presented shortly the five developed guides, the 17 fact sheets and its future plans to popularise them through a dedicated website: <http://animaltransportguides.eu/>, main social media and specific events called roadshows in the Member States participating in the Project. The Commission invited all Member States to consider further dissemination and popularisation of materials developed under this project.

A.15 Information concerning two declarations from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) in the "Wassereinzugsgebiet der Lauchert und ihrer Nebenflüsse von den Quellen bis zum Wehr Laucherthal mit Bachwasseranlage Hugo Strobel, Hettingen" and "Hugo Strobel, Quellwasseranlage Hausen, D-72505 Krauchenwies".

The German delegate informed the forum about 2 declarations from Germany, Bundesland Baden-Württemberg, Landkreis Sigmaringen concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for:

- a zone comprising the water catchment area of the river Lauchert with its tributaries from the springs to an artificial dam on the Lauchert near Hettingen (already IHN-free: D-BW-IG-02). The zone comprises 3 compartments, 1 fish farm and 2 hobby farms producing mainly rainbow trout and other common species (greyling, carp etc.) for human consumption or as fries for further keeping. The declaration is based on more than three years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern.
- a compartment independent of the surrounding health status near Hausen, situated in a VHS-free zone on the Andelsbach and Kehlbach rivers (D-BW-VG-04). The compartment produces rainbow trout for human consumption or as fries for further keeping. The declaration is based on more than two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

The German delegate explained that more details are available on their national site, in accordance with the EU rule and official staff is available for further clarifications. The Commission reminded the delegates to the procedural aspects i.e. the declarations will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States. The Commission also reminded the MS about the deadlines for similar items to be placed onto the agenda and indicated that 11 such declarations from Norway, France and Germany are already planned to be dealt with at the next meeting on 25 October.

Link to the presented declarations will be placed to the following SANTE web page: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm.

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.

Following further outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Lombardy and Veneto regions in Italy, the Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States in order to update the areas under restrictions in Italy (SANTE/7086/2017 Rev.1).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)-free status of certain regions of Spain, Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the official bovine brucellosis-free status of Cyprus and of certain regions of Spain and as regards the official enzootic-bovine-leucosis-free status of Italy, and Decision 2005/779/EC as regards the swine vesicular disease-free status of the region of Campania of Italy.

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft Implementing Decision amending the officially disease-free status as regards the ovine and caprine brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) of the Autonomous Communities of La Rioja and of Valencia, and the Provinces of Albacete, Cuenca and Guadalajara of the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha of Spain, the enzootic bovine leucosis status of Italy, the bovine brucellosis status of Cyprus and of the Autonomous Communities of Cataluña, Castilla-La Mancha, and Galicia, and the Province of Zamora of the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León, and the swine vesicular disease status of the region of Campania of Italy.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision correcting the Bulgarian and French language versions of Commission Decision 2004/558/EC implementing Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards additional guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and the approval of the eradication programmes presented by certain Member States.

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft Implementing Decision correcting the Bulgarian and French versions of Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the text of Article 3(1)(b) laying down requirements for movement of certain bovine animals in particular for testing of these bovine animals kept in an isolation facility.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending 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 for vote, explaining how this new text increased the flexibility of the measures and took on board some changes related to the updated OIE international standards for African swine fever.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the work programmes of the Commission for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 and on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference laboratories and the European Union reference centres.

The Commission Work Programme for 2018, 2019 and 2020 and the 2018 financing decision regarding the EURLs was presented and submitted to the Member States for an opinion.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards health certification at import into the EU concerning transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The amendment aims at:

- Alignment of EU BSE import requirements for ruminant processed animal proteins and products containing such proteins with the OIE recommendations
- Alignment of the BSE/TSE attestation in the ABP import health certificates with the latest version of the TSE Regulation.
- Clarification in certificates 3(D), 3(F) and 8 that products initially destined for human consumption may be (irreversibly) reclassified by operators for ABP purposes.
- Revision of CN codes in the model declaration for the import of intermediate products.

Member States asked for some clarifications and will provide their comments in writing. Further discussion is planned to take place in expert Working Group meetings on ABP and TSE in October and November 2017.

C.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on certain protection measures in relation to the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal).

The Commission explained the changes made to the draft document after having received comments from Member States, stakeholders and internally. Changes concerned, *inter alia*, the minimum number of animals in a consignment, the underlying diagnostic possibilities and considerations, definition of treatment as alternative to testing, clarity on what treatments are appropriate and extended list of approved non-EU countries. Member States appreciated the amendments and sought further clarification on a number of issues such as coverage for cross-border movement of pets (i.e. accompanying their owners), status of captive bred salamanders, length of application of planned measures, room for national rules, considerations for salamanders for research, start of application of the future rules, and more. All explanations were given by the Commission.

M.01 Information on measures which are taken to control the population of unwanted equidae excluded from food chain.

The representative of the Commission informed the Committee that the deadline for reply to the fax ref. Ares(2017)2849971, sent by the Commission on 7 July 2017, containing questionnaire requesting data on unwanted horses excluded from the food chain, has expired on 1 September 2017.

The Member States which have not yet replied to that fax were reminded to provide those data as soon as possible.

M.02 Discussion on a draft text which foresees the establishment of further restricted zones in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The Commission representative further presented draft text for Member States to be considered for future discussion which foresees the delineation of further restricted zones at Union level in case a Member State decides to establish such zones due to its epidemiological situation in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza. It also proposes provisions for movements of certain poultry commodities towards outside these zones under safe conditions (SANTE/7083/2017).