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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*
13 January 2022

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Member States affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry informed on the epidemiological situation with the disease and the measures taken to eradicate the disease.

A.03 Presentation from EFSA on the latest avian influenza overview.

EFSA presented a summary of the results, conclusions and recommendations following the assessment of the data collected from the EU Member States in relation to the highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, poultry and captive birds for the last quarter of 2021.

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

Germany, Italy and Poland provided an update on the ASF epidemiological situation and on the control measures put in place to control the disease.

Due to technical issues, Slovakia was unable to make a presentation and will report to the PAFF Committee in February.

A.05 Provisional amendments to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures relating for African swine fever.

The Commission briefly presented the provisional amendments to the ASF Regulation and announced a first working group of experts to discuss it on 20 January 2022.

A.06 Presentation of the Scientific Opinion on inactivation of indicator microorganisms and biological hazards by standard and/or alternative processing methods in Category 2 and 3 animal by-products and derived products to be used as organic fertilisers and/or soil improvers (EFSA Journal: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6932).

Item postponed to next PAFF Committee meeting in February.

A.07 Information from France on recent outbreaks of *Brucella melitensis* in bovine animals and Aujeszky's disease in porcine animals.

France presented sufficient information about one outbreak of *Brucella melitensis* in bovine animals and five outbreaks of Aujeszky's disease in porcine animals concerning the affected establishments, the disease eradication measures and the epidemiological investigations. Before the competent authority of France restores the Aujeszky's disease-free status of the five affected departments an investigation of the establishments with porcine animals in the 2 km circle must be carried out.

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 concerning certain emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Italy (SANTE/7036/2022).

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision related to ASF confirmation in the mainland of Italy.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2021 concerning certain emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany (SANTE/7010/2022).

The Commission informed the Committee about the recent adoption and publication of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/33 of 10 January 2022 repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2021 concerning certain emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany due to a favourable ASF situation in relevant area.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.02 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 Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 as concerns the zoning at Union level in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza had to be amended following the development of the epidemiological situation in certain Member States. The Commission informed on the adoption plans for this draft.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: 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 briefly explained the changes made in the draft since the last meeting and indicated that it will be sent for written consultation by Member States shortly. There were no comments, except on one small typo.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down uniform minimum frequencies of certain official controls to verify compliance with Union animal health requirements in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1082/2003 and (EC) No 1505/2006.

The Commission briefly explained some questions and comments received during the recent public feed-back of the draft as well as in the last days. The Commission indicated that it will be sent for written vote by the Member States in due course. One Member State considered that one particular element of the draft (3%) should be reduced, while another one expressed similar doubts. The Commission explained that particular aspect again and concluded that the majority of Member States seems to agree with the current approach.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.05 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.

Following an evolution of the ASF epidemiological situation in Poland, Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 was revised. In certain zones, restricted zones (RZ) I and II were enlarged as consequence of positive cases in wild boar. On the other hand, restricted zone III was reverted to RZ II and RZ I in certain municipalities as a consequence of the positive epidemiological evolution in domestic pigs in those municipalities.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

M.01 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission provided an update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788 of 12 May 2021. These updates addressed new outbreaks in Poland and updated information for Lithuania and Latvia.

M.02 Financing calculations – avian influenza – Poland.

Poland raised a question about the reminder it had received from the Commission on 6 January 2022 to submit a payment application in the frame of the grant Decision Poland Avian Influenza 2019-2020-2021. Poland informed that, due to the COVID situation, it has not been able to submit the final payment application. The Commission confirmed that, in accordance with Amendment 2 to the grant Decision, the grant runs from 31 December 2019 to 30 June 2021 and that the payment request should cover this period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission can accept the submission of the payment application by 1 April 2022.