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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***  
**08 - 09 July 2019**

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

<b>SUMMARY REPORT</b>
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**A.01 General information by Member States.**

No item raised.

**A.02 Information from Spain and Portugal in relation to a Joint Simulation Exercise on FMD.**

Portugal reported on the recent joint FMD simulation exercise with Spain and on the overall general conclusions: Exercise was very positive in the view of all the participants and coordinators; The level of intervention of each participant was very high; The communication within and between the groups was very fluid and constructive; Protocols and procedures from both countries were shared.

**A.03 Roadmap for the evaluation of the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals (2012-2015).**

The Commission provided an update on the whole evaluation process, stakeholders feedback and informed of the forthcoming consultation activities foreseen for the fourth quarter of 2019. The competent authorities of EU Member States will be contacted in the context of an external Commission study in support of the evaluation.

Two Member States welcomed the evaluation launched by the Commission and highlighted the need to consider a new EU Animal Welfare Strategy.

**A.04 Information from Slovenia concerning a declaration of freedom from VHS/IHN for a zone comprising the fish farm "Laze".**

No comments nor discussion. The declaration is published on the relevant EU Commission website:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live\\_animals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en)  
with a link to the relevant website of Slovenian authorities:  
[www.uvhvvr.gov.si/si/delovna\\_podrocja/zdravje\\_zivali/akvakultura/proglasitve/](http://www.uvhvvr.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/zdravje_zivali/akvakultura/proglasitve/).

**A.05 Information on African swine fever in Member States.**

Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Belgium, Bulgaria and Latvia gave an update on the situation regarding African swine fever (ASF) in their respective countries.

**A.06 Presentation of the amended draft of the 'Strategic approach to the management of African swine fever for the EU'.**

The new draft was presented to the Member States. The main amendments were briefly explained, in view of the working group for the revision of the Strategic approach to be held in the afternoon of the same day of the committee (9 July) Member States welcomed the amendments and the clarity of the document.

**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 concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.**

Member States were informed on the proposed amendment to Article 14 of CID 2014/709/EU and on the fact that the vote was postponed for internal technical reasons.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.03 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.**

Regionalisation measures for African swine fever (ASF) in the EU have been reviewed.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards microbiological standards for raw petfood, requirements concerning approved establishments, technical parameters applicable to the alternative method Brookes' gasification process and hydrolysis of rendered fats, and conditions for transport of certain Category 3 materials and exports of processed manure, certain blood, blood products and intermediate products.**

The Commission presented the draft Regulation revised, following discussions in the Working Group.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/909/EU as regards the list of areas subject to protective measures in relation to small hive beetle in Italy.**

Italy presented the preliminary results and conclusions of their epidemiological investigations into a recent small hive beetle outbreak in Sicily. It seems that the outbreak is related to the theft and subsequent illegal movement of 13 honey bee hives

from Calabria to Sicily but investigations are still ongoing including police investigations. Genetic analysis of the small hive beetle samples also seem to indicate their origin is in Calabria, rather than linked to an earlier outbreak in Sicily in 2014. Member States asked several questions on certain details, all of those were clarified. Subsequently the Commission presented for a vote the draft Commission Implementing Decision adding the region of Sicily to the list of restricted areas.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the list of diseases subject to Union surveillance programme and the list of diseases for which disease-free compartments may be established.**

The Commission briefly explained the context and the content of the draft Commission Implementing Regulation listing diseases eligible for Union surveillance programme and diseases for which disease-free compartments may be established. It informed the delegates of the necessity to adopt and to publish that Implementing Regulation simultaneously with the Commission Delegated Regulation on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease-free status. It indicated its intention to maintain at this stage the status quo and therefore to develop in a following step the provisions for compartments free from highly pathogenic avian influenza and to add this disease to the list.

**C.02 Exchange of views 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.**

Member States thanked the Commission for the text and provided their first comments. The Commission asked Member States to send their comments before 20 August 2019 in order to prepare the final text for vote in September PAFF Committee.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards the approval of the Model health attestation for animal by-products not intended for human consumption from the areas listed in Part II or Part III of the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.**

Member States thanked the Commission for the text and provided their first comments. The Commission asked Member States to send their comments before 20 August 2019 in order to prepare the final text for vote in September PAFF Committee.

**M.01 Two withdrawals of aquaculture declarations by Norway.**

The Commission informed the delegates about the follow up of the recent declarations by Norway. These concerned two independent compartments and were presented on 25 February (A.06 Barstadvik) and 21 March (Hall 2 of farm Sorfjorden), respectively. After questions and significant objective concerns in writing were raised, both declarations were withdrawn by Norway. As such, they did not become Category I (free) entities.

**M.02 EUVET – Nominations of Member States' experts.**

Member States were reminded of the importance of the nomination of experts for EUVET given the role played by EUVET in assisting Member States with their response to animal disease outbreaks.

**M.03 Austria – information on EIA outbreaks.**

Austria gave an update on the recent positive results of two outbreaks of EIA (equine infectious anaemia) in June in Vorarlberg and Oberösterreich. The outbreaks happened in two small farms, the source of the infections is unknown and there was no epidemiological link between the two outbreaks. The following measures were put in place: culling of infected horses, zoning, further laboratory investigations, movement restrictions and an information campaign.

**M.04 LP Avian influenza – Presentation by Denmark on LPAI in a holding of game mallards.**

Denmark provided information on a confirmed outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H5 in a game bird holding located in Fuglebjerg, Zealand. Measures in accordance with Council Directive 2005/94/EC have been applied.

**M.05 LP Avian influenza – Presentation by France.**

France provided information on confirmed infections of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H3N1 in three poultry breeder farms located in Department 59 (North). France is applying the temporary control measures to the infected farms until the suspicion of infection with H5 and H7 is excluded.

**M.06 LP Avian influenza – Information by Belgium on LPAI H3N1 circulation in poultry farms.**

Belgium informed the Committee of the 78 poultry farms that are infected with H3 since January of this year.