



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 16 APRIL 2015 - 17 APRIL 2015  
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

**A.01 Harmonising Member States reports on depopulation pursuant Article 18 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.**

The Commission presented a draft template for depopulation report foreseen in Article 18(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. While all Member States welcomed the proposal, they provided various suggestions to improve it (Spain, Slovenia, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Croatia). They also raised questions on their possible publication and the risk on private data protection. The Commission welcomed the suggestions and confirmed that the template will be amended accordingly. It also ensured that existing rules on private data protection will be respected in case of publication or release to public domain.

**A.02 Information from Greece on the sheep and goat pox situation.**

Greece held presentation on current situation.

**A.03 Information from the Commission on the guidelines for surveillance on small hive beetle.**

The Commission highlighted that the guidelines were produced by the EU reference Lab and were already circulated to the national reference labs, as well as by the Commission via fax to Member States' CVOs. The Commission recommended to Member States to take advantage of these guidelines and the recent EFSA technical assistance for the design of their national surveillance programmes, in light of the risk of spread of small hive beetle from Italy. The Commission also indicated that prolongation of the current safeguard measures against SHB in Italy is in the pipeline and will be presented for a vote at the next meeting. Several delegates appreciated the document, one asked for a dedicated working group to discuss further details and even common EU strategy to deal with the parasite.

**A.04 Update of the lists of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus set out in Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC.**

The representative of the Commission requested Member States to verify lists of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus set out in Parts A and B of Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC and to provide the Commission with information if any amendments to the lists are required. The deadline for providing this information is 24 April.

The Committee was also informed about planned amendments to other Annexes to Council Directive 2003/85/EC resulting from series of FVO audits in Member States on bio-security in laboratories and establishments authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus. In addition to the update of the lists of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus, there are also planned amendments to a list of tasks and duties of national laboratories and of reference to the latest international biosecurity standards. The draft Decision amending Annexes to Directive 2003/85/EC will be presented at the PAFF Committee in May.

**A.05 Request for scientific and technical assistance to EFSA on porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED).**

EFSA presented the request for scientific and technical assistance on PED. The Committee welcomed the initiative but advised to proceed with caution when processing and publishing data of a non-OIE-listed disease such as PED. The difficulty in collecting such data in an harmonised manner, while at the same time involving both the Competent Authorities as well as the private sector, was seen as one of the major challenges. Member States were invited to suggest further experts to take part in the EFSA working group on PED.

**A.06 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team mission on bluetongue in Montenegro.**

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the CVET mission in Montenegro.

It was clarified that the Commission would be ready to organise further CVET missions upon request by the concerned Competent Authority.

**A.07 Information from Bulgaria and Croatia on the bluetongue vaccination campaign and from Slovenia on the provisionally free area.**

Bulgaria and Croatia presented their progress on the bluetongue vaccination campaign against serotype 4. The presentations are publicly available.

Slovenia presented the data that justified lifting the restriction zones and informed that in case of occurrence of BT the entire country would be under one single restriction zone. The presentation is publicly available.

**A.08 Information from EFSA concerning technical assistance on small hive beetle diagnosis and risk management options.**

EFSA explained the main elements and conclusions of its technical assistance. The Commission recommended that Member States make full use of it, according to their national risk assessments and also promote it among their beekeepers and related stakeholders as it also contains practical things for them. The Commission also explained that this assistance is complementary to the already published surveillance guidelines by the EURL for bee health and that a more elaborated scientific opinion will also follow by the end of 2015. Several Member States appreciated the document and asked for further discussion, possibly a dedicated working group meeting. The Commission explained that policy development can only start after the full EFSA opinion but in May meeting the Committee will come back to the Italian situation in light of the current safeguard measures running out and as further data from Italy on their situation will be available by then. Safeguard may need to be prolonged.

**A.09 Information by Austria and Germany on IBR.**

The representatives from AT and DE updated information on the animal health situation relating to IBR on their territories.

Following outbreaks of IBR in Austria and in parts of Germany, both Member States have implemented measures to control the disease and to re-establish the previous IBR status which is protected by additional guarantees in accordance with Articles 10 and 9 respectively of Directive 64/432/EEC.

DE will submit a written final report where orally presented details of the situation concerned and measures taken are indicated.

**A.10 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia of disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a compartment.**

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration submitted from Slovenia of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising the a fish farm with registration number SIRIB10102, the stream Pihovec and the breeding streams Loški potok, Malnarjev graben and Sopota. The fish farm, managed by the fishing association RD Radeče, is breeding brown trout for the purpose of repopulation of the mentioned streams. This declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance for these diseases and submitted in accordance with Article 50(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC.

Link to the declaration presented will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)

**A.11 Information from Bulgaria and Romania on highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N1 in wild birds and from Sweden on highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8 in wild birds.**

Bulgaria: a presentation was given on an HPAI H5N1 outbreak detected on 30 January 2015 in a backyard flock in Konstantinovo, in the Burgas Region, close to the Black Sea. Stamping out is applied and further measures as laid down in Directive 2005/94/EC on avian influenza control are put in place. In addition the high risk area 'A' and a low risk area 'B' are established according to Decision 2006/415/EC which foresees further control measures by taking into account particularly the epidemiological situation of further virus spread by wild birds. Previously, Dalmatian pelicans (*pelecanus crispus*) were found positive for the virus and subsequently also other wild bird species. The measures according to Decision 2006/563/EC are implemented requiring zoning around such findings and additional biosecurity measures in poultry holdings.

Romania: the representative gave a presentation on the findings of HPAI H5N1 in Dalmatian pelicans in the Danube Delta Reserve on 25/03/2015 where a high mortality was observed in Tulcea County. Poultry must be kept inside and bird expositions, shows and fairs are forbidden. Hunting is forbidden.

Sweden: the Swedish representative gave a presentation on the findings of HPAI H5N1 in the centre of Stockholm on mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) that were found dead in mid February. The birds had previously been diagnosed with lead poisoning.

#### **A.12 Information from Hungary on highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype H5N8 in poultry.**

The Hungarian representative gave a presentation on an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a fattening duck holding in Füzesgyarmat, Békés County that was confirmed on 24/02/2015. All ducks present on the infected holding (22,000) and the adjacent duck holding (~100,000) were culled. Epidemiological investigations have not revealed any spread and area restrictions were lifted on 07/04/2015.

#### **A.13 Information from Italy and The Netherlands on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

The Italian representative gave a presentation on the third low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak recorded in 2015, this time caused by an H7N2 subtype. The infection was confirmed on 23/03/2015 in a rural mixed poultry holding in the province of Verona, Veneto region. The farm was depopulated and cleaning and disinfection was carried out.

The Dutch representative made a presentation on three outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza that have occurred between in March and early April 2015 in Barneveld, Tzummarum and Milheeze. All three outbreaks concerned laying hen farms, most in free range and one with free range and barn hens. The causative virus was in two cases H7N7 and in one case H5N2. All birds were culled and cleaning and disinfection were carried out. Restrictions in relation to zoning will be lifted on 25/04/2015.

**A.14 Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2015-2017: update for 2016-2017.**

The document contains the relevant update information for Member States to design and establish the eradication, control and surveillance programmes to be implemented in 2016 and 2017 including possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs and the eligible costs per disease. Member States welcomed the document and made comments, mainly on the eligible cost (requesting clarification). The Commission replied in a satisfactory way.

**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 items raised.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the format of the model health certificates for intra-Union trade in bovine animals and swine.**

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision amending model animal health certificates for trade in bovine animals and swine set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC and replied to questions and requests for clarification from Member States.

The amendments relate to box I.31. of the model animal health certificates where description of the animals forming the consignment is given.

One Member State stated that date of birth of an animal, which is not present in the model health certificate in a field for description of the consignment of traded cattle as proposed in the current draft, is an important element for purposes of traceability of animals and as a control measure. This Member State voted in favour.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Hungary and in Slovakia in 2014.**

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Hungary and in Slovakia in 2014.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to emergency measures to combat swine vesicular disease in Italy in 2014.**

Item postponed.

**Vote postponed**

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2015 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health.**

This decision aimed to adopt the financing of the 2015 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. There were limited questions on the level of the budget amounts foreseen; these were answered in a satisfactory manner by the Commission.

**Vote postponed**

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the work programme for the year 2016 for the implementation of survey programmes for pests.**

The Commission presented to the Member States the draft Commission Implementing Decision the work programme for the year 2016 for the implementation of survey programmes for pests.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision implementing Directive 2006/88/EC as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods for aquatic animal diseases to the Committee. This draft proposal was a revision of the document presented to the Committee at the PAFF meeting of 5 March 2015, revised in line with the comments and suggested amendments received from the Member States within the time limit for sending out the documents to the PAFF meeting 5 March. The Commission informed about the changes made. In the following discussion both Hungary and the United Kingdom signaled that they would abstain from voting. The justification for these positions was in both cases disagreement with the proposed requirements for sample size with regard to surveillance programmes set out in the draft proposal. In addition two minor errors in the text spotted by the Member State representatives were announced. These two errors were immediately corrected.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

- B.08** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution by the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy, by the Netherlands, by the United Kingdom and by Germany in 2014 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.

**Points B.08, B.09, B.10 and B.11 have been combined into one point - amended title and one new document for all.**

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Italy, to the Netherlands, to the United Kingdom and to Germany towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2014.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

- B.09** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution by the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy, by the Netherlands, by the United Kingdom and by Germany in 2014 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.

**Points B.08, B.09, B.10 and B.11 have been combined into one point - amended title and one new document for all.**

- B.10** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution by the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy, by the Netherlands, by the United Kingdom and by Germany in 2014 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.

**Points B.08, B.09, B.10 and B.11 have been combined into one point - amended title and one new document for all.**

- B.11** Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution by the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy, by the Netherlands, by the United Kingdom and by Germany in 2014 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.

**Points B.08, B.09, B.10 and B.11 have been combined into one point - amended title and one new document for all.**

**B.12 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union's contribution to emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in Sweden in 2014.**

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Sweden towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2014.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.13 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Commission Implementing Decision approving a preventive vaccination plan against low pathogenic avian influenza in a holding keeping mallard ducks in Portugal and certain provisions for their movements and products thereof.**

The preventive vaccination plan against avian influenza to be implemented in one Portuguese mallard duck holdings was presented at the meeting of this Committee in March. That vaccination plan should now be approved and be implemented until the end of December 2020.

**Vote postponed**

**B.14 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing decision concerning the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2016-2017 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses.**

The document contains the relevant information for Member States to design and establish the eradication, control and surveillance programmes to be implemented in 2016 and 2017, the available EU budget to co-finance those programmes and the eligible measures and it was discussed with Member States during PAFF in March. No further comments were made.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.15 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 new draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States. It highlighted the need for an update of the delimitation of regionalisation done taking into account the new epidemiological situation in Poland and Estonia.



**Vote taken:** favourable opinion.