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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**
**Section *Biological Safety of the Food Chain***
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***CIRCABC Link:*** *https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/a8711a59-29f6-4c7f-a774-aacf1106704c?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC*

# SUMMARY REPORT

## A.01 Report of the European Reference Laboratory for Parasites on the validation of Trichinella-ChLia/lumiVAST Trichinella for Trichinella testing in domestic pigs

The Commission presented the report, indicating that the validation took quite some time because of initial false negative results in ring trials and the need to amend the method. Follow-up ring trials were therefore organized. The overall conclusion of the EURL was favourable and therefore the Commission started preparing a draft Implementing Regulation authorizing limuVAST Trichinella as alternative testing method for domestic pigs. The method is considered as most relevant when a large number of samples needs to be tested (huge cost of the apparatus).

Based on input from their National reference laboratories (NRLs), some Member States made a number of technical comments mainly related to cross-reactivity, access to raw data and repeatability.

The Commission welcomed these comments in writing and some provisional replies were provided by the EURL Parasites. Since the annual workshop of the EURL Parasites is organized beginning of November, this validation will be put on the agenda for discussion with all NRLs to sort out the remaining technical issues.

## B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the collection and transmission of molecular analytical data within the frame of epidemiological investigations of food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

The Commission presented the draft which has the intention to substantially facilitate food-borne outbreak investigations at EU level and timely find the cause of such outbreaks, by making whole genome sequencing (WGS) mandatory, including reporting to the European Food Safety Authority. It also informed on parallel initiatives to support Member States, organized by EURLs and EFSA. It referred to the existing rapid outbreak assessments to illustrate the activities of EFSA and ECDC in outbreak investigations and how the confidentially of data is managed.

The main concerns of several Member States was the need for accreditation and the absence of legally binding provisions for parallel WGS of human isolates, including accreditation, in view of a one health approach.

The Commission highlighted the need for quality assurance and the long period available for accreditation (almost 4 years from now). It also indicated that the inter-EURL WG group on WGS accepted to work on guidance for accreditation by the end of 2025. This guidance will be used to evaluate if the requirements for accreditation should be revised.

On human WGS isolates, different views were expressed whether this was mandatory or not based on Regulation (EU) 2022/2371. The Commission highlighted that in any case 3 to 4 times more results from human isolates are submitted to ECDC, guaranteeing a one health approach.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 as regards official controls related to specific requirements for post-mortem inspection, food chain information and health marking**

The Commission clarified that after a general presentation during the previous meeting, it was decided to split the draft amendment and proceed at this stage only with the amendments not related to animal welfare. The main purpose of the proposed amendment is to replace the abbreviation of "European Community" in the health mark by the abbreviation of "European Union" (transitional period until the end of 2028) and to extend practical arrangements for official controls for ungulates and ratites slaughtered on the holding of provenance. These are alignments with recent changes to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 (hygiene of products of animal origin). It also allows the replacement of the requirements on the form of the health mark by the requirement of the special health mark in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law).

Several Member States thanked the Commission for the proposed amendments. At the request of one Member States, the Commission informed on letters that will be sent to third countries on the changes of the identification and health marking to ensure a smooth transition.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 authorizing lumiVAST Trichinella for Trichinella testing in meat of domestic swine**

The Commission clarified that the proposal aims at authorizing a new alternative method for Trichinella testing in domestic pigs after a favourable evaluation of the EURL Parasites. Some Member States repeated their concerns raised under point A. It was agreed that the draft will only be presented when these concerns were sorted out during the workshop of the EURL with the NRLs at the beginning of November.

**M.01 Official controls of production areas of live bivalve molluscs**

A Member State raised the issue of official controls carried out by the competent authorities for the monitoring of production areas of live bivalve molluscs (in particular for phytoplankton control). In particular the huge amount of time and financial

resources necessary for that. The Member State suggested to open a discussion with the objective to find possible alternatives, granting the same level of consumer protection, with less implication of the officials from the competent authorities.

The Commission welcomed the initiative and suggested to add the point to the next Expert group on live bivalve molluscs foreseen on 6 December 2024.