



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**28 FEBRUARY 2018 - 01 MARCH 2018**

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

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A.01 General Information by Member States.**

No item raised.

**A.02 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) of an independent compartment comprising a fish farm and the stream of Kanomljica in the municipality of Idrija.**

The Commission informed its about one declaration from Slovenia, concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS of a compartment in the town of Idrija, on the creek Kanomljica: the entity is the farm and the creek together. The compartment produces marble trout for repopulation of open waters. The declaration concerns an establishment including over 20 tanks for rearing different categories of fish for repopulation of open waters and complies with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC. Surveillance data are based on programme Model 1B of Annex of Decision 2001/183/EC for 2 years with reduced sample size and is available from 2016. Results of that surveillance are favourable.

The Commission explained that more details are available on the national site of Slovenia, in accordance with the EU rule. The Commission reminded the delegates to the procedural aspects i.e. the declaration will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States.

Link to the presented declaration will be placed to the following SANTE web page: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live\\_animals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)

**A.03 Information concerning designation of a European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare.**

The Commission informed the Committee that, following consultation with the Commission's Legal Service and General Secretariat, the designation of the European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare will be adopted through a written procedure and will be followed by a publication in the Official Journal and on DG SANTE website. It is expected that the adoption is on 5 March. This is due to the

fact that Article 95 of the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) empowers the Commission to adopt an implementing act designating a Centre but it does not include a specific reference to Article 145 on Comitology. The Chair apologised for the incorrectness of the previous information of the procedure to be followed.

Following a question from Germany on the procedure for designation, the Commission explained the process of the selection and informed that all applicants have been informed about the selection's outcome and the winner consortium has accepted the tasks to be executed as a EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare.

#### **A.04 Scientific opinion of EFSA on low atmospheric pressure system for stunning broiler chickens.**

The Commission informed about plans to update Council Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing by adding the low atmospheric system for stunning (LAPS) broilers chickens amongst the approved stunning methods based on a scientific opinion of EFSA. The draft is expected to be presented for vote in one of the forthcoming Committee meetings.

EFSA presented the mandate received from the Commission, the methodology followed to assess this new stunning system and the key conclusions of its opinion. In summary, LAPS is considered to be at least equivalent, in terms of animal welfare, to one of the currently available methods. EFSA highlighted also that the assessment was limited to broiler chickens for slaughter weighting up to 4 kg.

France asked about the economic costs related to the use of LAPS and if this stunning method was reversible.

The Commission replied that LAPS is an irreversible stunning method. Regarding the economic aspects the Commission referred to a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the various stunning methods for poultry (Ref. COM(2013) 915 final).

#### **A.05 Information from France and Italy on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry**

**France** reported 18 outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza of three different H5 subtypes during the period of 01/12/2017-18/02/2018. 16 outbreaks were detected in ducks by active surveillance and two in turkey flocks due to clinical signs. An enforced surveillance plan is in place since 01/12/2017 which includes testing of poultry before being transported.

**Italy** gave an overview on the situation in 2017 with six outbreaks of low pathogenic avian influenza being detected in the regions of Emilia Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto during the months of November/December 2017. In 2018 one outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N7 was detected in the province of Ravenna (Emilia Romagna). The Committee was further informed that the last outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 was resolved by 14/12/2017. However, additional preventive measures are maintained in the further restricted zone.

#### **A.06 Update from the Commission on avian influenza.**

The Commission informed about the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza in the EU and worldwide as well as on the outcome of a recent working group meeting on avian influenza.

**A.07 Information from the United Kingdom and Ireland on highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds.**

Since the beginning of December 2017 the United Kingdom has continuously detected in different parts of England wild birds of various species infected with the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N6. The positive findings were recorded in 12 events, some related to mass mortality of birds and located within the established high risk area. Additional preventive measures were taken, but no obligatory housing order was issued. To date, no poultry holding has become infected.

Sweden and Ireland detected each one white tailed eagle, found sick or dead infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza virus of subtype H5N6.

**A.08 Update on the epidemiological situation for African swine fever.**

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania presented their epidemiological situation on African swine fever. The Committee noted the evolution of the situation and noted the relevance of specific measures for wild boar management.

**A.09 Review of the African Swine Fever Strategy for the EU.**

The Commission proposed a reviewed version of the strategy based on the comments received, in particular the measures to be applied in newly infected areas and an annex with specific communication messages was included in the strategy. The Committee welcomed the initiative and formulated further comments on the current working 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.**

**Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States (SANTE/7009/2018).**

The Dutch representative reported on an outbreak in a poultry holding located in the north of the territory in the province of Groningen. Culling of the poultry, disposal, cleaning and disinfection were immediately carried out and zoning was applied.

Following the review of the disease situation in the Netherlands the Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in order to include the new areas established by the Netherlands as protection and surveillance zones around the infected holding and to fix the duration of that regionalisation according to Directive 2005/94/EC. Due to this new outbreak and the continued risk for virus introduction into poultry flocks in particular by infected wild birds, the application of Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 should be prolonged until 31/12/2018.

**Vote taken:** 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 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.**

The Commission presented for vote the 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.

The Commission explained how these measures took on board the latest development on the epidemiological situation of African swine fever in the Union.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2018 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, and official controls in the food and feed area.**

The Commission presented the proposal for the financing decision for IT tools for food and feed budget for 2018. The total budget of 13.842 M€ for 2018 has already been approved by the SANTE management board, during the process of approving the full IT planning for 2018. The budget proposal is currently in intra-service consultation with the Commission and has already been presented to the PAFF on food safety (last week) & animals (today). The Member States' voting will take place in the next PAFF.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Implementing Commission Decision (EU) on risk mitigating and reinforced biosecurity measures and early detection systems in relation to the risks posed by wild birds for the transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses to poultry.**

Item has been postponed.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a working document related to 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 for discussion a working document intended to promote the review of 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 explained the need to simplify the current set of measures by maintaining an equivalent risk mitigation approach. The current working document contained the views expressed by the Member States at the previous working group on African swine fever of 9 January 2018.

The Committee advised on further refinement of the measures in the need to ensure the enforceability of the measures.

### **M.01 Information from Malta on the TB situation.**

Malta gave a short presentation on the bovine tuberculosis situation in its territory in the last months. The Commission indicated that it will present in the next meeting of the PAFF committee a draft Implementing Decision on a suspension of the official tuberculosis-free status of Malta regarding bovine herds. Member States had no questions or comments.

### **M.02 Presentation of outcome of audits on African swine fever.**

Due to the weather situation in Ireland, the office of Directorate F in Grange was closed, hence the videoconference for the presentation of the outcome of audits on African swine fever had to be cancelled.

However, a copy of the powerpoint presentation was given to all delegates and the meeting was informed that an oral presentation from Directorate F would be given at a later date.

### **M.03 HPAI - Bulgaria.**

The Bulgarian delegate drew the attention of the Committee to a dealer travelling through the EU with animals of different species including birds, bears and lambs without any animal health certificates and registration of vehicle for animal transport. The authorities seized the animals and placed the birds in quarantine where testing was performed identifying presence of avian influenza A virus. Further testing is ongoing to determine if caused by H5 or H7 subtypes.

### **M.04 HPAI - Denmark.**

Denmark confirmed the presence of H5N6 in a dead bird.