



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 17 JANUARY 2017 - 18 JANUARY 2017  
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

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

No item raised.

**A.02 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2017 and following years: list of the programmes technically approved and final amount allocated to each programme.**

The Commission informed, as per Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the Member States on the list of national programmes technically approved and the final EU co-financing amount allocated to each EU co-financed programme for 2017. The presentation, finalising the document presented at the PAFF Committee of 30 November 2016, was clear and the Member States did not ask any questions.

**A.03 Information on the outcomes of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare 6-8 December 2016 in Mexico.**

The Commission reported on the outcome and main conclusions of the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare "Animal Welfare for a Better World", held on 6-8 December 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico, and organized also with EU financial support.

The Commission noted the global participation at the conference, with around 450 participants from 150 countries, as well as the constructive contribution to the discussion and engagement particularly by countries with developing economies. This proves how the understanding of animal welfare and the application of the OIE standards have significantly evolved.

Furthermore the Commission highlighted that one of the conference's main objectives was to present and receive feedbacks from participants on the Draft OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy, which was well received. The OIE is planning to submit the draft OIE Strategy to the World Assembly of Delegates for adoption at this year's

General Session; the Commission will continue the discussion with Member States on the draft document at the Commission's coordination working group meeting, to be held in view of the OIE General Session.

Finally the Commission thanked the Member States that attended the conference.

**A.04 Information from the Member States on avian influenza.**

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom gave presentations or updated orally on the highly pathogenic avian influenza disease situation on their territories. Finland, Slovenia, Italy and Ireland have not yet detected the virus in poultry. Wild ducks (mainly tufted ducks, wigeons and pochards), seagulls, swans and raptors including sea eagles, in particular in Scandinavia, that tested virus positive for H5N8, but also for H5N5, were found dead. The situation in commercial poultry is still evolving in Member States with a high density of duck and geese holdings (France, Hungary and Bulgaria) for which housing is difficult to implement. In Germany, Poland, France and Hungary, preventive culling of poultry on holdings situated around confirmed outbreaks is applied as an additional tool to curb the spread of infection.

The Commission representative reported on a mission of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team that took place from 19-21 December 2016 in Hungary to assess the situation and give advice.

**A.05 Information from EFSA on an interim statement on the current avian influenza situation and measures to protect poultry from becoming infected.**

The EFSA representative gave a presentation on the conclusions of its work in relation to the current epidemic up to mid December 2016 following an urgent request by the Commission with focus on biosecurity, early detection and surveillance.

**A.06 Update from Latvia on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.**

Latvia presented the epidemiological situation data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever, notably in relation to the outbreak which was confirmed on 13 January 2017 in the areas already under restriction. The situation in Latvia was reviewed by the Committee and the changes in the epidemiological situation were noted along with the ongoing epidemiological investigations.

**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 the Annex to Implementing Decision**

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

(SANTE/7000/2017)

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and explained how these measures were related to the changes in the epidemiological situation in Latvia discussed earlier.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards the use of manure of farmed animals as a fuel in combustion plants.**

The amendment aims to authorize the use of manure of farmed animals as a fuel in combustion plants taking into account existing animal health and environmental requirements.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission amending Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura as officially brucellosis-free (B. Melitensis) and amending the Annexes to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration of certain regions of Spain as officially tuberculosis-free and officially brucellosis-free in relation to bovine herds and of Jersey as officially enzootic-bovine-leucosis-free.**

The Commission presented the draft to Member States for their opinion. Spain and Jersey held short presentations on the history of the eradication, the current situation and future intended measures to be carried out.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in Member States.**

Following the review of the disease evolution in the Union the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in certain Member States. Due to further outbreaks in Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, France, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom as well as first outbreaks in the Czech Republic and Greece these Member States have established new protection and

surveillance zones around the infected holdings where control measures and restrictions on movements apply according to Directive 2005/94/EC. The current draft amends the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2122 to include the areas put under restrictions by Member States.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision 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 virus of H5 subtype to poultry and captive birds.**

The draft legal text requires Member States to identify areas on their territory at higher risk for the introduction of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus strains in poultry holdings and lays down biosecurity and certain risk mitigating measures to prevent direct and indirect contacts between wild birds and poultry. Member States must implement early detection systems in poultry holdings to ensure early notification of the disease. The discussion focused on the time period for the application of the measures, the necessity of different biosecurity guidance for the various sectors (commercial, backyard, captive birds and for hunting activities), the granting of derogations from certain prohibitions as well as the difficulties to fix a threshold for early detection systems triggering notification. The vote was postponed in order to further refine the text.

**Vote postponed**

**M.01 Report by Greece on Sheep Pox in the island of Lesbos.**

The delegation of Greece presented an update of the epidemiological situation of Sheep Pox in the island of Lesbos and the relevant measures in place.

**M.02 Information by the Commission on the next meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee and meetings of other working groups.**

The Commission informed delegations about the date of the meeting of the next Animal Health Advisory Committee (a meeting with stakeholders, with the participation of three Member States: those of the current, past and upcoming presidencies). This meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 March 2017. [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/advisory\\_committees\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/advisory_committees_en)

The Commission also informed delegations about two ad-hoc working groups that are going to take place in April 2017. The first one will be on identification and movements of equidae and will be related to breeding and animal health framework legislation. The other meeting will be on animal health requirements for germinal

products. The final dates will be provided once the availability of the meeting rooms is confirmed.

**M.03 Information by the Commission reporting on the bee health expert group meeting of 13 January.**

The Commission informed delegations that the morning was dedicated to the fight against small hive beetle (SHB) in Italy, including the Commission audit there, so that other Member States could benefit from the extensive experience gathered. The afternoon was dedicated to a critical review of current EU trade and import rules of honeybees, also based on Commission audits.

The Commission advised those Member States who have no contingency plans against SHB to consider drafting one, given the specificities of the apiculture sector. Following to the meeting a draft to amend Commission Decision 2014/909/EU will be prepared to prolong protective measures for Calabria. A slight adaptation of the intra-EU trade certificate in Annex of Directive 92/65/EEC is also foreseen. A bigger overhaul is planned under the Animal Health Law. Delegations were asked to send in their opinions on the issues raised by mid-February.

**M.04 Germany requested information on Decision (EU) 2015/2217 of 27 November 2015 on measures to prevent the introduction into the Union of the foot-and-mouth disease virus from Libya and Morocco which was applicable until 31/12/2016.**

The Commission explained that Decision (EU) 2015/2217 was adopted as an emergency measure following the notification of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Morocco and the risk of introduction of the FMD virus with means of transport coming from that country.

Morocco notified to the OIE that the last FMD outbreak was closed in November 2015, and therefore that risk does not exist anymore. Therefore there was no need to prolong the measure provided for by Decision (EU) 2015/2217.

As regards Libya as well as all the other North-African countries, the situation should be re-evaluated in the light of information and discussions taking place in REMESA (REseau MEditerranéen de Santé Animale), to which the Commission is an observer. A meeting of REMESA is scheduled in March/April 2017 in Italy.

**M.05 Information on the Bluetongue situation in Austria.**

Austria informed on its situation as regards bluetongue and the control measures in place after the recent outbreak of BTV 4 in Carinthia. An extended restricted zone has been established to control the disease.

**M.06 Info by the Commission on state of play of the study on intra-European Union (intra-EU) animal health certification of certain live animals.**

The Commission reminded delegations that the contractor of the study has sent the relevant questionnaires to all member states in December 2016 and urged them to

reply as soon as possible and within the deadlines set. Several delegations commented on the short deadline for their replies and asked for the possibility of a prolongation. The Commission suggested that Member States contact the contractor directly.

**M.07 Information from the Czech Republic on the authorization of a zoo in the U.S.**

The Czech Republic delegation, in line with Article 3a to Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, informed the Member States and the Commission that they have authorized the Zoo of St. Louis (US) as an approved body, centre or institute for the introduction into an approved body, centre or institute in the Czech Republic of 1 babyrousa.

**M.08 Information from Ireland concerning detection of the parasite *Bonamia ostrea* in a disease free area.**

Ireland informed the Committee about the detection of the mollusc parasite *Bonamia ostrea* following a routine test of a sample of flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) from Kilkieran Bay in Gallway, Ireland, on 8 December 2016. *Bonamia ostrea* is listed as a non-exotic disease in Annex IV of Directive 2006/88/EC, and Kilkieran Bay is a zone approved as free of that disease according to Commission Decision 2009/177/EC.

Official movement restrictions on susceptible and vector species to the disease have been in place since 8 December 2016.