EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.ddg2.g.5(2017)5442797

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 - 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

(Section Controls and Import Conditions)

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

A.01 General Information related to third countries.

No item raised.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2008/866/EC, on emergency measures suspending imports from Peru of certain bivalve molluscs intended for human consumption, as regards its period of application.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision which extends the period of application of Commission Decision 2008/866/EC until 30 November 2018. The Commission explained that the protective measures need to be extended until the effectiveness of the corrective measures taken by the Peruvian competent authorities has been demonstrated. In order to verify if the last guarantees provided by the Peruvian authority are effective and sufficient to lift the emergency measures, an audit from the Commission Services was scheduled for September 2017. The period of application of Decision 2008/866/EC could be revised depending on the results of the audit of the Commission Services.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II(E) to Decision 92/260/EEC as regards the requirements for African horse sickness of registered horses temporarily admitted from Algeria, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and Turkey, and amending Annex I to Decision 2004/211/EC as regards the entry for the United Arab Emirates in the list of third countries and parts thereof from which imports into the Union of live equidae and semen, ova and embryos of the equine species are authorised.

The representative of the Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision which adapts the requirements for pre-export isolation and testing for African horse sickness (AHS) of registered horses intended for temporary admission into the EU from Algeria, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and Turkey, which have now obtained the OIE official African horse sickness free status. Additional objective of this Decision is to allow imports into the Union of ova and embryos of registered horses from the United Arab Emirates.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/426/EU on measures to prevent the introduction into the Union of the African swine fever virus from certain third countries or parts of the territory of third countries in which the presence of that disease is confirmed and repealing Decision 2011/78/EU.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision for vote and explained how this decision would update the measures following the occurrence of African swine fever in Moldova.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 The Commission informed Member States of the introduction of buffalos into Swaziland.

Swaziland is recognised by the OIE as a FMD free country where vaccination is not practised.

In accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, the area of Swaziland west of the 'red line' fences which extends northwards from the river Usutu to the frontier with South Africa west of Nkalashane, and includes the International Airport at Sikhupe, is authorised to export beef, and wild and farmed game meat, subject to guarantees regarding the maturation and de-boning of fresh meat, excluding offal (except, in the case of bovine species, diaphragm and masseter muscles).

On 11 September the CVO of Swaziland informed the Commission of the unauthorised arrival at the Sikhupe International Airport of 3 young African buffaloes gifted to the King of Swaziland. Since immediate killing and destruction was not an option, the animals have been isolated since arrival on the airport and samples have been taken for laboratory testing for a number of relevant disease, including FMD. Within a 10 km radius around the airport all dip tanks are quarantined until the health status of the buffaloes is determined, and the enhanced active surveillance in that area includes clinical investigations and sampling for laboratory testing.

By letter of 19.09.2017, DG SANTE appreciated the transparency of the measures taken by Swaziland and requested the suspension of certification (Certificates BOV, RUF, RUW) of meat intended for export to the EU.

In addition, DG SANTE offered assistance of the EU Reflab for FMD in testing samples taken from the introduced buffaloes.