

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss the delegated acts on Parts II and IV of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law), as they apply for certain diseases of terrestrial animals

14 December 2018, Brussels

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A preliminary agenda was circulated and agreed at the beginning of the meeting.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries' representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted that the European Parliament and the Council were not represented in the meeting.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Commission presented the following provisions of the draft delegated acts on Parts II and IV of Regulation (EU) 2016/429:

- the main changes introduced in the general provisions of the draft delegated act on Part II of Regulation (EU) 2016/429;
- an overview of the main changes introduced concerning bluetongue (BTV) eradication programmes and a detailed explanation of the articles laying down movement conditions for animals into an area under eradication programme or bluetongue virus (BTV) free area (delegated act on Part II of Regulation (EU) 2016/429);
- the draft requirements for movements between Member States of animals of listed species as regards BTV (delegated act on Part IV of Regulation (EU) 2016/429);
- the draft provisions for the eradication programmes against bovine viral diarrhoeal (BVD);
- the draft provisions for the Union surveillance programme on avian influenza;
- the draft provisions for the non-vaccination status with regard to Newcastle disease;
- the transitional provisions of the draft delegated act on surveillance and the draft delegated act related to Part II of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 for achieving the disease free status and on approved eradication programmes.

4. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

4.1 Concerning the general provisions

- The Commission stressed that the draft Article 6 on diagnostic methods is still subject to internal discussion to decide to which extent it is needed.

4.2 Concerning BTV:

- The Commission explained the type of movements into an area under an eradication programme or into a BTV free area that should compulsory be accepted by the Member State of destination, and those movements that may be accepted (or may not, up to the competent authorities). For the latter, the Commission also explained the procedure and conditions for their acceptance, including reinforced surveillance.
- The Commission stressed that the Member States deciding to accept the movements on an optional basis in the area under an eradication programme or in a BTV free area should accept such movements from all Member States.
- One Member State asked that a Member State may choose themselves to accept such movements only from certain Member States, as they felt that epidemiological circumstances are different across the EU. The Commission insisted on the fact that this should not be possible.
- Several Member States raised questions concerning transit. The Commission explained that the provisions dealing with transit would be further developed.
- There was broad support from MSs on the approach proposed for BTV.

4.3 Concerning BVD:

The Commission presented the revised provisions for the granting and maintenance of a BVD free status.

- The Member States taking the floor generally appreciated the changes.
- Requirements regarding vaccination and testing regimes, including frequency and age of testing turned out as major discussion points.
- The Commission took note of the views and announced to send an amended version of the document for comments.

4.4 Concerning Union surveillance programme for avian influenza:

- Some Member States suggested amending the scope of poultry species or categories to be included in the programme and minor changes to the laboratory testing methods used for different poultry species.

4.5 Concerning non-vaccination status against infection with Newcastle disease virus:

- The Commission presented the provisions foreseen to grant and maintain the non-vaccination status against infection with Newcastle disease virus, which did not trigger any comments from the Member States.

4.6 Concerning transitional provisions of the draft delegated act on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease freedom:

- The Commission presented the provisions foreseen for the recognition of existing disease free statuses and approved eradication programmes and provided further explanation on the mechanism foreseen for the granting of disease free status based on historical and surveillance data, e.g. for diseases such as rabies and BTV.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to send written comments by 7 January 2019.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting on the delegated act on Part II of AHL is scheduled for 28 January 2019 and the next meeting on the delegated act on Part IV of AHL is scheduled for 21 January 2019.