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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 13 JUNE 2018 - 14 JUNE 2018  
(Section *Animal Health and 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 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia on the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2017.**

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia presented the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2017. The trend in the eradication of ovine and caprine brucellosis in 2017 has been favourable in general, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in most of these Member States, except a slight increase in mainland Portugal mainly due to additional positive serological results found in the vaccination areas.

**A.03 Information from Spain, Portugal, and Italy on the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2017.**

Spain, Portugal, and Italy presented the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2017. The trend in the eradication of bovine brucellosis in 2017 has been favourable in general, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in all these Member States.

**A.04 Information from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia and Slovenia of the results of the implementation of their rabies eradication programmes in 2017.**

The epidemiological evolution of rabies in 2017 has been very positive. Only six cases of rabies have been detected in the EU (2 in Poland, 2 in Hungary and 2 in Romania). Country specific problems already identified in previous years, mostly related to low levels of surveillance and monitoring, have been improved during 2017.

**A.05 Information by the OIE and the Commission on the progress on the ADIS project.**

The update was welcome and the need to move forward while keeping in mind the different legal requirements was highlighted. The need to approach what needs to be done in case of third countries using ADNS was also raised.

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

Update presentations were held by Italy, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania, showing the evolution of the situation. The vote under the B-point covered the affected areas.

**A.07 Conclusions and recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on African swine fever in Hungary and Romania.**

The findings and the recommendations of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) the missions in Hungary and Romania on African swine fever were presented following the occurrence of the disease in wild boar. The Committee noted the expert recommendations and on the need to define the infected area prior any use of physical barriers. The importance of an efficient surveillance system based on passive surveillance, along with modulation of hunting practices and the importance of awareness campaigns was highlighted.

**A.08 Information from Sweden on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

Sweden reported one low pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in a gamebird farm and Denmark in a fattening duck farm. On both holdings the poultry was culled and disposed of and a restricted zone of 1km radius established around the infected farm.

**A.09 Information on Member States' implementation of preventive vaccination plans against avian influenza in other captive birds kept in zoos, approved bodies, institutes or centres according to Decision 2007/598/EC during 2017.**

17 Member States have approved plans for preventive vaccination in place for zoo birds. Annual reporting on the implementation of these plans is required. So far only one Member State (Denmark) has reported vaccination in three zoos.

**A.10 Information from Bulgaria on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

Bulgaria reported on the last outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Dobrich region in a housed Peking duck holding confirmed on 25/05 and its eradication. On the day of the Committee another outbreak of the same highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype was confirmed in a laying hen holding with high biosecurity arrangements. The premises are located in the 10km radius surveillance zone established on account of the previous outbreak in Dobrich. Disease control measures including killing of the birds and cleaning and disinfection have been implemented. The source of infection is so far unclear.

**A.11 Information concerning two declarations from Slovenia for freedom from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN). One relates to the compartment consisting of the fish farm 'Kropa-Bocna' and the other to a compartment consisting of the farm 'Nova Stifta' and the stream 'Studenc'.**

This point concerned disease free declarations for two compartments in Slovenia in relation to VHS and IHN. The testing and surveillance which was carried out in both compartments is compliant with Commission Decision 2001/183/EC. Member States have 60 days from today (meeting date) to raise concerns in writing, otherwise the declarations will automatically take effect at that point. No questions were raised by Member States.

**A.12 Information concerning the declaration of one compartment and three zones with approved surveillance programmes for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) in Finland. The coastal compartment is Li, Kuivaniemi and the zones are in the following Water Catchment Areas (i) Virmasvesi and Nilakka, (ii)Saarijarvi area and (iii) Pielenen area.**

This point concerns the declaration of surveillance programmes for one coastal compartment and three continental zones in Finland, following recent outbreaks of IHN on three farms and three Put and Take Fisheries. All establishments have been depopulated, cleaned, disinfected and fallowed. Sentinel fish will be placed in each establishment for a minimum of three weeks after which time full repopulation will take place if results from the sentinel fish are favourable. After full restocking, a two year surveillance programme will be carried out in accordance with Commission Decision 2015/1554/EU. No questions were raised by Member States.

**A.13 Information concerning a declaration of freedom from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) from Germany for the zone 'Brunnentobelbach bis Aquakulturbetrieb'.**

Withdrawn from Agenda.

**A.14 Information from the Commission on the development of educational materials on protection of animals at slaughter and on farm killing.**

The Commission informed Member States about the recent publication of eleven factsheets and one video on the protection of animals at slaughter and on farm killing which are available in 22 languages. Member States also received (by post) printed copies of these factsheets and were encouraged to further disseminate them to the relevant stakeholders at national level. Materials developed under this project are available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter/2018-factsheets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter/2018-factsheets_en).

**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.**

No item raised.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC as regards the list of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus and amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/136 as regards the denomination of the designated European Union reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease.**

The objective of this Decision is to update the lists of laboratories in Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus and to amend the name of the European Union Reference Laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease designated by Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/136. The Commission explained a last minute change to the name of a laboratory requested by the Member State concerned.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Decision 2006/80/EC granting certain Member States the derogation provided for in Article 3(2) of Council Directive 92/102/EEC on the identification and registration of animals.**

Council Directive 2008/71/EC lays down that it is mandatory for all holdings keeping pigs to be registered in a central database. However, it is possible to deviate from this obligation for holdings that keep one pig only for personal consumption. The Commission presented for vote the draft decision repealing the derogations granted to certain Member States to deviate from the obligation to register the holdings where one single pig is kept.

**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 relating to African swine fever in Hungary.**

This text was not voted as the Hungarian measures were included in the text presented under Agenda point B.06.

**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 viruses to poultry.**

Biosecurity and risk mitigation measures should be revised in the light of the recommendations made by EFSA and the practical experiences gained by the Member States and adopted as a permanent rule. The foreseen measures can be adapted to the epidemiology for avian influenza in the different Member States, however some Member States would prefer further flexibility. The draft was therefore not put for a vote.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.06 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 objective of the draft Decision is to amend Annex to Commission Decision 2014/709. The new annex will include new/amended restriction areas for Hungary, Poland, Lithuania and Romania.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I of Decision 2009/177/EC as regards the status of Croatia for koi herpes virus (KHV); Finland for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN); Ireland for Bonamia ostreae; United Kingdom for Marteilia refringens and amending Annex I of Decision 2010/221/EU as regards the list of areas in the United Kingdom which are free from Ostreid herpesvirus-1 uvar (OsHV-1uVar).**

This point concerns a draft Commission Decision which will amend Annex 1 of Commission Decision 2009/177/EC and Annex 1 of Commission Decision 2010/221/EU. The intention of the draft Decision is to adapt the description of the free areas taking into account the new cases of KHV in Croatia, IHN in Finland, Bonamia ostrea in Ireland and Marteilia refringens and Ostreid herpes virus in the United Kingdom. No questions were raised by Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and repealing Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.**

The point was withdrawn from the agenda.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation establishing categories of listed animal diseases, to which the disease prevention and control rules for listed diseases at Union level apply, and a list of animal species and groups of animal species posing a considerable risk for the spread of specific listed diseases.**

This draft Commission Implementing Regulation was discussed in a series of meetings of the working group that took place from November 2017 until March 2018. The draft will now be presented for the exchange views of the Committee with a special emphasis on the fine tuning of listed animal species and groups of animal species. The Commission intention is to vote the draft after summer.

**C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Recommendation on a coordinated control plan on the official control of online sales of dogs and cats.**

Based on the success of the First EU Coordinated Control Plan on e-commerce of food, the Commission presented the main elements of a future coordinated control plan which will focus on the official controls on online sales of dogs and cats aiming at strengthening compliance with the Union's animal health and welfare rules.

This Commission initiative was broadly welcomed and supported by the Member States.

**M.01 Information on Newcastle disease in captive birds in Luxembourg and Belgium.**

Belgium and Luxembourg reported each on one Newcastle disease outbreak in hobby holdings. The birds in Luxembourg had been acquired at a local market in Belgium and while the isolated virus seems to originate from a recent common ancestor virus, a direct link between the two holdings could not be established. Control measures according to Directive 92/66/EEC were implemented and vaccination was reinforced. No contacts to commercial poultry flocks were reported.