



Minutes from the Working Group meeting with Member States

**"Official Controls on animals and goods (including plants) entering the EU:
Implementing acts under Regulation EU 2017/625"**

Monday 22 October 2018, 09H30 – 10H30

Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit G3, European Commission (COM)

Members: EU Member States (MS): AUT, BEL, BGR, CYP, CZE, DEU, DNK, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GRC, HRV, IRL, ITA, LTU, LVA,MLT, NLD, POL, ROU, SVK, SVN, SWE

Observers: CHE

	TOPIC	BACKGROUND
	<p>COM opened the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes from the Working Group meeting on 11 October 2018 were approved by the MS.</p>	
1	<p>Details of checks: empowerment of Article 52</p> <p>COM presented a draft implementing regulation.</p> <p>MS asked for clarifications and made several suggestions. More specifically, several remarks revolved around Article 5(2) which concerns the storage of official certificates for 3 years, which was deemed to be too long. For the same point, clarifications were asked regarding the definition of these official certificates.</p> <p>A dedicated discussion took place on Annex III on plant health physical checks. Some MS requested clarifications on the definition of sampling units and some informed about their current practise making reference to the critical issue of physical checks for postal consignments.</p> <p>COM provided several clarifications on the points raised by the MS and took note of the MS suggestions.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>
	<p>Conclusion, end of the meeting</p> <p>COM invited the MS to submit written comments on the matters addressed at the meeting by 5 November 2018.</p>	



**Minutes from the Expert Sub-Group meeting with Member States
 "Official Controls on animals and goods (including plants) entering the EU:
 Delegated acts under Regulation EU 2017/625"**

Monday 22 October 2018, 10H30 – 15H45

Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit G3, European Commission (COM)

Members: EU Member States (MS): AUT, BEL, BGR, CYP, CZE, DEU, DNK, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GRC, HRV, IRL, ITA, LTU, LVA,MLT, NLD, POL, ROU, SVK, SVN, SWE

Observers: CHE

	TOPIC	BACKGROUND
	<p>COM opened the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes from the Expert Sub-Group meeting on 11 October 2018 were approved by the MS.</p>	
1	<p>CHED accompanying consignments to the place of destination: empowerment of Article 50(4)</p> <p>COM presented a draft delegated act.</p> <p>The discussion that followed mostly revolved around technical matters, such as the connection between IMSOC and CERTEX, the accessibility of IMSOC and the format of the electronic copy of the CHED.</p> <p>In addition, the MS asked for clarification as concerns the situation where a non-compliant consignment is subjected to partial destruction or re-dispatching, and the remaining part is released for free circulation.</p> <p>COM provided clarifications to the points raised by the MS and confirmed that the concerns as regards partially destroyed or re-dispatched consignments will be taken into consideration in the revision of the draft act.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>
2	<p>Return of consignments after refusal of entry by a third country: empowerment of Article 77(1) (h)</p> <p>COM presented a draft delegated act.</p> <p>The discussion that followed mainly revolved around the provisions concerning the physical checks that will have to be carried out on all consignments. A number of MS suggested a more flexible approach for physical checks.</p> <p>COM provided clarification to the MS questions raised and noted the MS comments and suggestions, especially regarding Article 2 (1) and the suggestions for a more flexible approach for physical checks which will be considered.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Wood packaging material (WPM): empowerment of Article 77 (1) (d)</p> <p>COM presented a draft delegated act.</p> <p>Several MS welcomed the new changes introduced in the draft and highlighted its huge improvement compared to the previous version that was presented.</p> <p>Some of the MS asked for clarifications on the definition of "wood packaging material". A discussion took place on the mandatory destruction of non-compliant WPM at place of destination.</p> <p>COM responded and provided clarifications on the points raised: for the WPM definition it was clarified that it is based upon international standards and definition; every MS will draw up a monitoring plan for risky commodities, based also on the information available at EU level.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Animals and goods exempted from official controls at border control posts: empowerment of Article 48</p> <p>Rules for specific official controls and for measures to be taken following the performance of such controls: remaining empowerments of Article 77(1)</p> <p>COM presented a discussion paper.</p> <p>The main comments from MS revolved around paragraphs (b), (d) and (e). Specific reference was made to the handling of postal consignments. Several MS suggested that passengers' personal luggage should be exempted from phytosanitary controls.</p> <p>Several MS indicated that exemptions should be set for certain live animals for scientific purposes while one MS highlighted the risks linked to such arrangement.</p> <p>Several MS indicated that exemptions should be foreseen too for certain plants intended for scientific purposes, while one MS indicated that no exemption should be set. Several MS support that certain plants should be exempted from official controls at border control posts, as they are exempt under their current national rules. As for the comments concerning plants, COM highlighted that the plants intended for scientific purposes will be covered by a delegated act under the Plant Health Regulation and that the intention is that there will be no exemption from BCP controls for plants as passengers' personal luggage.</p> <p>Regarding Article 77(1), one MS indicated that controls on feed accompanying animals should be in place and therefore shall not be exempted. One MS indicated that provisions on sales at distance are to be set. Another MS underlined that the proposal should cover feed (as hay and straw) susceptible to spread epizootic diseases. Concerning paragraph (k) and the EU fishery products one MS highlighted that a minimum percentage of border controls to be carried out should be laid down.</p> <p>COM took note of all the comments and suggestions of the MS and informed</p>	<p>Discussion paper shared with Member States ahead of the meeting</p>

	<p>MS that a draft legal text on article 48 and a part of article 77.1 are prepared for the next meeting (6-7th of November). For the questions about EU fishery products it was clarified that they must be accompanied by a health certificate and this is the reason why they should be subject to documentary checks at BCPs. It was also clarified further that the intention of COM is that Article 48 and Article 77.1 will be addressed together.</p>	
	<p>Conclusion, end of the meeting</p> <p>COM invited the MS to submit written comments on the matters addressed at the meeting by 5 November 2018.</p>	