



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)7240105

**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**25 April 2024**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

**SUMMARY REPORT**

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

No item raised.

**A.02 Information from Greece on sheep pox and goat pox.**

Point withdrawn from the agenda (postponed).

**A.03 Update on ADIS use and development.**

The Commission presented an update on ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) current priorities and development, emphasizing EU Union Reporting for the detection of listed diseases and eradication programmes, and the changes brought in by the latest release of ADIS. It highlighted the ADIS-WAHIS (World Animal Health Information System) link with the progress of the ADIS Pilot test phase. The importance of Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) for system security and its adoption status among users were emphasized. The Commission recalled the legal obligations for disease notification timelines.

**A.04 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.**

Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Czechia, Germany, Italy, and Poland presented the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories. Certain information presented by those countries were used to inform an amendment of Annexes I and II of the ASF Regulation that was presented to the Committee for an opinion (point B.02 of the agenda).

**A.05 Presentation from EFSA on the scientific opinion regarding surveillance and risk mitigation measures following vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

The Commission asked EFSA to update the scientific knowledge related to vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), in particular considering questions in relation to available vaccines, vaccination strategies, surveillance and risk mitigation measures to be applied following vaccination. The first part of the scientific opinion, related to vaccines and vaccination strategies, has been published by EFSA in October 2023 and presented to the PAFF committee in the same month.

As the second part of the scientific opinion has been published by EFSA on 18 April 2024, the committee has been informed on the conclusions and recommendations related to surveillance options and risk mitigation measures to be implemented where vaccination against HPAI has been carried out.

**A.06 Presentation from EFSA on the scientific report regarding overview of the avian influenza epidemiological situation in December 2023 - March 2024.**

EFSA has presented the results of the assessment taking into account the epidemiological situation with avian influenza in Europe and worldwide from December 2023 to March 2024. In Europe, compared to previous years, although still widespread, the overall number of HPAI virus detections in birds was significantly lower. Outside Europe, the majority of outbreaks in poultry were still clustered in North America, while the spread of the avian influenza virus to more naïve wild bird populations on mainland Antarctica is of particular concern.

**A.07 Information from EFSA on the updated target list for passive surveillance of avian influenza viruses in wild birds.**

First list of target wild bird species for passive surveillance of avian influenza viruses was published by EFSA in 2017. The list has been now updated and considers both epidemiological and ornithological data. 241 wild bird species are now on the list, ordered by five ecological group and by rank within each ecological group.

**A.08 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Bulgaria has updated the committee on the epidemiological situation with HPAI. Five outbreaks of HPAI have been confirmed in poultry since the last PAFF meeting. The virus has been recently found also in a white stork found dead in a region where the virus has been also detected in poultry.

**A.09 Information from the Commission on highly pathogenic avian influenza virus detection in ruminants in the US.**

The Commission informed on the detection in the United States of HPAI virus in goats and dairy cows. In February 2024, HPAI virus has been found in goat kids that have been sharing the same pasture and water source with chickens and ducks in a backyard where HPAI outbreak has been confirmed in birds. In March 2024, HPAI virus has been detected in clinical samples collected in a dairy farm in Texas, from cows expressing reduced lactation and colostrum-like aspect of the milk. Since then, until the time of the committee, HPAI virus has been detected in 33 dairy farms located in 8 States. APHIS/USDA has issued a Federal Order requiring testing for and reporting of HPAI) in livestock.

**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 Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.**

A draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever was presented for an opinion to amend the regionalisation measures in Czechia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, and Poland.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.**

Point withdrawn from the agenda.

**B.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620. The draft approves the disease-free status for infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* in bovine animals for Agrigento in Italy, for BVD in certain zones of Lower Saxony and Rhineland Westphalia, for VHS in certain zones of Denmark and whole territory of Estonia and for IHN for the whole territory of Estonia and a compartment in Finland. As regards infection with BTV, it also withdraws the disease-free status from the province of Alicante which is now part of the approved eradication programme.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**M.01 West Nile Virus.**

The Commission informed the Committee on the current West Nile fever (WNF) virus occurrences in animals and recalled the public health risks related to this disease. The importance of timeliness in disease notification was underlined as well as the other provision in the EU legislation and the ongoing assessment carried out by ECDC and EFSA. Spain and Italy referred to the national coordination with public health authorities to ensure a one health approach.

**M.02 Blue Tongue situation - at the request of Germany.**

The German delegation explained a vaccination trial carried out with an inactivated vaccine against serotype 3 of infection with bluetongue virus in the last weeks. The vaccine was developed by a commercial company, and it is not authorised for marketing.

After the inoculation of the vaccine in sheep, animals presented clinical signs and tested positive by PCR to infection with BTV. The trial was immediately stopped and vaccinated animals were kept indoors, subject to movement restrictions and disinfected to prevent additional circulation of the virus.

German authorities are still investigating this issue, but it seems a problem with the inactivation of the vaccine.

### **M.03 Equine Infectious Anaemia outbreak in Germany.**

The representative of Germany presented an outbreak of equine infectious anaemia detected in March 2024. Measures in accordance with the Animal Health Law and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 were implemented. That outbreak concerned a horse moved to Germany without an animal health certificate and without a TRACES notification. The case was notified in ADIS, WAHIS and RASFF by Germany.