



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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 05 MARCH 2015 - 06 MARCH 2015
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 Information about an application from Finland for national measures to prevent the introduction of salmon alphavirus (SAV) to continental Finland.

Finland informed the Committee about an application submitted to the Commission for approval of national measures to prevent the introduction of salmonid alphavirus (SAV) to the continental parts of Finland in accordance with Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC. Different strains of this virus is known to cause diseases like Pancreas disease (PD) and Sleeping disease (SD) which have shown to cause substantial economic losses to farmed production of salmonid species both in Norway and some of the Member States. In their presentation Finland informed about the motivation for this application and the measures taken to document freedom of this disease and the further actions planned to prevent the introduction into the area of concern.

The Commission then informed the Committee about further process for following up on the Finnish application, which will be concluded by a draft proposal for an amendment of Decision 2010/221/EU.

A.02 Simplification of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing for small slaughterhouses as defined by Article 17 (6) of that regulation.

After a short presentation by the FR delegation to amend some requirements of paragraph 4.1 of Annex II to Regulation 1099/2009 for small slaughterhouses, UK, IT, DE, SK disagreed on the suggested amendments. AT declared that they will consult their experts but they were opposed at first sight. The Commission defended part of the FR suggestion since it could favour individual stunning for poultry (better than collective waterbath) and promote reduction of administrative burden. The Commission in particular doubted that the recording of data could be really exploited by small slaughterhouse operators or official inspection services. The Commission will now reflect on the possible follow up of this suggestion.

A.03 Update on the Standing Group of Experts on African swine fever in the Baltics and Eastern Europe region of GF-Tads.

The Commission updated on the main outcomes of the second meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on ASF in the Baltic and Eastern Europe Region under the FAO/OIE GF-TADs that took place in February 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. The final version of the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting in Tallinn, which are available along with all presentations on the dedicated OIE website (http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/Regprog/en_GF_TADS.htm), were distributed to Member States in hard copy at the meeting.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from Italy of disease-free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a zone comprising the fish farm Ponte Nossa in Bergamo.

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration submitted from Italy of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a zone in Bergamo comprising the fish farm Ponte Nossa and the water catchment of the creek Nossana downstream of the mentioned fish farm. The declaration is based on a four years surveillance programme for the diseases of concern without detection of the actual pathogens. The declaration is submitted in accordance with Article 50(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC.

Link to the declarations presented will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.05 Information from Italy on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

The Italian representative gave a presentation summarizing the low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) outbreaks in poultry during 2014 with five outbreaks (two caused by H5 and three H7 subtype). In 2015 so far two LPAI outbreaks, both of H5N2 subtype have been recorded in small holdings of ornamental birds in Veneto Region and in decoy birds in Tuscany.

A.06 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease in poultry.

The Romanian representative gave a presentation on a Newcastle disease outbreaks in a poultry backyard flock of 65 birds confirmed on 29 January 2015 in Dulcesti locality, Constanta County, in the South-East of Romania. All birds were culled. In the established protection and surveillance zones there were no commercial holdings. No further virus spread was observed during controls in the zones.

A.07 Information from Portugal on vaccination of mallard ducks against avian influenza.

The Portuguese representative reported on the implementation of the last preventive vaccination plan in one holding of valuable mallard ducks located in Vila Nova da

Barquinha in the region of Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, Ribatejo Norte. The plan ended in July 2014. The surveillance and laboratory testing results in vaccinated ducks and unvaccinated sentinel ducks, as well as the monitoring of the serological response to vaccination demonstrate that, virus circulation was successfully prevented in the vaccinated flock. (see point C.02).

A.08 Information on the "Conference on Wildlife, Health and Species Protection: converging or diverging objectives?" organized by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety in Brussels on 5 May 2015.

Information given.

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.

Following an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Békés County, Hungary, in a fattening duck holding, on 24 February 2014, the Commission adopted interim protective measures by Decision (EU) 2015/338. It provides that the protection and surveillance zones established by Hungary, in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC, are to comprise at least the areas listed in its Annex. These measures have now been reviewed within the framework of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and the areas under restrictions can now be described in a more precise manner and the duration of that regionalization fixed with 05/04/2015 at the latest.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration of Lithuania as officially tuberculosis-free as regards bovine herds.

Lithuania has submitted to the Commission documentation demonstrating compliance for its whole territory with the conditions laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC for officially tuberculosis-free status as regards bovine herds. Accordingly, it should be declared an officially tuberculosis-free Member State as regards bovine herds. The purpose of this Commission Implementing Decision is to amend Annex I to Decision 2003/467/EC accordingly.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plans for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Estonia and Latvia.

Estonia and Latvia presented their plans for the eradication of African swine fever (ASF). The Commission presented the new draft Commission Implementing Decision

approving the plans for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Estonia and Latvia.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States

The Commission presented the new draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States. It highlighted the need for a minor change in the body of the text in order improve the management of dead pigs from farms (animal by products) together with an update of the delimitation of regionalisation done taking into account the new epidemiological situation.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the format of the model health certificates for intra-Union trade in bovine animals and swine.

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision amending model animal health certificates for trade in bovine animals and swine set out in Annex F to Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

The amendments relate to box I.31. of the model animal health certificates where description of the animals forming the consignment is given. Still decision must be taken by Member States if official identification in case of bovine animals and birth date in case of swine is an information which should be obligatory or mandatory for the animals forming the consignment.

Vote postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision implementing Directive 2006/88/EC as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods for aquatic animal diseases to the Committee. This draft proposal was a revision of the document presented to the Committee at the PAFF Meeting of 4 February 2015, revised in line with the comments and suggested amendments received from the Member States within the time limit for sending out the documents to the PAFF Meeting 5 March. The Commission informed about the changes made to the document, and that new proposals for amendments had been received from France and Germany after the launch of the documents. As these proposals need to be taken into consideration

before a final draft can be presented to the Committee for a final opinion, the voting on the draft proposal was postponed until the PAFF Meeting 16 April.

Vote postponed

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution from the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy in 2012 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Italy towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2012.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision fixing the financial contribution from the Union for expenditure incurred by Cyprus in 2013 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease.

Item has been withdrawn.

Vote postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2016-2017 and the financing for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses.

The document contains the relevant information for Member States to design and establish the eradication, control and surveillance programmes to be implemented in 2016 and 2017, the available EU budget to co-finance those programmes and details on the eligible measures. Several comments and questions were raised by Member States, mainly to clarify the eligible costs for the different diseases (programmes) and to ask for an increase of the EU financial contribution. The Commission replied to clarify and to explain the reason why the EU financial contribution cannot increase (a specific budget is allocated each year for veterinary programmes and the financial contribution is allocated on the basis of specific priorities: diseases with impact on human health, on animal health, on both, on trade ect. and the unit cost of the eligible measures have been calculated on the basis of the information provided by each Member State.

Member States were requested to send their further comments, if any, by the end of March as the document should be voted at the next PAFF in April, to meet legal deadlines.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving a preventive vaccination plan against low pathogenic avian

influenza in a holding keeping mallard ducks in Portugal and certain provisions for their movements and products thereof .

Directive 2005/94/EC for the control of avian influenza (AI) provides that Member States may carry out emergency vaccination or preventive vaccination against AI on their territory under specific conditions laid down in that Directive. Since 2008 Portugal has carried out vaccination against AI under an EU approved vaccination plan in one holding keeping valuable mallard breeding ducks for restocking supplies of game which is located in Vila Nova da Barquinha in the region of Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, Ribatejo Norte. The decision to preventively vaccinate the ducks in this farm is based on the outcome of a risk assessment by the Portuguese authorities that deem this flock as being exposed to an increased risk for AI introduction. Portugal reported on the successful implementation of the last preventive vaccination plan to this Committee (see point A.07). On 1 February 2015, Portugal submitted a new plan for preventive vaccination against AI that shall be applied until end 2020. In order to detect a potential silent virus circulation in vaccinated birds, the plan foresees surveillance and laboratory testing of vaccinated ducks and unvaccinated sentinel birds, as well as restrictions of the movement of vaccinated ducks, their hatching eggs and mallard ducks derived from such ducks.

M.01 Additional information from Germany on glanders.

The representative from Germany presented complementary information on the epidemiological investigation relating to glanders infection which was detected in the district of Osnabrück (OS), Lower Saxony.

All contact horses were established and were tested with negative results.

The epidemiological investigation is on-going in 7 Landers and is not yet completed. The final report will be presented during the next PAFF Committee which will take place in April.

M.02 Information from Austria and Germany on IBR outbreaks.

The representatives from Austria and Germany presented information on IBR outbreaks occurred at their territories.

The epidemiological investigation is on-going in order to establish the source of the infection. All protection measures were implemented in order to stop the spread of the disease.

The Commission has requested detailed written reports on the situation from those Member States.

M.03 Information from the United Kingdom on printing problems regarding the new EU pet passport.

The United Kingdom (UK) representative informed Member States representatives that a printing mistake has been detected on a number of blank EU pet passports issued by a printing company. The passport serial number displayed at the cover page does not match with the passport serial number that should be displayed at the bottom

of each page of the passport. While the check on the serial number is not part of the compliance checks carried out at entry, the UK has informed ferry companies and operators of that mistake and would like to warn Member States that may encounter a similar problem, especially where a printing company is operating in several Member States.

The German representative requested to be informed of the details of the printing company involved.

The Commission representative advised Member States to ensure that blank EU pet passports already distributed to authorised veterinarians do not contain mistakes that could cause troubles to travellers.

M.04 Information from the United Kingdom regarding the new animal health certificate for non-commercial movement from third countries.

The United Kingdom (UK) representative informed Member States representatives that some third countries authorities are still issuing animal health certificates according to the old model laid down in Implementing Decision 2011/874/EU instead of the new one laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013, applicable as of 29/12/2014.

The Commission representative reminded Member States that the Commission informed early November 2014 third countries authorities through EU delegations of the new rules applicable to the movement of dogs, cats and ferrets as of 29/12/2014, including the model of certificates for non-commercial movements and imports. The Commission is ready to send out another letter to those third countries that have not yet implemented the new model of certificates.

M.05 Information on the issue of welfare during transport of ornamental fish.

The Commission presented the outcomes of an expert meeting on this subject held on 3 February 2015 aiming at solving practical problems when applying the transport regulation (Regulation 1/2005) for ornamental fish. Provisions related to certificate of approval of means of transport by road (art. 18), handling of animals by trained personnel (art. 6(4)) and transporter authorisation (art 10 and 11) were discussed and found irrelevant provided that IATA instruction 51 is applicable. Concerning the duration of the journey, experts concluded that it should aim at a maximum of 24 hours with a tolerance up to 48 hours. Austria, Germany and Italy, disagreed on the approach bringing up the need to review the transport regulation. The Commission doubted on the feasibility of this revision a short/medium term and insisted on the its pragmatic alternative.

M.06 Information concerning the inspections carried out on the requirements regarding animal welfare legislation in farms.

The Commission presented the analysis on the inspections carried out by the Member States in 2013. The data showed that 4.2% of the holding sites were inspected and 85% were found without non-compliances. Member States were requested to send no

later than 30 June by electronic means to the Commission the data on the inspections carried out during 2014.

M.07 Information exchange on porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) - raised by the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom invited the Committee on setting up an exchange or PED reporting data similar to what was done in the past for Shmallenberg virus. The Commission informed on the recent request for technical assistance it issued to EFSA for coordinating and harmonising the data collection on PED. EFSA would be invited in one of the future Committees to present this initiative.

M.08 Information from Croatia on bluetongue vaccination campaign - raised by Croatia.

Croatia presented its progress on the bluetongue vaccination campaign. The first round of vaccination was almost completed reaching an overall good vaccination coverage of all ruminants. A second campaign was being planned for the booster vaccination.

M.09 The German delegation informed about three cases of fatal encephalitis in humans.

The German delegation informed that three cases of fatal encephalitis in breeders of variegated squirrels in Germany are possibly linked to a newly identified type of Bornavirus, found in both affected humans and in squirrels. The three human cases took place between 2011 and 2013. Based on the currently available information, the new virus is clearly different from all previously known Bornaviruses. The transmission path so far is unknown, as well as the origin of the virus.