



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 08 JUNE 2017
(Section Animal Health & 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 Reminder on official checks related to the export of live animals to non-EU countries.

The Commission reiterated the importance of respecting the EU rules on animal welfare during transport in the context of the approaching summer and the current situation with the control posts in Bulgaria. Particular attention was also given to the letter sent in June 2016 to all CVOs on the official checks on live animal export to non-EU countries. The Commission presented a leaflet for drivers on the obligations to be fulfilled when transporting live animals to and through Turkey. The leaflet is available in seven languages (Bulgarian, Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian and Polish) and will be published on DG SANTE's website for free download.

Several Member States thanked the Commission for sending the letter to CVOs on live animal transport to non-EU countries and reported that the letter has been well taken into consideration. The letter has been forwarded to the attention of relevant authorities and stakeholders involved in the transport of animals.

A.03 Results of the 2016 rabies eradication programmes of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Hungary.

The results of the Hungarian, Bulgarian, Greek and Romanian 2016 rabies eradication programmes were presented.

A favourable epidemiological trend was observed compared to the previous year as the number of cases decreased in Romania from 29 cases in 2015 to 14 in 2016.

One case was detected in Hungary with no further expansion.

In Greece and Bulgaria no cases have been reported.

A.04 Information from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia on the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2016.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Croatia presented the results of the implementation of their ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2016. The trend in the eradication of ovine and caprine brucellosis in 2016 has been favourable, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in most of these Member States.

A.05 Information from Spain, Portugal and Italy on the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2016.

Spain, Portugal, and Italy presented the results of the implementation of their bovine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2016. The trend in the eradication of bovine brucellosis in 2016 has been favourable, with a decrease in herd prevalence and incidence in all these Member States.

A.06 Information from the Commission and Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Commission informed on the improvement of the overall epidemiological situation. However, some scattered outbreaks in poultry and captive birds have occurred in four Member States since the last update on the situation at this Committee. Italy reported an outbreak in one commercial fattening turkey holding and the United Kingdom in a backyard flock, while Belgium presented the situation in relation to one outbreak in captive birds and Luxembourg its first confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 in four captive bird holdings. No further suspicions were reported. The Commission informed about the adoption of an amendment to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on the regionalisation for affected Member States, scheduled for publication in the Official Journal of the EU the day following the Committee.

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from Germany of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the zone "Wassreinzugsgebiet der Sülze bis zur Mündung in die Werra bei Untermaßfeld".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Germany concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for a zone comprising three fish farms, and the water catchment area of the river Sülze from the spring to an artificial barrier at the estuary to the river Werra. The main farm in the zone is producing rainbow trout for human consumption, the others mainly trout for repopulation of open waters. A buffer zone is established downstream of the zone, which has been included in the surveillance scheme. The declaration is based on more than four years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

A.08 Information concerning a declaration from Italy of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Centro Ittico Sperimentale di Tomo".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Italy concerning a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status for IHN and VHS for a compartment in the Vento region comprising a fish farm breeding marble trout, brown trout and grayling for the purpose of repopulation of open waters. The surveillance programme is designed as a two year programme in accordance with Part 1 of Annex I to Decision 2015/1554/EU.

A.09 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Črna".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Slovenia on disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising a fish farm and parts of the stream Črna and the streams Rovtarica and Popitov potok. The fish farm is producing brown trout for repopulation of open waters and rainbow trout for human consumption. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

Information on the declarations presented under A.07, A.08 and A.09 can be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.10 Review of the African Swine Fever Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU.

Latvia presented the summary conclusion of the ministerial meeting on African swine fever held in Riga on 1-2 June 2017 co-organised by the Latvian authorities and the Commission.

The Commission presented the proposed changes in the African Swine Fever Strategy for Eastern Part of the EU done taking into account the discussions which took place at the ministerial meeting in Riga and the input received in writing by the Member States. Poland indicated that comments in writing would be submitted at a later stage. In absence of further requests for the floor, the Commission stated that this revised working document would be uploaded on DG SANTE's website and that a point for further discussion would be put for discussion at the following Committee.

After the point was closed, Poland indicated that it would be submitting a statement in writing which reads as follows:

"Poland has not given its consent to the publication of the presented revision of the document SANTE/7113/2015 - Rev 7 on Commission's website as the document was made available to the Member States via CIRCA website only in the afternoon of 2 June 2017 therefore Poland has not had enough time to analyse it and send its comments thereto. Furthermore, Poland would be grateful for receiving justification as to why certain comments provided by Poland to the previous revisions of the

document were not taken into account in order to better understand Commission's approach. Poland also continues to reiterate its request that the documents to be discussed at the Committee are provided by the Commission to the Member States well in advance and according to the Standard Rules of Procedures Committees (2011/C 206/06)."

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 correcting the French language version of Commission Decision 2004/558/EC implementing Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards additional guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and the approval of the eradication programmes presented by certain Member States.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision correcting the French Version of Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the text of Article 3(1)(b) laying down requirements for movement of certain bovine animals, in particular for testing of those animals kept in an isolation facility to Member States.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Part 2 of Annex E to Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the requirements for small hive beetle and the description of the commodities in the health certificate for trade in bees and bumble bees.

The Commission briefly explained the rationale for and some technical details of the proposal and regretted that concerns had only been raised very recently, although the issue has been on the table for months. Several Member States raised concerns orally about one particular item (distance of establishments of origin from SHB occurrences) either:

- in a general way,
- or by referring to scientific uncertainty,
- or deviation from OIE rules,
- or due to lack of definitions or lack of comprehensive summary of the Italian measures,
- or because of a combination of the above,

while generally supporting other parts of the proposal.

The Commission reiterated that this is an opportunity for more proportionate rules in an EU context, based on our unique experiences fighting SHB and asked Member States for constructive comments and alternative suggestions with the view of

discussion and possible vote again in early July. Italy indicated that it may draft and circulate a comprehensive document about their measures in place.

Vote postponed

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

Lithuania and Poland presented the epidemiological situation and data on the surveillance carried out for African swine fever. The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and explained how these measures aimed at increasing the sustainability of some of the measures while at the same time putting some new measures related to the changes in the epidemiological situation in some areas of Lithuania and Poland and taking into account the risk related to the seasonal pattern of the disease.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States.

The Commission provided a short update on the occurrence and control of lumpy skin disease (LSD) in South East Europe. This was followed by a presentation of the text of the draft Decision, which refines LSD control measures related to "free zones with vaccination" and "infected zones", particularly for the movement of live cattle within those zones, without compromising safe trade or increasing the risk of disease spread.

Vote postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2017 work programme on training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the framework of the 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme.

The Commission presented the draft BTSF work programme for 2017 and its financing decision for vote.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on certain protection measures in relation to the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal).

The Commission explained the context and provided detailed and technical explanations of the proposed protection measures. The Commission indicated that the temporary measures should be proportionate and as simple as possible but at the same time ensure safe intra EU trade and imports of salamanders. The Commission clarified that most of the proposed measures were based on the recent technical report from EFSA. Many Member States generally welcomed the proposal and were in favour of adopting measures and asked for clarification on certain points (e.g. size of epidemiological unit) or suggested some changes. Some Member States indicated that they will send further comments which the Commission encouraged and welcomed. The matter will be raised again at the next PAFF meeting.