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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**26-27 February 2025**

**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 Member States on African swine fever.**

Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia presented the last changes of the epidemiological situation in their territories and the following update of regionalization, reflected in the amendment of Annexes I and II to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 to the Commission and to Member States.

**A.03 State of play of the situation on bluetongue measures.**

Topic was briefly discussed and postponed to a future Committee meeting.

**A.04 Update on the latest activities addressing the illegal trade of cats and dogs.**

The Commission presented key findings, trafficking patterns, and highlighted enforcement challenges in the illegal trade of dogs and cats in the EU.

**A.05 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland, that are affected by outbreaks of HPAI in kept birds presented the updated epidemiological situation and measures taken.

The Commission reiterated the importance of appropriate biosecurity measures to be followed by the animal keepers to protect the infection of kept birds with HPAI virus, of the lessons learned by competent authorities from previous experiences with HPAI outbreaks, add or improving the measures to the particular epidemiological settings, and of the surveillance for HPAI as required by the Union Surveillance Programme for avian influenza, including for animals of non-listed species.

**A.06 Presentation from EFSA on the results of surveillance for avian influenza in the year of 2023.**

EFSA presented the main results of the surveillance for avian influenza carried out by Member States during 2023 and collected by EFSA in 2024. The Commission clarified that data on annual surveillance performed by Member States as required by the Union Surveillance Programme as laid down in Annex II to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 must be reported, as required by Article 6 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002, regardless of if that surveillance is part of an EU co-funding programme or not.

**A.07 Information from Member States on Newcastle disease.**

Poland presented updates on the epidemiological situation with the Newcastle disease outbreaks in kept birds and the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease.

**A.08 Information from Germany on the FMD situation and the measures applied.**

The Committee reviewed the foot and mouth disease (FMD) situation, with Germany providing an update on the measures taken, including additional surveillance, which confirmed that there was no spread of the disease. The Committee also reviewed management tools available for tracking animal movements and considered that the ongoing review of the Animal Health Law presented a good opportunity to assess whether any further measures were needed.

**A.09 One health surveillance: progress on ‘surveillance data’ submission and reporting.**

The Committee was informed about the progress on One Health surveillance, with a presentation from HaDEA outlining the timeframe for delivering the first-year outputs under the EU4Health action CP-g-22-04.01. The importance of providing surveillance results within the EFSA data collection framework was underlined.

**A.10 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.**

In Greece, a total of 360 outbreaks of sheep pox goat pox have been reported, between August 2024 and February 2025 (up to the time of the PAFF meeting) , the majority of those in the region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. Other affected areas, albeit with less outbreaks, include the islands of Lemnos, Euboea and Andros, and certain regional units of Thessaly to produce as well as the islands of Crete and Samothrace. In addition, outbreaks were reported for the first time in the island of Skyros. Certain restricted zones like in Lemnos and Andros islands as well as the regional units of Serres, Pieria, Larisa, and Korinthia have expired in the absence of additional secondary outbreaks, while surveillance is ongoing to the ones still in place (continuous surveillance cycles in restricted areas).

In Bulgaria, a total of 15 outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox have been reported, between September 2024 and February 2025 (up to the time of the PAFF meeting). These are in the south part of the country, distributed in the Yambol, Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Kardzhali and Sliven regions. Disease for the time persists in the Sliven region (latest outbreak reported, 31/1/2025). Surveillance is ongoing in the restricted zones still in place.

#### **A.11 Information from Member States on peste des petits ruminants.**

Bulgaria provided an update of the situation regarding of suspected outbreak detected in Pazardzhik region, November 2024. The killing and disposal of the animals in the outbreak is still on hold due to an appeal to the court against the measures imposed by the competent authority, coupled with negative public opinion. The outbreak currently remains restricted, surrounded by a protection, surveillance and a further restricted zone, with animals' movement restrictions in place. No change since the last PAFF meeting, apart from some additional surveillance with negative results.

Hungary presented the PPR situation in their territory, following the confirmation of an outbreak in Zala county, in animals originating from an assembly centre located in Romania, mid-January 2025. This was followed by the confirmation of two secondary outbreaks, with epidemiological links with the primary one and within short distance (three outbreaks in total, involving 3.253 animals, all in Zala county). Hungary has implemented measures of Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including establishment of protection, surveillance and further restricted zones around the outbreak. Surveillance to date involved sampling of more than 2.500 animals (mostly in Zala and Vas counties). Additional measures include standstill of small ruminants in Zala county until 06/02/2025, sampling for PPR in the whole territory of Hungary of all small ruminants which have been transported from Zala county as from 15/01/2025, ban on small ruminant exhibitions/markets in the whole of Hungary until 15/02/2025 etc.

Romania presented the actions taken, following information received from Hungary, on 27/01/2025 regarding detection of PPR in sheep originating from a Romanian assembly centre (AC). By 27/01/2025 the assembly centre was empty, with no reports of suspect clinical signs observed in it or in any establishment around it. Between December 2024 and January 2025 more than 8.500 small ruminants in total were shipped to Italy, Hungary and Albania. Investigations included the establishments of origin of the animals in the same AC (locations in twelve different counties of Romania) as well as animals slaughtered in Timis county on 27/01/2025 (all negative results). Romania temporarily suspended certification of live small ruminants for intracommunity trade as a precautionary measure.

#### **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 Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.**

The Commission presented the Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594.

The draft reflects changes of the epidemiological situation in Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia.

In Italy, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia, new restricted zones II and I have been established following the confirmation of several outbreaks in wild porcine animals near disease-free areas. Thanks to the improvements of the ASF epidemiological situation in wild and domestic porcine animals in Germany, Italy and Poland certain restricted zones III have been reverted to restricted zones II, as the disease is still present

in wild porcine animals, some restricted zones II have been reverted to restricted zone I and certain restricted zones I have been lifted. Finally, in Germany, based on the improvements in wild porcine animals and the absence of further outbreaks, the infected zone established in Brandenburg in November 2024 has been lifted.

**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.**

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 was presented for a formal vote. The HPAI regionalization was amended in response to outbreaks of HPAI in poultry or captive birds in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Hungary and Poland, and in the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Impementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece.**

Point withdrawn from the agenda. Vote will be taken at a later date by written consultation.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 concerning certain emergency measure relating to sheet and goat pox in Bulgaria.**

Point withdrawn from the Agenda, currently no need to further update measures / zoning.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Hungary.**

In response to the first outbreak of PPR in Hungary, the Commission adopted Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/255 of 31 January 2025. This Decision was presented for a vote according to EU legal requirements.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/XXX concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Hungary.**

Point withdrawn from the Agenda, currently no need to further update measures / zoning.

**B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3238 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Bulgaria.**

Point withdrawn from the Agenda. Vote on an further update of measures / zoning to be taken at a later date by written consultation, depending on the evolution of the epidemiological situation.