

**Minutes of the meeting of the expert group  
to discuss working documents in relation to draft delegated acts on germinal products  
under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 –E00930**

**18 May 2018, Brussels**

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A preliminary agenda was circulated and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The working documents to be discussed were provided in advance.

**2. NATURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries' representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted that the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament were not represented at the meeting.

**3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS**

Two working documents have been presented by the Commission and discussed during this expert group meeting:

- (a) the working document on the approval of germinal product establishments, traceability and animal health requirements for the movements within the Union of germinal products of certain kept terrestrial animals;
- (b) the working document on the animal health requirements for the entry into the Union, movement and handling after the entry of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin from third countries and territories.

The working document referred to in point (a) was a revised version of the working document already presented during the expert group meeting on 16 April 2018. The amendments introduced in the working document were the outcome of the comments received by the Commission from the Member States.

The working document referred to in point (b) was presented to this expert group for the first time. It included animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of germinal products. In order to give a background for the discussion on the provisions for the entry into the Union of germinal products, the working document also included general provisions for the entry into the Union and animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of live animals, which should be fulfilled by germinal products donor animals originating in third countries.

The rule should be that the requirements for the entry into the Union of germinal products should mirror those for the movements within the Union.

**4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS**

The conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- 1. In accordance with the working document under (a) a centre or team veterinarian should apply **a seal on a container** with germinal products which are to be moved to another Member State. The experts pointed out that there should also be a provision allowing the official veterinarian to break the seal applied by the centre veterinarian and to reseal the consignment after checking

the consignment before certification. The Commission undertook to amend the text of the working document accordingly.

2. The experts welcomed draft provisions for movement of germinal products stored at **gene banks** and those for **scientific purposes**. At the same time they agreed that those requirements already presented in the working document should be supplemented by some basic requirements for major diseases as i.e. foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. In addition an obligation for the notification of movement of such consignments via TRACES should be included in the working document. The Commission undertook to amend the text of the working document accordingly.
3. The experts agreed on the animal health requirements for the movement of **semen of camelid** and **cervid animals**. Such animal health requirements should be in line with those for movement of kept camelid and cervid animals. There was also an agreement for the animal health requirements for the movement of **semen of dogs**. Equivalent provisions should be laid down for the entry into the Union of semen of those species. However, a decision was not yet taken in relation to **semen of cats, ferrets and bees**. The Commission undertook to reflect on this issue.
4. On the use of **mixed semen**, the experts agreed that the working document should not contain any reference to the breeding programmes approved under Regulation (EU) 2016/1012<sup>1</sup>, as it is not an animal health condition.
5. The experts suggested that provisions on animal health certification and **movement notification**, in particular those related to procedures for **TRACES**, presented in the working document should be screened to be in line with the provisions on **IMSOC** under Regulation (EU) 2017/625<sup>2</sup>.
6. The experts suggested that animal health requirements related to **ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)** are only relevant for ovine animals and those caprine animals which are kept together with ovine animals.
7. Expert from one Member State, supported by another Member State, suggested the possibility to allow admission to a semen collection centre of bulls vaccinated with a marker vaccine for **infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis**, that allows DIVA testing of seropositive animals to exclude infection with the wild virus. This point should still be discussed during the next expert group meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation') (OJ L 171, 29.6.2016, p. 66)

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1).

8. The suggestion of lifting an obligation of the compulsory routine tests of bovine animals at semen collection centres for **bovine genital campylobacteriosis** and **trichomonosis** will be verified by the Commission in the EFSA opinions and other possible sources.
9. The experts requested clear provisions in the working document stating that even if **a donor animal is moved between semen collection centres** its yearly compulsory routine tests are valid for the 12 months and there is no need to retest it before and after each of such movements. The Commission undertook to amend the text of the working document accordingly.
10. The experts acknowledged the prudent use of **antibiotics**, however preferred that in particular with the view to possible exports, the use of antibiotics in semen diluents should be in line with OIE recommendations.

## 5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working documents at any moment, without specifying a deadline for their submission.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve text of the working documents.

## 6. NEXT MEETING

The Commission intends to organise following meetings where revised versions of the working documents will be presented:

- (a) on 18 June 2018 (afternoon) – the expert group meeting to discuss a draft delegated act on approval of germinal product establishments, traceability and animal health requirements for the movements within the Union of germinal products of certain kept terrestrial animals;
- (b) on 3 July 2018 - the expert group meeting to discuss a draft delegated act on the entry into the Union of live animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.