



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 07 JULY 2015 - 08 JULY 2015  
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

**A.01 Information from Germany on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.**

The German representative reported on an outbreak of LPAI H7N7 officially confirmed on 11/06/2015 in a poultry holding keeping 36.100 laying hens in free range. The poultry was culled the same day and disposed of safely. The 1km restriction zone was established. Epidemiological investigations did not reveal any spread of infection.

**A.02 Information from Portugal on the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis and ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2014.**

Portugal presented the results of the implementation of the bovine brucellosis and ovine and caprine brucellosis eradication programmes in 2014. The 2014 trend in the eradication of bovine brucellosis has shown a slight increase in herd prevalence and incidence in some regions, in which animal movement controls and vaccination will be reinforced. As regards the results of the ovine and caprine eradication programme, the trend is favourable as herd prevalence and incidence have both decreased in 2014 in Portugal.

**A.03 Information on the outcome of the financial implementation of the 2014 eradication programmes.**

The Commission informed the Member States on the outcome of the financial implementation of the 2014 eradication programs. The presentation followed the trend of the total amounts initially allocated to the 2014 eradication programs, requested by the Member States during the re-allocation exercise completed in 2014, re-allocated by the Commission during the re-allocation exercise in 2014, and finally claimed by the Member States in 2015. The "best case scenario" was discussed while tracking the financial cycle disease by disease.

**A.04 Guidelines for Member States for EU funding of veterinary emergency measures.**

The Commission presented the Guidelines for Member States for EU funding of veterinary emergency measures after the review and finalization of the document done during the meeting of the dedicated Working Group. The present Guidelines aim to provide comprehensive guidance to the Member States on some important concepts and processes, criteria, categories, components and conditions for eligibility of costs, ineligible costs, supporting documents to be presented to allow for the identification and verifiability of the amounts declared. The views, comments, and recommendations of the Working Group members have been taken into consideration.

**A.05 Information concerning two declarations from Slovenia on a surveillance programme and disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for compartments in Slovenia.**

The Commission informed about two declarations from Slovenia concerning a surveillance programme and disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS.

The first declaration is concerning a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status as regards IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising a fish farm (SIRIB050105), the breeding stream Črna from its spring to the natural barrier, and the streams Rovtarica and Popitov potok. The fish farm is producing brown trout for restocking purposes and rainbow trout for human consumption. The prepared surveillance programme is in line with Model B of Decision 2001/183/EC, which means a two year programme with reduced sample size based on a systematic surveillance of the farm over the last four years.

The second declaration is concerning declaration of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising one fish farm (SIRIB050115) in Bohinsjka Bistrica in accordance with point 4.1 of part II of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC, which means a new farm commencing its activities with aquaculture animals from a compartment declared free of the actual diseases without undergoing the required sampling required for approval.

**A.06 Information concerning two declarations of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for zones in the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Region of Liguria.**

The Commission informed the Committee about two declarations from Italy concerning disease-free status with regard to IHN and VHS for zones in Italy.

The first declaration is concerning the zone "Alto Sarcha" in the Autonomous Province of Trento comprising the water catchment area of the river Sarca between two artificial barriers, and in addition three different fish farms. One of these farms is producing fry of trout for restocking of the Sarca River. The other farms are facilities

comprising ponds for sports angling based live material introduced from farms declared free of IHN and VHS. The declaration is based on four years of targeted surveillance of fish from the different facilities in the zone without detection of the pathogens of concern.

The second declaration is concerning the hatchery FIPAS in the Mogliana Creek drainage in the Liguria region. This hatchery is producing fry of brown trout for restocking of public waters in the actual area. All eggs introduced for hatching have been originating from farms or zones declared free of IHN and VHS, and targeted surveillance of this hatchery has been carried out for the last five years without detecting the pathogens of concern.

**A.07 Information about and presentation of the main conclusions from the EFSA scientific opinion on oyster mortality published 5 June 2015.**

Presentation given.

**A.08 EFSA scientific opinion on canine leishmaniosis.**

Presentation given.

**A.09 African swine fever - Update from Latvia on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied.**

Latvia presented an update on the African swine fever (ASF) epidemiological situation and control measures applied. Reference was made to the two outbreaks which occurred in the already restricted areas of Latvia (Part III of Implementing Decision 2014/709) and on the ongoing measures to further increase the biosecurity measures in commercial pig holdings and backyard.

**A.10 Information on the scientific opinion of EFSA on African swine fever.**

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on African swine fever (ASF). The Committee noted the issues related to wild boar density and the role played by carcasses in relation to the persistence of the disease. The Commission informed that the new findings would be considered in order to review the EU strategy on ASF.

**A.11 Update from EFSA on the scientific and technical assistance on the collection and review of updated scientific epidemiological data on porcine epidemic diarrhoea.**

EFSA presented the progress on the request for scientific and technical assistance on porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED). The Committee welcomed the initiative but advised to proceed with caution when dealing with data of a non-OIE-listed disease such as PED. The non-harmonised data collection, along with an incomplete dataset collected were part of the problem. The Commission reminded that Member States

were involved in this process both as data providers as well with the provision of relevant expertise.

**A.12 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on bluetongue in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.**

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the CVET mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**A.13 Information concerning a declaration of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a fish farm in the Varese Province of Italy.**

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration from Italy of disease-free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a zone comprising the farm "Piscicoltura of Brusimpiano" and parts of the water catchment area of the Tallo creek, which constitutes the water supply source to this farm. The farm of concern is the only fish farm in the flow of the Tallo creek, and there are several natural barriers in the creek that prevent fish from climbing up to the water caption zone from which the fish farm is supplied.

The zone has been subject to targeted surveillance in accordance with Model B of decision 2001/183/EC since 2006 with no detection of the pathogens of concern, and new material introduced into this zone has only been originating from disease free areas.

All the declarations presented under the items A. 05., 06. and 013. has been submitted in accordance with Article 50 of Directive 2006/88/EC, and links 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](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)

**A.14 Update on the Lumpy skin disease situation in neighbouring countries.**

The Commission reported on the outbreaks of lumpy skin disease (LSD) that occurred in Turkey, near the border of Greece and Bulgaria and on the ongoing exchange of information with the Turkish Competent Authorities. The preventive measures prepared by Greece were also discussed.

**A.15 Information on several points related to animal transport and export of live animals.**

The Commission updated and discussed with Member States issues related to animal transport and live animal exports.

The Commission informed Member States on the Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 23 April 2015 in Case C – 424/13 concerning animal

transport. This judgment requires the organiser of the journey to submit to the competent authorities of the place of departure a realistic journey log which indicates that the provisions of the EU Regulation on the protection of animals during transport will be complied with, including in the stages of the journey taking place outside the EU. The focus of the judgment is on the checks of the journey log to be carried out by the competent authority at the place of departure under Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 as well as on the actions that competent authorities can take on the basis of such checks. Following formal requests of clarifications by Member States on the practical implications of the judgement, DG SANTE will consult the Legal Service of the Commission, according to Commission's procedures, as to interpret and assess the practical implications going beyond its specific focus. On this basis, the Commission will reply formally to the letters received by Member States.

In this context, the Commission also brought to the attention of the Member States the recent incident of the consignment of sheep from Romania to Jordan, highlighting the potential animal welfare risks due to high trade flow and overload of the official control system. Therefore the Commission called on Member States to perform a careful risk assessment in relation to the exports of live animals and strengthen consequently the official controls as to prevent such cases in the future.

Finally the Commission reported on the successful outcome of the Workshop on welfare practices at the time of slaughter held in Lebanon in March 2015 and attended by delegates from Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Palestine, Algeria and Egypt. This event was followed up by a BTSF Workshop on animal welfare during transport and at the time of killing held in Ispra (IT) on 1-3 July 2015 and attended by delegates from 19 countries, including from the Middle East and North Africa. The Commission also called on the support of Member States to identify issues in the countries where they export as to act jointly to address them in possible future follow-up initiatives.

**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 items raised.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes XI, XII and XV to Council Directive 2003/85/EC as regards the list of and minimum security standards applicable to laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus.**

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision amending Annexes XI, XII and XV to Council Directive 2003/85/EC. The amendments result from the outcome of series of FVO audits in Member States on bio-security in laboratories and establishments authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus. They relate to the update of lists of laboratories authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus, of a list of tasks and duties of national laboratories and of a reference to the latest international biosecurity standards.

There were no comments from Member States to the document.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 2009/177/EC as regards the disease free status for the whole territory of Croatia for koi herpes virus (KHV) disease.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 2009/177/EC as regards disease free status for the whole territory of Croatia for koi herpes virus (KHV) disease to the Committee. The draft was also presented to the Committee on the meeting 6 May 2015. No comments or amendment proposals to this draft decision have been received following this meeting.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the financial contribution from the Union for expenditure incurred by the Netherlands in 2011, 2012 and 2013 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza.**

The purpose of this Decision was to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to the Netherlands towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

**Vote taken:** favourable opinion

**M.01 Norway informed Member States' representatives about the consequences of the delayed incorporation of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 into the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement.**

A statement issued and published by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority at [http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/animals/travelling\\_with\\_pets/the\\_issuing\\_of\\_pet\\_passports\\_in\\_accordance\\_with\\_decision\\_2003803ec\\_passports\\_issued\\_in\\_norway.18595](http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/animals/travelling_with_pets/the_issuing_of_pet_passports_in_accordance_with_decision_2003803ec_passports_issued_in_norway.18595) informs the Member States that until those two Regulations are made part of the aforementioned agreement, pets travelling to Member States from Norway will be accompanied by a passport issued in accordance with the model laid down in the Annex to Decision 2003/803/EC instead of the one provided for in Annex IV to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013, applicable from 29 December 2014.

The Commission representative reminds Norway's representative that according to the EEA Agreement, the incorporation of the EU acquis into the EEA Agreement should take place "as closely as possible to the adoption by the Community of the corresponding new Community legislation with the view to permitting a simultaneous application of the latter".

The Commission representative informs Member States that following informal consultation with EFTA Secretariat Norway has committed to produce a draft Joint Committee Decision introducing the two EU acts into the EEA Agreement in the early autumn.

**M.02 The representative of France informed the Committee about a notification of a VHS case made the 19 June 2015 based on a detection of the virus from one Atlantic salmon in the "département des Haute-Pyrénées".**

The detection was made from a species that is regarded not to be susceptible to this disease. In addition the virus detected has been showing a 100% homology to a virus strain isolated in 1991, and when retesting of fish from the same ponds was done three weeks later, the test results were negative with regard to VHS. Suspicion of laboratory contamination during the testing procedure at French national reference laboratory could therefore be suspected.

Considering the complexity of this case France therefore asked for support and advice from the Commission and/or the EU reference laboratory with regard to further control and surveillance measures to be taken.

The Commission replied that this request would be followed up as soon as possible.