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 Controls and Import Conditions)

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

A.01 Information from the Commission on highly pathogenic avian influenza in North America.

The Commission representative reported that since the beginning of the epidemic in mid December 2014 223 HPAI outbreaks of the H5N8 and H5N2 subtypes were reported in poultry in the United States. Since 17 June 2015 no further HPAI outbreaks have been detected. The USA however prepares for a possible reoccurrence of HPAI in autumn linked to the southward migration of wild birds.

A.02 Information on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific requirements for gelatine, collagen and highly refined products of animal origin intended for human consumption and a draft Commission Implementing Regulation drawing up lists of third countries, parts of third countries and territories from which Member States are to authorise the introduction into the Union of certain products of animal origin intended for human consumption, laying down certificates requirements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and repealing Decision 2003/812/EC to be voted in the PAFF Committee on Biological Safety of the Food Chain.

Units G4 and G2 presented and explained the draft documents which are meant to establish import requirements, lists of third countries and certificates for gelatines, collagens, highly refined products and other products of animal origin for their manufacture. The Commission explained also the relevant animal health import requirements provided for in the draft.

Member States asked some questions mainly regarding the issue of origin of the different products of the establishments.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in third countries.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2011/163/EU on the approval of plans submitted by third countries in accordance with Article 29 of Council Directive 96/23/EC.

The Commission proposed to amend Decision 2011/163/EU which recognises residue monitoring plans in third countries wanting to export products of animal origin to the EU. The Commission proposed recognising the residues monitoring plans for Andorra (honey), Morocco (poultry) and for Armenia, Kenya and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (aquaculture).

The proposal aimed also to clarify the territorial coverage of the residue monitoring plan for Israel.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for South Africa in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The draft Regulation foresees the re-authorisation of ratite meat imports from South Africa to the Union following a request from South Africa and its declaration of freedom from highly pathogenic influenza. Based on the positive outcome of the evaluation of the information and guarantees provided by South Africa, the Commission services concluded that imports of ratite meat may resume from the whole territory of South Africa.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for South Africa in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

This draft is linked to point B.04 of the agenda. The draft Decision foresees that following South Africa's declaration of freedom from HPAI that meat products made from ratite meat may again be imported into the Union, if they have only undergone a non-specific treatment instead of a heat treatment to mitigate the risks of HPAI virus transmission by such products during the previous HPAI outbreaks in that country.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation extending the period of application of Regulation (EU) No 743/2013 introducing protective measures on imports of bivalve molluscs from Turkey.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for the United States in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in that country.

The draft foresees the regionalisation at county level for the restrictions of imports of poultry commodities from South Dakota, Indiana and Nebraska. The United States have reported the completion of cleaning and disinfection measures following the stamping-out of poultry on previously HPAI infected holdings in the States of Arkansas, California, Indiana and Missouri for which dates should be indicated when the affected areas in these States may again be considered free of HPAI and imports into the Union may resume (linked to A.01).

Vote taken: favourable opinion

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending the model certificates for imports into the Union of meat preparations, meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, as well as fresh meat of domestic solipeds set out in Decisions 2000/572/EC and 2007/777/EC and Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regards public health requirements for residues.

The Commission presented a draft Regulation amending the model certificates for imports into the Union of meat preparations, meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines, as well as fresh meat of domestic solipeds set out in Decisions 2000/572/EC and 2007/777/EC and Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 as regards public health requirements for residues.

It was explained that the draft proposes a residency period of six months for horses in the exporting country which has an approved residue plan before slaughter for export of their meat to the Union.

Several Member States expressed their inability to support the proposal mainly because it proposes different measures than the ones applied in the Union. Also they mentioned potential welfare problems due to the long residency period before slaughter.