



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 OCTOBER 2015 - 08 OCTOBER 2015
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 Report from the EU Reference Laboratory on surveillance for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds in Member States during 2014.

The representative from the EU Reference Laboratory on avian influenza gave a presentation on the results of the EU co-financed surveillance programme in Member States. About 20.000 poultry holdings were sampled and tested. Laying Hens (conventional & free-range), Chicken Breeders and backyard Flocks were the most frequently tested categories. 38 holdings of all holdings tested, were seropositive for H5 avian influenza subtype (mostly ducks) and only 5 were seropositive for H7 subtype (mostly laying hens). Avian influenza viruses were detected in 34 wild birds in 10 Member States. No highly pathogenic avian influenza virus of the subtype H5N1 was detected during 2014.

A.02 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease in poultry.

The Romanian representative gave a presentation on one outbreak of Newcastle disease that was confirmed on 08/09 in a farm keeping 65.000 broilers located in Suceava County in the North of Romania. All poultry was culled in the following couple of days and safely disposed of. Farm visits and epidemiological investigations revealed no further virus spread.

A.03 The Annual Report on certain diseases of bovine animals and swine for 2014.

The Commission informed the Committee that a final version of the annual report on certain diseases of bovine animals and swine for 2014, based on Directives 64/432/EEC and 91/68/EEC, is ready and will be published on the Commission webpage next day. All the comments submitted by Member States to the draft document discussed under point A.01 of AHW agenda of the PAFF Committee on 9-10 September 2015 were included in the final version. The Commission requested for the information if any Member State wish to receive the report in a specially published paper version or electronic publication on the Commission webpage is

enough. There were no requests for the paper version of the report from the Committee.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a compartment in the stream Kanomljica.

The Commission informed about a declarations from Slovenia concerning a surveillance programme in order to achieve disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a compartment in the stream Kanomljica from its source to the barriers at a Hydro-electric power station. The fish farm is managed by the local Fishing club and the main production is rearing of marble trout for repopulation of open waters. The surveillance programme is prepared in line with Model B of Decision 2001/183/EC which means a two year programme with reduced sample size based on systematic surveillance of the farm over the last four years.

A.05 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 "Soča Nova Gorica".

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration from Slovenia concerning disease-free status with regard to IHN and VHS for the compartment "Soča Nova Gorica". The compartment comprises a fish farm producing Marble trout fry and fingerlings for repopulation of open waters based on eggs imported from areas declared free of those diseases. The production cycle is in average four months, and the hatchery/fish farm stays empty for the rest of the year. The declaration is based on absence of susceptible species for the actual diseases.

During the discussion a question was raised about whether Marble trout can be recognized as a non-susceptible species with regard to VHS and IHN having in mind an article published in "Aquaculture" this year indicates probable susceptibility for the Marble trout to those diseases. The Commission replied that the Union legislation, which in this aspect is based on list of susceptible species set out in the OIE Aquatic Manual, still recognize Marble trout as a non-susceptible species.

Both declarations presented under the items A. 04 and 05 have consequently 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

A.06 Information from Italy on recent developments of the small hive beetle situation in Calabria and Sicily.

Italy gave a presentation on the evolution of the small hive beetle epidemiology in Calabria and Sicily. 4 new cases have been detected in Calabria from 16 to 29

September 2015 in apiaries located in the restricted zone. At this stage, the Italian competent authorities are still applying eradication measures including destruction of infected apiaries and soil treatment.

Surveillance in the affected Regions is ongoing and will continue in 2016.

A.07 Presentation from Lithuania and Italy of the main issues concerning the implementation of the EU funded rabies programmes in 2014.

Presentations from Member States of their 2014 rabies programmes: IT and LT presented their programmes showing the positive situation in both countries as no cases have been detected.

A.08 Presentation from Member States of the main issues concerning the implementation of the EU funded CSF programmes in 2014.

Presentation from Member States of their 2014 CSF programmes: The situation is evolving positively in all Member States that presented their programme, namely, BG, DE, HR, HU, RO and SK.

A.09 Updated strategy of EU on African swine fever and regionalisation policy.

The Commission presented the working documents on the ASF strategy and a set of principles for defining ASF regionalisation. Following a discussion the document on principles for defining ASF regionalisation was endorsed by the Committee.

A.10 Update by France on the bluetongue situation and the control measures in place.

France presented an update on the bluetongue situation following the occurrence of serotype 8 in the centre of France. The Committee examined the restriction measures in place and the need to assess the benefits of vaccination in comparison with the costs caused by the diseases. The Commission invited Member States to provide information on any bilateral agreement under Article 8 of Regulation 1266/2007.

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 laying down the conditions for setting out the programme for emergency vaccination of bovine animals against lumpy skin disease in Greece and amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1500.

The Greek representative presented the current animal health situation as regards lumpy skin disease in Greece. By now the outbreaks of lumpy skin disease were

confirmed in 4 regional units (Evros, Xanthi, Kavala and Limnos), safeguard measures, as provided for in Council Directive 92/119/EEC, were implemented in 5 regional units (Evros, Rodopi, Xanthi, Kavala and Limnos; Rodopi is affected with the surveillance zone established in Xanthi) and vaccination was implemented in 5 regional units in Greece, where 100% of animals in protection and surveillance zones were already vaccinated.

The Commission presented the draft document SANTE/7098/2015. The aim of the proposal is to set out the conditions for the programme for emergency vaccination of bovine animals against lumpy skin disease in Greece and to amend the safeguard measures provided for in Commission Implementing Decision 2015/1500/EU as a result of introduction of that vaccination programme. The Committee welcomed the document prepared by the Commission.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/909/EU by extending the period of application of the protection measures in relation to the small hive beetle in Italy.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/909/EU by extending the period of application of the protective measures in relation to the small hive beetle in Italy.

As a consequence of the detection of new cases of small hive beetle in Calabria, and in view of avoiding the spread of the parasite to unaffected Member States, it is opportune to extend the restrictive measures provided for in Decision 2014/909/EU until 31 of March 2017. This period takes into account the need for the collection of new data on the epidemiological situation of the small hive beetle through surveillance actions to be carried out in 2016 and their evaluation.

The measures in place include prohibition of movements of live bees, bumble bees and a number of apicultural products from the Regions of Calabria and Sicily.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union financial contribution to emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Bulgaria in 2015.

The purpose of this Decision is to adopt the financial contribution from the Union to Bulgaria towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2015.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending and correcting Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/144 laying down the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment, and the information relating thereto, in respect of the emergency measures against animal diseases referred to in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending and correcting Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/144 laying down the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment, and the information relating thereto, in respect of the emergency measures against animal diseases referred to in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. There were no questions raised by the Member States regarding the nature and the scope of the amendments introduced.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission implementing Decision laying down standard requirements for the submission by Member States of national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for Union financing and repealing Decision 2008/425/EC.

The Commission presented the document that has been welcomed by the Member States as it is simplifying and clarifying the procedure and the content of the templates to be used by Member States to submit national programmes for EU financial contribution. AT, PL, ES asked to improve the visibility of the templates in the web and ES suggested to add a sentence in whereas n.6 in order to clarify that all the modifications needed in the future in the templates will be presented to the Member States during a PAFF. Member States have been requested to send their further comments in writing by 16 October at the latest in order to finalise the document to be voted at the next PAFF.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented for discussion some proposals for amending the current derogations to African swine fever restriction measures in place under Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709. The Committee welcomed the initiative and provided several suggestions on the risk mitigating measures. The Commission clarified that derogations could be foreseen only for commodities that would be more easily controllable in order to avoid increasing the risk of disseminating the disease. A formal proposal would be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.