

Brussels, 28 June 2023

**Minutes of the first meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft Delegated Regulation (EU) on compartments for terrestrial animals (poultry)**

**E00930**

**on 27 June 2023, Brussels**

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda approved was as circulated prior to the meeting as part of the invitation.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public. The meeting was organised hybrid: some experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health attended physically in Brussels (Van Maerlant 18), while the other experts attended it remotely via Webex. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

The draft for discussion (PLAN/2023/1113) was circulated to the experts ahead of the meeting..

**3. List of points discussed**

**3.1. Introduction**

The Chair recalled that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on rules for approval and recognition of disease-free status of compartments keeping terrestrial animals (the draft).

The Commission presented the proposed rules related to the terrestrial animals, limited to poultry. The Commission explained the rationale for the proposed text with the presentation, as well as the consequences of this draft to other related delegated or implementing acts.

The rules for compartments of terrestrial animals (poultry) have been proposed based on:

- the existing rules provided for in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law, AHL) as regards compartments, and taking account of rules in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 that regard disease control measures;
- (repealed) Commission Regulation (EC) No 616/2009 of 13 July 2009 on the approval of poultry compartments.

**3.2. Exchange of views as regards a draft Delegated Regulation (EU) on compartments for terrestrial animals (poultry).**

Experts thanked the Commission for the draft rules that would allow to establish and approve compartments for terrestrial animals, as provided for in the AHL, especially for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The discussions on the draft focussed on the conditions for approval of such compartments, and on the procedures to be followed.

Some experts raised concerns on the possibility or not for the approval of cross-border compartments. The Commission explained that this would be addressed at a later stage.

Certain experts asked the Commission to further reflect on:

- the prerequisite conditions to be complied with before the application, such as the approval or registration of the establishments comprising the compartment;
- the establishments that could not be part of a compartment;
- the amount of responsibility of the compartment manager;
- the level of details to be included in the rules, related to the biosecurity and the surveillance plans;
- the delegation of the approval by the competent authority;
- the frequency of inspections after approval;
- some detailed aspects of measures of biosecurity to be applied to poultry establishments, and of surveillance schemes to be applied to HPAI.

The Commission noted all the comments and answered that they will be considered, together with further written comments, in the next revision of the draft.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and invited them to provide their written feedback by 20 July 2023.

#### **5. Next steps**

The Commission will use the outcomes of the discussion and the opinions obtained during this expert group meeting and the requested written comments to develop a revised version of the draft.

The Commission plans to organise a second meeting of the Expert Group during the month of October 2023.