

# **Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group to discuss a delegated act on prevention and control rules of certain listed diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/429**

**6 June 2018, Brussels**

## **1. Approval of the agenda**

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and agreed at the beginning.

## **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 the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

## **3. List of points discussed**

### **A. Introduction**

The Commission presented the scheduled calendar for the forthcoming months, explaining that the discussion for this meeting will be focussed on the control measures of "category A diseases" of terrestrial animals. The Commission indicated that the draft circulated previously to the meeting is a preliminary one and the intention of the meeting is to discuss and agree on the approach presented and not on details. The Commission asked Member States for their feedback, by 29 June 2018.

### **B. Overview of the structure of the delegated act in Part III**

The Commission explained the structure of the Part III of the Regulation 2016/429 ("Animal Health Law (AHL)") on disease awareness, preparedness and control, focussing on the empowerments for which detailed rules will be developed in the delegated act.

The Commission clarified that the aim was to replace the current control measures of "category A, B and C" diseases by supplementing the rules already set down in the AHL in a single delegated act. In practice, it would mean to incorporate in the new legal act the detailed rules on diseases control measures of the following directives DIR 92/119/EEC, DIR 92/35/EEC, DIR 2006/88/EC, DIR 2003/85/EC, DIR 2001/89/EC, DIR 2002/60/EC, DIR 2005/94/EC and DIR 92/66/EEC.

### **C. Presentation and exchange of views with Member States on prevention and control rules of certain listed diseases**

The Commission highlighted that the draft presented does not include all the empowerments for which the Commission is obliged to, or may, develop further detailed rules. A new version will be circulated ahead of the next meeting.

The Commission presented the core content of the measures as regards:

- obligations on operators: experts from Member States agreed to incorporate detailed actions to be carried out by operators.
- investigation by the competent authority in establishments where a "category A disease" of terrestrial animals is suspected: some experts raised concerns on the designation by the competent authority of an official veterinarian to be responsible of the investigation.

- preliminary disease control measures to be applied in establishments where a "category A disease" of terrestrial animals is suspected: some experts expressed the need to simplify the measures to avoid a likely underreporting of suspicions from operators.
- temporary restriction zone: the representative from the Commission clarified that the ban of the movements could apply to the whole Member State.
- official confirmation: requested by an expert, the representative from the Commission explained that the samples should be sent to an official laboratory to confirm or rule out the presence of the disease and that the sample procedures and methods will be included in the annexes.
- disease control measures in case of official confirmation of an outbreak of a "category A disease": some experts requested simplification for the sampling in this event.
- sharing information between national official laboratories and Union reference laboratory: one expert requested greater integration between the different actors as regards the notification of animal diseases database.
- cleaning and disinfection and control of insects and rodents: one expert insisted that an official certification once the cleaning and disinfection have been carried out should be requested.
- measures to be applied in different separate epidemiological units: one expert was of the opinion that the period of time to consider if an establishment has independent units should be defined.
- measures in slaughterhouses, border control posts and means of transport: some experts raised questions on the different situations that could happen on those locations. One expert suggested that stopping the introduction of animals in those premises is the key aspect and should be clearly included in the text.
- measures in specific premises keeping listed animals: the representative of the Commission clarified the two possible situations: the outbreak is located either in the vicinity or within the specific premise and which premises are meant to be included.
- establishment of the restricted zones: some experts considered that posting signs to demarcate the zone should be replaced by more contemporary means including social media advertisements.
- measures in the protection zone: some experts raised concerns on the period of time proposed for visiting the establishments within the protection zone and proposed to give more flexibility on the visits.
- derogations from the ban of movements in the protection zone: an expert asked for a wider exemption taking into account certain categories of animals and the way they are reared.
- measures to fresh meat produced in the protection zone: the majority of experts were of the opinion that an harmonised mark should be defined.

#### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions and next steps**

The Commission obtained a favourable feedback on the structure with comments on the draft working document presented and thanked Member States experts for their input and constructive approach during the meeting.

Next meeting will be held on 12 July 2018.