



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2025)356273

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
16-17 December 2024

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Rules of Procedures of the PAFF Committee.

Link to the standard rules of procedure (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:206:0011:0013:EN:PDF>)

Link to basic Comitology Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32011R0182&qid=1730898633391>)

A.03 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia presented to the Commission and Member States, the last changes of the epidemiological situation in their territories and the resulting update of the regionalization, reflected in the amendment of Annexes I and II to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594.

A.04 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.

Bulgaria provided an update on the recently confirmed outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox in the country. Since the last PAFF meeting single outbreaks were confirmed in an area outside the restricted zones already established. The country highlighted the extensive control measures and targeted surveillance efforts implemented to contain and control the disease.

Greece provided an update of the epidemiological situation of sheep pox and goat pox in the country. Since the last PAFF meeting more than ninety outbreaks were confirmed, most in already affected areas but also in previously un-affected ones like the islands of Thasos and Andros, as well as Pieria and the northern part of Euboea. Nevertheless, there seems to be some decline to the occurrence of new outbreaks, compared to previous weeks. The Commission expressed its concerns about the unfavourable situation and called for more efforts and vigilance, as this temporary decline is by no means an indication that the disease is under control. Greece was

invited to consider all possible supplementary control measures if the situation of sheep pox and goat pox does not improve, including vaccination.

A.05 Information from Member States on peste des petits ruminants.

Bulgaria provided an update on the recently confirmed outbreak of the peste des petits ruminants in the country and challenges faced in implementing the disease control measures. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to closely monitor the evolution of the situation and the proper implementation of the control measures and to assist the country to contain and eradicate the disease.

Greece also provided an update of the PPR epidemiological situation in its territory. No new outbreaks have been reported since early November 2025 and if the situation does not change the last restricted zone is expected to be lifted by 1st of January 2025.

Romania reported no changes in their PPR epidemiological situation (no new outbreaks).

The Commission explained that in view of the favourable epidemiological situation regarding PPR in Greece and Romania, no further amendments are planned for the relevant Implementing Decisions, laying the respective PPR control measures in these two MS.

A.06 State of play of the situation on bluetongue measures.

The Commission made a presentation summarising the outcome of recent discussions on bluetongue at different external events and levels: Animal Health Advisory Committee, Agri Committee in the European Parliament, AGRIFISH Council and FESASS workshop on vectorial diseases and on the Commission's role coordinating the response to bluetongue during those events and beyond. The Commission highlighted that some of the messages received are contradictory. The Commission also insisted on a pragmatic approach concerning movements within the EU of animals vaccinated against bluetongue as it did at PAFFs meetings of October and November 2024.

Several Member States described several problems related to the implementation of the EU rules. The Commission took note and will continue the discussions in next PAFF meetings and at CVO level.

A.07 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Germany, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland presented the updates on the epidemiological situation and measures taken. While the disease spread in duck establishments (Hungary) has slowed down, there is an increase in number for outbreaks detected in turkey establishments (Germany, Italy).

A.08 Information from Member States on Newcastle disease.

Poland that in the last months is affected by outbreaks of Newcastle disease in a certain area has updated on the disease situation. Based on the preliminary information from phylogenetic analysis of the viruses indicate a continued presence of the virus in the bird population in this area and exclude its new introduction. The Commission informed that is reflecting on the use of the currently available funding for emergency measures and takes into consideration the possible phasing out of co-funding emergency measures taken by Member States to eradicate Newcastle disease. As in the case of

Newcastle disease, effective vaccines are available and are successfully used by majority of Member States to prevent outbreaks in kept birds, the intention is to prioritize the use of available budget for co-funding of the emergency measures taken for eradication of other diseases, where stamping out is the only effective measure to prevent and control the spread of disease.

A.09 EU funding of veterinary programmes for 2025-2027: final outcome of the evaluation procedure and budget allocation for 2025-2027.

HaDEA presented the final outcome of the evaluation procedure and budget allocation for 2025-2027 concerning the veterinary programmes 2025-2027. 115 M€ have been allocated to 26 Member States and 6 third countries. A reserve of 7,1 M€ was kept for future needs. The grants need to be finalised in EGRANT by each country and signed by 31/01/2025 at the latest. It was also mentioned that all grant amendments for the 2024 veterinary programmes have been signed by the Member States. A big thank from HaDEA to all Member States for the good cooperation on this exercise.

A.10 Updates on the new Animal Welfare Network in i.RASFF.

The Commission presented the Animal Welfare Network (AWN), launched in October 2024, to Member States. The presentation highlighted the network's legal basis and scope, as well as its benefits. Unit G3 also outlined potential future developments and announced upcoming training sessions, inviting Member States to participate and provide feedback on the guidelines that were previously shared.

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.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany.

In accordance with article 8(3) of Comitology Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 the Commission presented to the vote the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2976 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany, adopted following the confirmation of an outbreak in a wild porcine animal in Germany in a disease-free area.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission implementing decision concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Bulgaria and repealing implementing decision (EU) 2024/3109.

The Commission presented draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Bulgaria and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3109 following information received from the Bulgarian authorities regarding the epidemiological situation of and control measures implemented for peste des petits ruminants.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented for the vote the draft of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2976 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Germany.

The draft reflects the changes of the epidemiological situation in Germany, Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia. New restricted zones I and II have been established for Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia and listed in Annex I, while certain zones of Poland have been delisted from that Annex. In addition, the act repeals the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2976 and the territories in the infected zone established in Germany have been listed in part A of Annex II of the Implementing Regulation.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Bulgaria.

In response to the outbreak of PPR in the country, the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain emergency interim measures relating peste des petits ruminants virus in Bulgaria

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2132 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Greece.

Withdrawn from the Agenda.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 concerning certain emergency measure relating to sheet and goat pox in Bulgaria.

In response to the outbreaks of sheet and goat pox in the country, the Commission has updated the restricted zone at EU level for this disease and presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 concerning certain emergency measure relating to sheet and goat pox in Bulgaria.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) in Greece. The Commission explained that the new act, in view of the epidemiological introduces separate, distinct further restricted zones (FRZs) for SGP within the territory of Greece. Small ruminants may not exit, shall not move from each of these FRZ to any destination including other FRZ, while movement within each FRZ will be allowed only for immediate slaughter. Likewise, movements of animals from the “free areas” of the country to any FRZ will be allowed only for the purpose of immediate slaughter. Each FRZ was defined taking into account both epidemiological factors as well as management parameters (e.g. existence of slaughterhouses in each zone). Suspension of movements of small ruminants from the entire territory of Greece to a destination outside the country is prolonged until 15 January 2025.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

Draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States was presented for a formal vote. The HPAI regionalisation for Czechia, Germany, Italy, Hungary and Poland was amended in response to new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry or captive birds.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 ADIS notification on some category B and C diseases.

The Commission presented the Union notification legislation pertaining to certain category B and C diseases, based on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 of 7 December 2020 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to Union notification and Union reporting of listed diseases. The Committee reviewed the timeliness requirements and acknowledged the need to be mindful of risk communication strategies when interacting with stakeholders.

M.02 HPAI in mammals in the USA at the request of Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Commission provided an update on the situation as regards HPAI in dairy cattle in the US, and informed the Member States about the recent request that was made to EFSA regarding possible implications and measures for the EU.