

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft delegated act on entry into the Union of live animals, germinal products and products of animal origin under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

6 December 2018, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

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

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

3.1. Introduction

The Commission informed Member States that its intention is to finalize the discussion on this draft in the present meeting, although there are still ongoing parallel discussion on category C diseases that may have an effect on the final draft. In this sense, the Commission committed to send to the Member States a final version of the draft including, if necessary, the outcome of discussions in progress and the written comments received after the meeting.

3.2. Interface between the rules on entry into the Union and the entry controls under the OCR

The Commission presented the interface between the delegated act on animal health requirements on entry into the Union under the Animal health Law (R (EU) 2016/429), and the one on entry control procedures set out under the Official Controls Regulation (R (EU) 2017/625).

The Commission explained that the Animal Health Law does not provide the legal basis to lay down provisions on procedural aspects on official controls . Therefore, only animal health requirements will be established in the delegated acts while ensuring consistency with related provisions on official controls... In this regard, the Commission highlighted the key examples of this interface and the expected shifts of various elements between current and future animal health and official controls acts.

3.3. Presentation and discussion on the animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of live animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

General rules

The Commission explained that dogs, cats and ferrets have been added to the scope of the draft as well as a new title covering the animal health requirements for the “commercial” entries of dogs, cats and ferrets into the Union, which are basically taking over rules currently in force.

The Commission mentioned that the definition for carcass of ungulate has been slightly modified to ensure that carcasses of pigs may enter the Union without prior removal of the head.

A new provision on the control of swill feeding in the third country of origin was discussed and agreed with Member States that were mostly in favour.

The Commission provided details on a new Article related to the assessment of the disease freedom of the place of origin of animals and products.

Animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of terrestrial animals

The Commission was asked to clarify the derogations regarding the residency period for registered horses which should be applicable for those intended for cultural events and not only for races and competitions.

In relation to the requirements for the means of transport, some Member States asked for general requirements as regards disinfestation. The Commission took note of that request.

Animal health requirements for ungulates

The Commission informed that requirements for category B and C diseases have been updated in line with the working document on movements within the Union. However, as that draft is still under discussion, requirements for category C diseases for the entry into the Union might change in the final draft.

In relation to the entry of ungulates into confined establishments, the Commission explained the changes introduced in this Chapter following the advice of the Legal Service.

Animal health requirements for products of animal origin

The Commission explained a new Article related to the timing of issuing of the certificate for products of animal origin entering the Union and asked Member States to reflect and send written comments on the derogations provided in this regard for fresh meat.

The Commission explained that casings have been split from meat products (also in the definition) after internal discussions in order to avoid future misunderstandings. However, the content on the requirements has not changed.

As regards the requirements for composite products, one Member State pointed out that the current definition of meat products includes complements containing gelatine and collagen, which might be a problem for border control posts, taking into account the amount of this type of products entering currently into the Union without animal health certification.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and comments during the meeting and encouraged them to reflect on the issues discussed and provide written feedback no later than 4 January 2019.

5. Next steps

The outcome of the discussions and opinions provided by participants during this expert group meeting will be used by the Commission during future work towards the preparation of the delegated act under the Animal Health Law.

6. Next meeting

No further meetings are foreseen to discuss this draft.