

**Minutes of the meeting of the Expert group
to discuss the exercise of the listing of animal diseases relevant for Union
intervention according to the Animal Health Law**

5 February 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 Council and the European Parliament.

3. List of points discussed

A. Introduction

The Commission explained that the purpose of the meeting is to confirm Member States positions as regards the multiple species, avian, amphibian and aquatic diseases (following the same structure than in previous meetings) proposed to be listed for Union intervention.

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and stressed the importance of having their written feedback by 16 February 2018 on the diseases discussed at this meeting, in order to best accommodate their technical views.

B. Presentation on the listing exercise of animal diseases according to the Animal Health Law criteria

The Commission presented the changes made to the initial version of its proposed listing of diseases relevant for multiple species, avian, amphibian, aquatic diseases and listed species and explained the reasoning of those changes which were mainly based on the comments and explanations received from the experts of the Member States.

C. Exchange of views with Member States

As regards the multiple species, there was general support to list for Union intervention Epizootic haemorrhagic disease, Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. mellitensis* and *B. suis*, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), West Nile fever, infestation with *Echinococcus* spp, infection with Rinderpest virus, anthrax and infection with Rift valley fever virus. Concerns were raised by some experts on the need to list Q fever and Ebola. An expert from one delegation was not in favour to list all serotypes from 1 to 24 of Bluetongue virus as proposed by the Commission and as supported by all other Member States. Regarding paratuberculosis a number of experts from Member States delegations expressed divergent opinions on whether the diagnostic test is reliable and the risk mitigating measures effective to control the disease and therefore if the disease fulfils the criteria according to the Animal Health Law, and in light of that some of them had concerns to list the disease.

For avian diseases, general support from experts of Member States was given to list avian chlamydiosis, Newcastle disease, salmonella infection in poultry (*S. pullorum*, *S. gallinarum* and *S.*

arizonae), avian mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum*, *M. meleagridis*) and infection with low pathogenic avian influenza virus.

With the exception of infestation with *Varroa* spp where several experts from Member States delegations questioned the effectivity of the control measures which is a compulsory criteria to be considered eligible to be listed, the experts supported the Commission proposal to list the following bees diseases: infestation with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle), American foulbrood and infestation with *Tropilaelaps* spp.

For amphibian diseases, few experts from Member States delegations disagreed on considering infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) eligible for listing however they showed flexibility on their position.

For aquatic diseases, concerns for listing were mainly focussed on koi herpes virus disease (KHV). There were no objections by Member States delegations about listing: virus epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN), HPR deleted infectious salmon anaemia (ISA), viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN), taura syndrome, yellowhead disease, white spot disease, infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, infection with *Marteilia refringens* and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*. However, the health impact and mortalities in mollusc populations of the infection with *Bonamia* were questioned by few experts of Member States delegations.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions and next steps

The Commission obtained a favourable feedback and support for the majority of the diseases presented to be included on the list of transmissible diseases for Union intervention. However, further discussions are needed for few diseases where the Commission proposal was not broadly supported. The Commission thanked Member States for their input and constructive approach.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 19 February 2018.