



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.001(2016)61851

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 09 SEPTEMBER 2015 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2015
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

A.01 Presentation by the Commission and discussion on information provided by Member States in their annual reports for 2014, on certain diseases of bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals.

The Commission informed the Committee that a draft annual report on certain diseases of bovine animals and swine for 2014, based on Directives 64/432/EEC and 91/68/EEC, will be sent out by mail for comments in couple of days. The Commission requested Member States for their comments to the document by 23 September 2015 the latest.

A.02 Presentation from Member States of the rabies programmes 2014.

- Almost all Member States (BG, EE, LV, HR, GR, HU, PL, FI, SK, SL and RO) with an approved programme presented the results of their 2014 rabies eradication programmes. LT and IT will do that at the following PAFF.
- Compared to last year in the EU as a whole, the situation is improving.
- One campaign was missing in LV, GR and RO.

The epidemiological situation remains unstable/unclear in BG, GR, PL and RO due to the number of cases or due to insufficient monitoring.

A.03 Animal health import conditions for the equestrian events - the Olympic and Paralympic Games - in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016.

The Commission presented a document provided by the Brazilian authorities on animal health requirements for horses participating in the equestrian events in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 - the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brazil. To the date of the Committee one Member State provided the Commission with comments to the document. The Commission replied to the comments submitted and questions raised during the meeting. As a following step the Commission will send to the Brazilian

authorities a letter with the EU comments to their animal health requirements for horses participating in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brazil.

A.04 African swine fever (ASF) - Update from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied. Update from the Commission on the review of the ASF strategy.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland provided an update on the ASF situation and the measures taken. It was noted that increased number of ASF findings during summer time followed the pattern of the previous year. The Commission reported on the ongoing update of the ASF strategy based on the recent EFSA opinion on the matter; more emphasis being given to the removal of wild boar carcasses, the need to control the wild boar population and an update to the minimum biosecurity requirements.

A.05 Bluetongue – Brief update from the affected Member States on the epidemiological situation.

A brief update from the affected Member States was provided with reported re-circulation of virus in some Member States. Romania gave a presentation on this issue. The relative lack of viral circulation in several Member States in the first part of 2015 was noted.

A.06 Lumpy skin disease – Update from Greece on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied.

Greece gave an update on the LSD epidemiological situation and the measures taken, including the vaccination campaign that had already started in the Evros region. Bulgaria clarified that the disease is absent from its territory and that some precautionary additional preventive measures were already in place. The Commission informed that specific measures were being prepared in order to safeguard the animal health situation in the Union.

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from Italy on disease free status as regards infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the catchment area Torrente Palvico of the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The Commission informed about a declarations from Italy concerning disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for the catchment area of the river Palvico in the Municipality of Soro in the Autonomous Province of Trento. The zone comprises the catchment area of the river from its sources to a vertical barrier in Soro and a single fish farm producing rainbow trout, brown trout and alpine char for human consumption. An outbreak of VHS was registered in this farm in 2005, which therefore has been subject to eradication measures including emptying, disinfection and fallowing. New fish from disease free areas have been introduced and the entire zone has been subject to targeted surveillance for four years in line with the

programme set out in Decision 2001/183/EC since 2011. None of the pathogens of concern have been detected during this period.

A.08 Information on a notification from Norway concerning the withdrawal of ISA-free status of a compartment in Hordaland county.

The Commission informed the Committee about a notification from Norway concerning the withdrawal of the disease-free status with regard to ISA for a compartment in Fusa Municipality in Hordaland County. The compartment comprises the sea site 24495 Nystølvågen and the two freshwater sites 12110 Nystølen and 34537 Nystølvågen. ISA-virus was detected at the sea site 29 March 2015, and due to that all movement of fish in and out and within the compartment was immediately banned and further investigation of the freshwater sites was initiated. The outbreak on the sea site is now confirmed, but no ISA-virus was however detected on the freshwater sites.

A.09 Information on four declarations from Norway concerning disease-free status with regard to infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) for zones and compartments in Norway.

The Commission informed the Committee about four declarations from Norway of disease-free status with regard to ISA.

The first declaration was concerning a new compartment comprising the freshwater site 12110 Nystølen in FUSA Municipality in Hordaland County. This site was a part of the compartment from which the disease-free status was withdrawn as referred under Agenda item A.08. However, the actual site was being fallowed at the time of the outbreak of ISA on the seas-site 24495 Nystølvågen and thorough epizootic investigations carried out by the Norwegian Food Authority and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute have shown that it is possible to rule out the possibility of any transmission of ISA-virus from this sea site to the freshwater site during the outbreak period. A surveillance programme for ISA has also been in place for the last nine years without any detection of the agent of this disease.

The second declaration was concerning a compartment in Aalandsfjorden in Fusa Municipality in Hordaland County. This compartment comprises one on growing site for brood-fish. The compartment has been subject to targeted surveillance for more than two years without detection of the disease agent in fish on the farm.

The third declaration was concerning a compartment in Aakrafjorden in Etne Municipality in Hordaland County. The compartment comprises only one on-growing site for brood-fish of Atlantic salmon, and the compartment has been subject to targeted surveillance for more than two years without detection of the disease agent.

The fourth declaration is concerning a zone comprising the water catchment area of the Skogseid River and seven fresh water sites including the hatchery Saevareid fiskeanlegg. The entire zone had disease-free status with regard to ISA until 20011, but lost its status due to introduction of Category III material to Saevareid fiskeanlegg during the summer 2009, in accordance with Article 53 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

A surveillance programme to restore ISA-free status was initiated after all the farms in catchment area were emptied, cleaned, disinfected and fallowed and the farms repopulated with fish originating from Category I farms in ISA-free zones or compartments. The surveillance programme has now been in place for more three years without any detection of the disease agent.

All declarations presented under the items A.07 and A.09 have been submitted in accordance with Article 50 of Directive 2006/88/EC, and links to the declarations presented will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.10 Information from Germany and the United Kingdom on highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N7.

The United Kingdom reported on an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of H7N7 subtype in a laying hen holding in Lancashire that was confirmed on 13 July 2015. 120.000 heads of poultry on that farm were kept indoors, while 50.000 had access to the open. Culling and safe disposal was carried out and zoning established. Laboratory results indicate that a low pathogenic virus was introduced in the farm which then mutated to a highly pathogenic virus strain. Protective measures were adopted by the Commission by Decision (EU) 2015/1160 in relation to that outbreak. Preliminary data suggest that a low pathogenic avian influenza virus had mutated to a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus. No further virus spread occurred. The restrictions were lifted on 11 August 2015.

Germany reported on an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 confirmed on 26 July 2015 in a holding located in a poultry dense area in the Landkreis of Emsland, Lower Saxony. The 10,200 birds present on the farm were culled and zoning applied. Commission protection measures were adopted by Decision (EU) 2015/1319. The disease was contained without any further propagation. Restrictions were lifted by 28 August 2015.

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.

The Commission presented the new draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States, as regards the entries for Estonia. It highlighted the need for an update of the delimitation of regionalisation done taking into account the new epidemiological situation in Estonia.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-free status of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg of Germany and of the region Valle d'Aosta of Italy.

The draft "Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC as regards the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-free status of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg of Germany and of the region Valle d'Aosta

of Italy" was presented by the EC to the Member States. Germany (the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture) and Italy (the representative of the CA of the region Valle d'Aosta) presented the relevant data supporting their applications. Both countries implemented their eradication programs successfully and have achieved to have no reactors in those regions. Adequate measures are already in force and are planned to retain the IBR-free status.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration of the region of Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom as officially brucellosis-free as regards bovine herds.

The draft "Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the declaration of the region of Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom as officially brucellosis-free as regards bovine herds" was presented by the EC to the Member States. The UK presented supporting data for the application. Northern Ireland implemented successfully the eradication program and realized to have no reactors in bovines in that region. Adequate measures are already in force and are planned to retain the Brucellosis-free status as regards bovine herds.

Vote taken: favourable opinion

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and repealing Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.

The Commission provided an update on the discussions on a possible revision of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU, comments from Member States were noted.

M.01 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease.

Romania reported on a Newcastle disease outbreak in a commercial broiler holding. The culling of the birds still present on the holding is ongoing. As the disease was only confirmed on 8 September 2015 more comprehensive information will be made available at the next meeting of this Committee.