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Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Poland, Italy, Lithuania, Germany and Sweden updated the Commission on African Swine Fever (ASF) situation in their territory. Sweden presented information to demonstrate the absence of ASF virus circulation in its wild boar population, to declare the eradication of ASF. Italy, Hungary and Lithuania also presented improved situation in certain areas of their territories.

A.03 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Updates from France, Poland, Denmark and Czechia with regard to HPAI. France indicated that they are preparing to prolong for one additional year their HPAI-vaccination campaign for ducks (foie gras), which started on 1 October last year.

A.04 Information on the review of the designation of the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (EURCAW) for poultry and other small farmed animals.

The Commission informed about the started review of the designation of the EURCAW for poultry and other small farmed animals, the process that will be followed in this review and the request for information on the performance of the concerned EURCAW sent by the Commission to Member States.

A.05 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.

Bulgaria presented an update on the epidemiological situation of sheep and goat pox (SPGP). Following the confirmation of an outbreak of SPGP in the region of Yambol, the country has enforced the control measures to contain the disease in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/687. In addition, the country has taken measures beyond the minimum EU requirements related to the establishment of a buffer zone around the protection and surveillance zones, with movement restrictions and surveillance. The situation in Bulgaria remains stable and under control with no new further outbreaks. In response to the outbreak of SPGP in the country, the Commission adopted

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2466 concerning certain emergency interim measures relating to sheep and goat pox in Bulgaria.

Greece provided an update on the epidemiological situation of sheep and goat pox (SPGP). Greece recorded 35 outbreaks in the Evros regional unit and further outbreaks were reported in the Kavala regional unit during August and September. The country has implemented all measures foreseen in Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including the establishment of protection surveillance zones and further restricted zones, movement controls and culling of affected flocks. In response to the last nine outbreaks of SPGP in the country. The Commission presented the last Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece, adopted on 19 September 2024.

A.06 Information from Member States on peste des petits ruminants.

Greece reported on the epidemiological situation of PPR (Peste des petits ruminants) from July to September 2024, with 73 confirmed outbreaks across six regions and ten regional units. Measures included establishing restricted zone comprising protection, surveillance, and further restricted zones, with targeted surveillance activities implemented. A significant decrease in the number of outbreaks has been reported and the situation continues to be closely monitored. Emphasis was given to the temporary suspension of all INTRA EU movements and exports, stricter measures beyond the minimum EU requirements and the active involvement of additional veterinarians. In the light of this new outbreak, the Commission has reviewed the measures of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2132 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Greece (new amendment of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2132, adopted on 19 September 2024).

Romania presented an update on the epidemiological situation of PPR (Peste des petits ruminants). Since the last PAFF Committee meeting, six new outbreaks were confirmed, resulting in a total of 67 outbreaks affecting approximately 235,000 animals. The country has implemented specific EU measures, including establishing restricted zones comprising protection, surveillance and further restricted zones, intensified checks on biosecurity measures and a total ban of animals' movement. Additional measures include quarantine and testing of small ruminants, restriction of movements and police patrols to enforce compliance. Romanian authorities reported a decrease in the number of notified outbreaks. In view of these new outbreaks, the Commission has reviewed the measures laid down in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2119 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania (new amendment of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2119, adopted on 19 September 2024).

A.07 Report of the EUVET mission on peste des petits ruminants to Greece.

The EUVET expert mission to Greece was carried out in response to outbreaks of PPR and focused on the implementation of control measures and eradication strategies. At the time of the mission, Greece had recorded 15 outbreaks in the prefectures of Trikala and Larisa. The mission confirmed that Greece was enforcing all the control measures laid down by the EU, including a total movement ban on small ruminants and a grazing ban in the Thessaly region. Challenges included the high density of susceptible

livestock and the delay in detecting the first outbreaks. Recommendations were made emphasizing the need for continued surveillance and strengthening of biosecurity.

A.08 Report of the EUVET mission on peste des petits ruminants to Romania.

The EUVET expert mission was carried out in Romania to provide on-the-spot assistance in the control of the PPR epidemic during the period 30 July-1 August 2024. At the time of the mission, a total of 32 outbreaks had been recorded in the regions of Tulcea, Constanta and Timis. The mission focused on the evaluation of control measures and eradication strategies. Recommendations were made to reduce further disease transmission, including stricter movement controls, improved biosecurity measures and detailed epidemiological investigations.

A.09 Report from the EU Reference Laboratory for peste des petits ruminants (PPR). Virus characterisation results from the PPR outbreaks of Greece and Romania.

The EU Reference Laboratory for PPR presented results on the characterization of PPR viruses from Greece and Romania. Samples were analysed, confirming the presence of PPR, and genetic sequencing revealed that the virus strains in both countries are highly similar, with a common origin linked to strains circulating in Georgia (2016) as well as North and East Africa (all lineage IV). Some mutations that were identified may impact pathogenesis, indicating that further surveillance is necessary. The EURL highlighted the importance of continuing collaboration, maintaining high quality diagnostic standards, and monitoring potential epidemiological developments.

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 (EU) 2024/2466 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria.

In line with Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2466 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria, was presented for opinion (measures relating to the outbreak of sheep and goat pox in the Yambol region).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

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

The Commission presented to the Committee the draft of the Implementing Regulation, amending Annex I and II following the changes of the ASF epidemiological situation in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. In Italy and Poland restricted zones III were established following the confirmation of several outbreaks in domestic pigs. All restrictions were lifted in Sweden and Italy, in Sardinia Region. Some restricted zones II were reverted in restricted zone I in Italy and Hungary as well as certain areas in restricted zone I were lifted. Certain areas in restricted zone III were reverted in RZ II in Italy and Lithuania. Protection and surveillance zones established in Germany and listed in Annex II were deleted from that annex.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 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.

The Commission presented to Member States an amending act to update regionalization in the EU in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Czechia, Denmark, France and Germany.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.

The Commission presented the draft which withdraws the disease free status for *Brucella abortus*, *B.melitensis* and *B.suis* in kept ovine and caprine of the province of Alessandria in Italy and the infection with Bluetongue virus free status to Germany, Luxembourg, Denmark, Austria, Sweden, some zones of Czechia, Spain and Italy. Also, it expands the geographical scope of the infection with BTV approved programme for Spain.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 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.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2119 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Impementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

M.01 Contact SIMEX EFSA.

EFSA gave a presentation on their task to provide scientific input to DG SANTE for the organisation of a simulation exercise (SIMEX) on avian influenza with Member States and certain third countries.