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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**17-18 April 2018**

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

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**A.01 General information by Member States.**

No item raised.

**A.02 Bluetongue - Slovakia - country free status.**

Presentation about the Bluetongue control and eradication measures in Slovakia for the purpose to obtain Bluetongue country free status. There were no comments or objections from other Member States.

**A.03 Information from the Netherlands on the Dutch eradication program for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR).**

The Netherlands gave a short presentation on the Dutch national eradication program for Bovine herpes virus type 1, the infectious agent causing Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR). The Commission is currently drafting Delegated and Implementing acts where the requirements for eradication programmes for the different diseases under the AHL are described, and invited Member States to indicate if they see specific problems with the current requirements, which are laid down in Commission Decision 2004/558/EC.

The Netherlands informed that only marker vaccines were used. Member States had no further questions or comments.

**A.04 Notices on Brexit: short presentation and possible questions from Member States.**

The Commission informed Member States that following the notification of the UK of its intention to withdraw from the Union the Commission has invested significant resources to be prepared. Preparing for the withdrawal is not just a matter for the EU and national competent authorities but also for private parties. The Commission has prepared a number of notices to stakeholders that are available in both the websites of SANTE's and Brexit preparedness. The notices explain the legal and practical implications of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The Commission invited Member States to disseminate this information.

Two Member States suggested that additional language versions of these notices would assist with a speedy dissemination.

The Commission reminded that those Member States which indicated in Part A of Annex XI to Council Directive 2003/85/EC the Pirbright Laboratory as national laboratory authorised to handle live foot-and-mouth disease virus should ensure contractual arrangements with a national reference laboratory in another Member State by the withdrawal date and notify it to the Commission.

**A.05 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) of a zone of the Ganzeville river basin upstream of Ganzeville Diary.**

The Commission explained that the declaration for the Ganzeville zone in France will be made available to the delegates via the CIRCABC site of this Committee, given the fact that some temporary problems have arisen in relation to accessing the French website. It is envisaged that these issues will be resolved shortly. As regards the substance of the declarations, the Commission briefly explained their main elements, their surveillance basis (e.g. two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens of concern or absence of susceptible species) and that they comply with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. The Commission explained that more details are available on the CIRCABC site. The Commission reminded the delegates of the procedural aspects i.e. that the declarations will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States.

Link to the presented declarations will be placed to the following SANTE web page: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live\\_animals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm).

**A.06 Stricter national rules on the protection of animals at the time of killing: state of play of the notifications received by the Commission.**

The Commission presented the notifications received from the Member States since 2013 for stricter national rules on the protection of animals at the time of killing (see attached ppt). The Commission asked the Member States to check this list and when appropriate to update the Commission on possible new adopted measures.

The Commission clarified that only national measures subject to adoption by the competent authorities with a binding effect should be notified (laws, decrees or orders). Internal instructions or interpretations guidance should not be notified. Concerning the killing on farm, the Commission referred to a study published in 2017 by the Commission (see website: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter_en)).

The Commission also announced that based on this study, it will develop some fact sheets translated in all EU languages on the subject.

**A.07 Intra-EU trade in live wild boar.**

The Commission provided clarification on the ongoing trade of live wild boar (former feral pigs), in particular highlighting that wild boar kept or bred on a holding (former feral pigs) should be considered as pigs and therefore must comply with the relevant requirements laid down in Directive 64/432/EEC. In addition, the intra-Union trade certificate drawn up in accordance with the Model 2 in Annex F to Directive 64/432/EEC shall accompany those animals when they are to be moved to other Member States.

Member States asked for a letter from the Commission on this issue.

**A.08 Information from Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry and captive birds.**

Bulgaria, Italy and the Netherlands gave presentations on the disease situation in poultry and Germany updated on an outbreak in a small poultry farm on an island in the North Sea. The control measures applied in the protection and surveillance zones established in these Member States have all been lifted except for Bulgaria where outbreaks continue to occur. Sweden also reported on an outbreak in captive birds.

Findings in wild birds in seven Member States (Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom) were presented by the Commission. In addition, Denmark presented results of passive surveillance in wild birds. Birds of prey are increasingly found infected compared to previous epidemic waves, when wild ducks were most affected.

**A.09 Information from Cyprus and the Czech Republic on Newcastle disease in poultry.**

Cyprus and the Czech Republic reported on one outbreak each in backyard poultry flocks. Disease control measures including stamping out were applied. In Cyprus the intensive farming sector applies routine vaccination against that disease and in the Czech Republic vaccination is mandatory for all registered holdings. As the outbreak in the Czech Republic is close to the border with Slovakia, also this Member State has applied zoning on its territory.

**A.10 Request to Member States for update on Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 139/2013 of 7 January 2013 laying down animal health conditions for imports of certain birds into the Union and the quarantine conditions - details 2017.**

Member States were asked to ensure that the information on the website regarding approved quarantine facilities was up-to-date and to submit data for 2017 by end of June, 2018.

**A.11 Reminding Member States of May 1 deadline for submission of data for 2017 on Commission Regulation (EC) No 206/2009 of 5 March 2009 on the introduction into the Community of personal consignments of products of animal origin.**

Member States were reminded of the 1 May deadline for submission of 2017 data and were also encouraged to increase awareness of the rules regarding personal imports of meat/dairy products from outside the EU particularly with regard to the increased prevalence of African swine fever and also in advance of the FIFA 2018 World Cup in Russia.

**A.12 Update by the Commission on the EU animal health situation in relation to avian influenza, African swine fever and lumpy skin disease.**

**Avian Influenza (AI):** Since the beginning of 2018 ten outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have been confirmed in four Member States, two outbreaks in captive birds in two Member States and 119 wild bird cases in eight Member States. Commission actions on protective measures and draft legislation in relation to biosecurity were presented.

**Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD):** The Commission representative presented an update on the LSD epidemiological situation in South East Europe, along with the latest news on activities related to this disease (EFSA, GF TADs, BTSF, EU LSD vaccine bank).

**African Swine Fever (ASF):** Italy, Latvia, Poland and Romania presented their epidemiological situation on ASF and the measures in place. The Committee noted the evolution of the situation and noted the need to adapt measures to match changes in the disease situation in the EU. The Commission indicated that situation will continue to be reviewed while taking into account the outcome of the ongoing epidemiological investigations in some Member States.

**A.13 Update on the epidemiological situation for African swine fever.**

Please see under Point A.12.

**A.14 Border inspection and personal checks in relation to the risk of African swine fever in Hungary.**

Hungary presented the measures in place at the national border posts and how this impacts the illegal movement of products. The Commission referred to the recent Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) meeting on ASF held in Ukraine which focused on the cross border cooperation addressing legal and irregular movements of pigs and their products; it stressed how specific recommendations of relevance for the EU were made.

**A.15 Update by the Commission on the animal disease situation and key initiatives.**

Please see under Point A.12.

**A.16 Review of the African Swine Fever Strategy for the EU.**

The Commission proposed a reviewed version of the strategy based on the comments received. The Committee welcomed the initiative and the Commission indicated it would upload on its website the latest version of the working document. The Commission invited Member States to provide further comments as further reviews were to be foreseen.

**A.17 Equine infectious anaemia situation in Romania and implementation of Commission Decision 2010/346/EC of 18 June 2010 on protective measures with regard to equine infectious anaemia in Romania.**

The representative of Romania updated on the equine infectious anaemia situation in Romania and presented the relevant disease control programme implemented in Romania based on Commission Decision 2010/346/EU. The Commission explained Articles 1 and 3 of that Decision and presented options for future rules on the movement of equidae from Romania and in particular of horses for competition, races and other equestrian events.

**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.**

No item raised.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the suspension of the officially tuberculosis-free status of Malta as regards bovine herds and amending Annex I to Decision 2003/467/EC.**

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision on suspending the officially tuberculosis-free status of Malta regarding bovine herds until the results of surveillance testing and epidemiological investigations demonstrate that the outbreaks are under control.

The Member States had no further questions or comments. The Commission thanked Malta for the good cooperation.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing as regards the approval of low atmospheric pressure stunning.**

Following a favourable EFSA opinion on the use of the low atmospheric system for stunning (LAPS) of broilers chickens, the Commission presented a draft to amend Annexes I and II of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing by adding this method in the list of approved stunning methods and provide specific conditions for its use.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2018 work programme on training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health in the framework of the 'Better Training for Safer Food' programme.**

The Commission presented the draft "Better Training for Safer Food" work programme for 2018 and its financing decision.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision designating the European Union reference laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease (and amending Annex VII to Council Directive 2005/94/EC).**

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Decision in which the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVE) in Italy is designated as the new European reference laboratory for Newcastle disease and Avian Influenza (SANTE/7083/2017).

Member States supported the draft Implementing Decision (through an indicative vote, since one of the legal bases, Directive 92/66/EEC, is being Lisbonised and will only entry into force on 26 April 2018), which will be confirmed by a written consultation taking place later in April 2018.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 concerning animal health control measures relating to Lumpy Skin Disease in certain Member States.**

The Commission representative presented the text of the draft decision that will allow the movements of cattle within the "free zones with vaccination" of those Member States where LSD vaccination is discontinued, in view of a favourable epidemiological situation, like Croatia. The delegate of Croatia also presented their 2018 LSD surveillance programme following their decision to cease LSD vaccination in their entire territory.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation adopting the list of Member States, or parts of the territory of Member States, that comply with the rules for categorisation laid down in Article 2(2) and (3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/xxx concerning the application of preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs.**

The aim of this act is to adopt the list of Member States fulfilling the conditions to be eligible to apply the preventive health measures on dogs entering their territory established by the new Delegated Regulation repealing and replacing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion 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 Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.**

The Commission presented for discussion a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and repealing Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU.

The Commission explained that this review came from the input received in the previous working groups and Committee meetings with the intent to simplify the current set of measures by maintaining an equivalent risk mitigation approach.

The Committee advised to further review the measures while keeping in mind the OIE international standards, keeping a risk based approach in the review of the measures and balancing it with the sustainability and enforceability of the measures.

The Commission informed that this text would be tabled at the Committee of 3 May 2018 and that the current working document would be used as a starting point for the discussions.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a 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.**

The Commission explained how these measures took on board the latest development on the epidemiological situation of African swine fever in the Union.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.10 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2018 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, and official controls in the food and feed area.**

The Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2018 work programme on IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health, and official controls in the food and feed area was presented for vote.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Implementing Commission Decision (EU) on risk mitigating and reinforced biosecurity measures and early detection systems in relation to the risks posed by wild birds for the transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses to poultry.**

General agreement was expressed by Member States on the updated biosecurity and early detection measures based on EFSA's recommendations and Member State's experiences except for certain restrictions in relation to hunting of birds and the release of gamebirds. The proposed measures would be very difficult to implement. In addition more flexibility was requested including on provisions for biosecurity training.

**M.01 Information from France on Aujeszky's disease.**

France gave a short presentation of an outbreak of Aujeszky's disease in their territory. The outbreak was confirmed on 16 March in region Pyrenees-Atlantique, which is listed in Annex I of Commission Decision 2008/185 "Member States or regions thereof free of Aujeszky's disease". The Commission thanks France for the quick and comprehensive information about the case, and consider the measures taken to be appropriate to recover the free status regarding Aujeszky's disease.

The Member States had no further questions or comments.

**M.02 Information from Denmark on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Denmark gave a short presentation on avian influenza in wild birds.