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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*
16 January 2019

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of the eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2019 and following years.

The Commission informed Member States that, as per Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, about the list of national programmes technically approved and the final EU co-financing amount allocated to each EU co-financed programme for 2019. The Commission replied to the questions asked by several Member States, mainly related to the new unit costs.

A.03 Information from the Commission concerning the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe.

The Commission informed Member States on several key issues related to the progress of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe including the ongoing evaluation, the state of play of the third action plan for 2020-2022, the revision of the Concept note and the funding of the OIE Platform's activities. The Commission reiterated the fact that the EU remains the main donor of the OIE Platform's activities by providing 50% of the funding. In this context, Member States and stakeholders have an important role to play in finding and providing the remaining 50% of the fund.

A.04 Information on African swine fever in Member States.

Updated situation on African swine fever (ASF) as presented by Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Italy and Bulgaria. France made a presentation on their ASF preparedness. The Commission acknowledged the work carried out by the Italian Competent Authority to control ASF in Sardinia and enhanced compliance towards EU legislation.

A.05 Review of Principles and criteria for geographically defining African swine fever regionalisation.

The Commission proposed certain amendments of the current definitions and principles of the African swine fever (ASF) regionalisation in relation to the definition of Part IV, additional criteria and clarification for reverting of Part III and lifting of Part II and Part I areas. Member States were invited to provide written comments to the Commission.

A.06 Information from Bulgaria on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

Bulgaria reported on one further HPAI H5N8 outbreak in mid-December in a small rural farm in the region of Vidin in the North West of its territory in an area with a low density of poultry holdings. Disease control measures were implemented and no further spread was observed.

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 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 presented for a vote a draft Commission Implementing Decision reviewing the African swine fever regionalisation measures for Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Belgium.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Hungary.

Withdrawn from the Agenda.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Bulgaria.

Withdrawn from the Agenda.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing and the adoption of the work programme for 2019 and 2020 for emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests.

Member States expressed their displeasure at the late submission of the documents to the delegations and requested an explanation on the reason why the budget for 2020 (20M€) is considerably lower than the one for 2019 (50M€). The Commission explained that the financial programming of the MFF foresees a yearly allocation of 20M€ and that the 50M€ allocated in 2019 is the consequence of negotiations with the budgetary authorities to increase the budget as a result of the outstanding financial

commitments with Member States after the 2016-2017 Avian Influenza crisis. Furthermore, the Commission highlighted that the adoption of the decision is a prerequisite to make payments for emergency measures to Member States and it is hence of utmost importance. This financing decision/work programme is a standard requirement of the Financial Regulation through which the College of Commissioners provides the authorisation to the Commission's services to spend the budget (for operational expenditure).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

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

Withdrawn from the Agenda.

M.01 Information on Bluetongue Disease in Germany.

The German delegation presented an update of the Bluetongue (BT) epidemiological situation in their country and the relevant measures since December 2018. Following questions of the Member States the German delegation clarified that they consider this a recent occurrence of BT in their territory, rather than the delayed detection of a summer incidence, with possible connection to BT outbreaks in two neighbouring countries (reply to one Member State). Active BT surveillance is in place in the restricted areas and results (to date) indicate that there is no higher BT prevalence among defective calves, as in past epidemics in other countries. In addition the mothers of infected calves are not affected by the disease. The Commission requested Germany to provide a table of the latest restricted areas and relevant map thereof, in order to update the relevant BT information in the DG SANTE website.

M.02 Avian influenza in wild birds in Denmark.

Denmark reported on two findings of HPAI of H5N6 subtype in wild birds of prey. The virus is very similar to the virus detected previously until mid-September.

M.03 Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) national measures in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian delegation presented their national measures in relation to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), following the favourable results of active surveillance of December 2018.