

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft delegated act on rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

07 February 2019, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and approved at the beginning of the meeting.

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 Parliament and the Council.

3. List of points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The Commission noted that the distributed working documents include animal health requirements for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases of terrestrial and aquatic animals. The Commission informed Member States that this is the last meeting of this Expert Group and any outstanding areas for discussion will be dealt with via email hereafter. Member States were invited to provide comments on the latest draft version circulated by 22nd February 2019.

3.2. Exchange of views with Member States on prevention and control rules of certain listed diseases

General provisions, Part I

The Commission highlighted the main changes since the last meeting. Some of the changes are the result of initial comments from the Commission's Legal Service and those based on comments received from Member States on the previous version of the draft Delegated Act. The definition for 'High Risk Period' has been expanded to make it clearer. In relation to sampling procedures and diagnostic methods, the Commission presented two possible approaches to the Annex and asked Member States for their views about their preferred approach.

Disease control measures for Category A diseases of kept terrestrial animals in establishments - Part II, Chapter I

The Commission provided an overview of Sections 1 and 2 highlighting the main changes since the last Expert Group meeting.

Section 1 covers preliminary disease control measures in the event of suspicion of a Category A disease in kept animals and has remained mainly unchanged since the last meeting. There is a new article added to this section and in other parts of the delegated act covering the measures to be applied in feed and food business, border control posts, animal by-products establishments, means of transport or any other location.

In Section 2 related to disease control measures in the case of confirmation of a Category A disease the main change is the reintroduction of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection. Member States welcomed this reintroduction.

Disease control measures for Category A diseases of kept terrestrial animals in restricted zones - Part II, Chapters II, III, IV, V and VI

In Chapter II - Section I, the Commission presented the addition to allow not to establish a restriction zone in establishments keeping up to 50 captive birds. This was one of the main points discussed during the meeting and a number of Member States raised several concerns about it.

In Chapter II - Section II, the main points for discussion were about the requirements for cleaning and disinfection of the means of transport for movements of animals and products.

The Commission presented also non-substantial changes from the previous version in Section III of Chapter II and in Chapter III.

For Chapter IV related to disease control measure in wild animals of listed species, the Commission introduced a more elaborated text from the previous draft version of the delegated act. The Commission informed Member States that the prohibitions to be applied in the infected area will follow the same approach as in kept animals with a table in Annex XI.

Chapter V containing the provisions for the vaccination of terrestrial animals was another main point discussed during the meeting with five new articles containing provisions related to record keeping by operators, measures to be applied in the vaccination zone and their duration, the general conditions to grant derogations and the surveillance requirements after vaccination. The Commission presented an initial proposal with the intention of defining the conditions that will apply when vaccination is used. The Commission acknowledged the challenge of having common provisions for fourteen diseases which may require specific conditions for some diseases. At the meeting, Member States did not express views on their preferred approach. The Commission requested written comments, views or remarks from Member States to finalise the vaccination section of the draft Delegated Act.

Disease control measures for Category A diseases of aquatic animals

This was the first Expert Group meeting for Part III under the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 where disease control measures for aquatic animals were presented in a single document alongside the provisions for terrestrial animals.

The Commission provided an overview of the main changes since the last Expert Group meeting (on January 9th) on aquatic animals for the disease controls measures. The aquatic section has had some editorial changes to align it with the terrestrial part. The main changes of content discussed were related to the introduction of preventive killing as an option for disease control and more elaborated provisions for disease control measures in the event of official confirmation of a category A disease for products, materials and substances. A corresponding Annex with technical details on sampling

and diagnostic tests for Category A diseases in aquatic animals was presented as a general structure. The revised annex will be sent to Member States for exchange of views via correspondence.

Although some provisions will need to be further clarified, e.g. the application of various measures for listed and non-listed species, in general, Member States were content with the provisions for aquatic animals.

Annexes

Where relevant, annexes of the future Delegated Act were discussed in parallel to the articles they refer to.

4. Miscellaneous.

4.1. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and comments during the meeting and as this was the last Expert Group meeting where provisions under Part III of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 were to be discussed encouraged them to reflect on the outstanding issues and provide written feedback not later than 22nd February 2019.

5. Next steps

The outcome of the discussions and opinions provided by participants during this last expert group meeting and the requested written comments will be used by the Commission during the future work for the conclusion of this Delegated Act under the Animal Health Law.

6. Next meeting

This was the last meeting of this Expert Group under Part III of the Animal Health Law. In the case of the provisions for aquatic animals, these could be further discussed in the next Expert Group for aquatics taking place on 28th February 2019, if necessary.