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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*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Presentation from EFSA of the scientific opinion on "Welfare of sheep and goats during killing for purposes other than slaughter".

EFSA presented the scientific opinion on "Welfare of sheep and goats during killing for purposes other than slaughter" published on 26 June 2024. Included in this scientific opinion are also recommendations about methods which shouldn't be used for killing of small ruminants.

A.03 EU funding of veterinary programmes for 2025-2027 : outcome of the evaluation procedure and proposed budget allocation.

HaDEA presented the outcome of the evaluation procedure and the proposed budget for the veterinary programmes covering the period 2025-2027. This budget is only preliminary as all countries must send back their replies to the additional clarification requests sent by HaDEA, with a deadline for reply on 19/11/2024. The budget requests must also be checked and resubmitted by each country to HaDEA by the same deadline. The final budget proposed for the grants 2025-2027 will be presented during the PAFF of December 2024, and the grants should be signed by 31 January 2025.

A.04 State of play of the situation on bluetongue measures.

The Commission re-captured the discussions at the previous PAFF in October, as regards the movements of BTV vaccinated animals to other Member States. The pragmatic approach related to that discussion was that if the competent authority at origin has grounds to ensure that the animals vaccinated against relevant BTV serotypes are within the immunity period guaranteed in the specifications of the vaccine the animal (that logically is longer than zero days) can be certified to move to another Member State. As not all Member States supported this, some Member States would like more discussions on this topic. The Commission took note of the comments, explained that this topic has also been discussed at CVO level in November and that it will be subject to further discussion at the Committee.

A.05 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Croatia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, and Poland informed the Commission and Member States about the changes of the epidemiological situation in their territories and the resulting update of regionalization.

A.06 Scientific opinion on African Swine Fever risk factors.

EFSA presented to Member States the results and recommendation of the Scientific Opinion on “Risk and protective factors for ASF in domestic pigs and mitigating measures for occurrence, spread and persistence in wild boar in the EU”, that will be published in November 2024. The main conclusions of EFSA are that:

- Biosecurity and farm management are essential to control ASF in domestic pigs;
- Wild boar density: relevant but not clear/constant effect;
- *O. erraticus* did not play a role in the EU in last 10 years;
- Mechanical vectors could potentially transmit ASFV but extent unknown;
- Fences can contribute to control, including in wave-front scenarios;
- Immunocontraception has potential, but still important work missing.

A.07 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.

Bulgaria provided an update on the recently confirmed outbreaks of sheep and goat pox (SPGP) in the country, highlighting the extensive control measures and targeted surveillance efforts undertaken to contain and control the disease. In response to the outbreaks of SPGP in the country, the Commission presented the updated restricted zones listed in the Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778, which will be adopted and published shortly.

Greece also provided an update on the epidemiological situation of sheep and goat pox in its territory, analysing the evolution of the disease, the possible routes of virus introduction into the Greek territory identified during the epidemiological investigations, the control measures in place, critical points and further measures to be considered. In the light of the epidemiological situation, Commission Implementing Decision 2024/2207 will be amended.

A.08 Information from Member States on peste des petits ruminants.

Greece provided an update of the epidemiological situation of peste des petits ruminants in their territory. Since the last PAFF meeting the epidemiological evolution remains favourable, with only two outbreaks occurring in certain areas, as last one reported is on 30/10/2024.

Romania also provided an update of the epidemiological situation of peste des petits ruminants in their territory. Since the last PAFF meeting the epidemiological evolution remains favourable, with no new outbreaks reported since 4/9/2024 and completed control measures.

A.09 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland and Norway, where HPAI virus was detected in kept birds presented updates on the epidemiological situation and measures taken.

The Netherlands informed on an outbreak of HPAI outbreak in an establishing with organic free ranged laying hens, confirmed in the day of the meeting.

A.10 Information from Member States on Newcastle disease.

Poland, where several outbreaks of Newcastle disease have been confirmed in chicken broilers in a certain region, presented details on the epidemiological situation and the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease. The competent authority ordered vaccination against Newcastle disease in the affected region. The Commission reminded on the need to follow the specific rules laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, when vaccination against Newcastle disease, in particular emergency vaccination, is implemented.

A.11 Information from the Commission on the revision of the TSE Regulatory Framework.

The Commission informed Member States of the amendments it considers making to the TSE Regulation in order to align EU rules with revised international standards and scientific opinion, which have been widely welcomed by the Member States.

A.12 Report on EU Veterinary Emergency Team established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC.

The Commission informed the Committee on the activities of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) and recalled that the list of experts should be kept up to date to ensure swift mobility of the team in case of need, to this end Member States were invited to review the list and inform the Commission of deletions or additions to be made to the list.

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 Regulation amending Annex I 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 to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594, following the changes of the ASF epidemiological situation in Croatia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Poland. Germany and Poland established new restricted zone III and II following the confirmation of outbreaks in kept and wild porcine animals. Following the improvement of the epidemiological situation and based on the information and justification provided by in Germany, Italy, Lithuania and Poland, certain restricted zones III and II were reverted to restricted zone II and I. In addition, certain restricted zones I and II in Germany and Croatia were delisted from the Annex.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207. The amendments include the adjustment of the size and location of the restricted zones in the Annex, in response to the new disease outbreaks.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 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.

The Commission presented 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 in the light of the epidemiological situation and control measures implemented by the Authority.

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) 2024/2119 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2832 concerning certain emergency measures relating to infection with peste des petits ruminants virus in Romania. The amendments include the adjustment of the list of restricted zones and the duration of the measures to be applied therein in the light of the control measures implemented by the Authority.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/110 by prolonging the period of application of emergency measures regarding confirmed cases of infestation with the small hive beetle in France and Italy and by adding the Region of Sicily in Italy to the Annex thereof as a zone subject to emergency measures.

The Commission briefly explained the elements and drivers of the Decision. After the vote the Commission also indicated its intention to revise in the mid-term the current practice of an emergency decision covering infestations with small hive beetle (a Category D disease). That practice that has been followed since 2014 but is becoming questionable under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 due to clearer responsibilities of Member States in this improved legal framework, as well as due to need for more simplification and subsidiarity.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 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.

Point withdrawn from the agenda.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 as regards model animal health certificates for the movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof.

The Commission presented the draft Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 as regards model animal health certificates for the movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 EFSA's evaluation by the European Commission.

Presentation of the ongoing work on EFSA's performance evaluation 2017-2024 by the Commission and the forthcoming consultation activities for Member States' participation.

M.02 Solutions regarding the events at the border between Türkiye and Bulgaria.

Information provided by the Commission.

M.03 Case of bat rabies in a cat - at the request of the Netherlands.

The Dutch delegation informed the Committee of the recent detection of a bat Lyssavirus infection in a domestic cat and of the measures taken by the authorities, in particular with regard to people and animals in contact with the cat.