



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.5(2016)3904786

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 05 JULY 2016 - 06 JULY 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 Information by Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy on the results of the implementation of the rabies programme in 2015.

- Member States with an approved programme presented the results of their 2015 rabies eradication programmes (Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) Hungary will present the situation at the PAFF Committee in September.
- The situation is improving compared to previous years in the EU as a whole.
- Only one of two rabies vaccination campaigns have been implemented in both, Italy and Greece.

A.02 Information by Hungary on the results of the implementation of their Classical swine fever co-funded programme in 2015.

Hungary presented their situation as regards Classical swine fever. It remains positive and stable as no cases have been detected.

A.03 Information on availability of online reporting tool for the annual reports on controls performed for identification and registration of bovine and ovine/caprine animals.

The Commission presented a simplified data collection tool for the submission of the Member States' annual control reports on bovine and ovine/caprine identification in accordance with Regulations (EC) No 1082/2003 and 1505/2006. Member States were asked to nominate contact points for the reporting tool by 25 July 2016.

A.04 Information from Austria, Spain, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the UK on the results of the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes in 2015.

Austria, Spain, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom presented the results of the implementation of their bovine tuberculosis co-funded eradication programmes in 2015. The 2015 trend in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis is favourable in Croatia, Ireland and Portugal, but is unfavourable in Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom compared to 2014. 2015 was the first year of implementation of the programme in Austria. The Commission recommended to all the concerned Member States to follow closely the correct implementation of their eradication programme, in particular in the regions with the highest prevalence, and to reinforce measures in the incoming 2017 programmes to accelerate the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

A.05 Information from the Commission and the Member States on the state of play on salamander fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal).

The Commission explained the outcome of the discussion on *Batrachocytrium salamandrivorans* ("Bsal") in the Council CVOs meeting of 14/6/2016, and in particular that:

- Member States have a legal base in Article 17 of Directive 92/65/EEC to adopt measures on import of salamanders from third countries, while intra Union movements should not be affected by national rules.
- There is a lack of scientific data on all policy related aspects of the disease (susceptible species, transmission, environmental factors, distribution in the Union etc.).
- The disease is not listed by the OIE.

The Commission is open to ask EFSA for listing and categorization of Bsal under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law).

EFSA warned that the lack of scientific publications on Bsal may imply the risk that the opinion would only highlight the gaps to be filled by future research.

After extensive discussion in which a number of Member States have taken the floor, it was concluded that:

- It is not appropriate to proceed with Union requirements and measures;
- Instead, it is of the utmost importance to
 - inform and educate all the relevant actors and stakeholders,
 - put in place biosecurity measures at local level to protect endangered and at risk populations
 - cooperate closely with Environmental authorities,
 - support research generating more knowledge of the pathogen.

A.06 Update from France and Italy on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

France reported that since 18/04/2016 no further outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have occurred. An update was given on the measures in place for the restocking of farms, ongoing surveillance and strengthening of biosecurity. While

protection and surveillance zones around previous outbreaks were lifted, measures in the further restrictive zone continue to apply.

Italy presented its final report on two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N7 confirmed in May 2016 in poultry holdings in the region of Emilia Romagna. Restrictions in relation to these outbreaks were lifted on 22/06/2016.

A.07 Information from the Netherlands on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

The Netherlands reported an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N9 confirmed in a laying hen farm in the province of Friesland in early June 2016. Laboratory investigations showed that this strain is different from the virus strain of the same subtype that is circulating in China. Stamping-out and zoning around the outbreak was applied. Restrictions were lifted on 01/07/2016.

A.08 Export of live animals to non-EU countries - recommendations on the protection of animals during transport.

The Commission emphasized the political sensitivity of the issue, its economic importance for the EU livestock sector, the legal dimension linked to various complaints and the risks for animal welfare. It announces a letter to all Chief Veterinary Officers on this issue where suggestions are provided. The Commission also presented data to illustrate that, while there have been improvements, there is still a margin for progress, in particular in certain Member States which receive notifications of infringements and do not attend national contact point meetings on animal transport. In addition, the Commission emphasized that with the Lumpy skin disease situation in Bulgaria, animals cannot be sent back from this restricted area (Bulgarian/Turkish border) which means even higher need to ensure that checks at departure are properly performed.

Bulgaria said they have a problem getting transporters to pay for the slaughter of animals where they detect a major problem and the animals cannot be sent back. The Commission emphasised that Member States have a legal basis to demand animals being slaughtered. Directive 93/444/EC requires that animals are accompanied by an intra-EU certificate which would cover slaughter in a slaughterhouse and Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 allows the authorities to recover the costs of any of their requests including the killing of animals.

Austria indicated that the Commission should be doing more through the contact points and with industry, create a list of "reception centres" (control posts) in non-EU countries and provide guidance to achieve a more harmonized approach to controls. The Commission replied that, together with the Member States network, it has developed documents (one on export by sea vessels and a draft for another on exports by road), and has started a pilot project on "best practices in animal transport" in 2015 where the contractor will consult stakeholders and Member States this year. The Commission concluded that it was not correct to say the Commission was doing little, notwithstanding that it remains primarily for the Member States to implement the legislation.

A.09 Information on the study on the possible derogation from certain certification requirements for Intra-EU movements of live animals under the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law).

The Commission presented a study aiming at supporting the decision making process with regard to the possible future exemptions from the animal health certification obligation for movements of certain live animals. The Commission informed Member States about the timing of the study and explained that Member States will soon be invited to participate in it. The Commission asked for their full support in this exercise.

A.10 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN), koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "la pisciculture des poissons du soleil à Frontignan".

The Commission informed about a declaration from France on disease free status for a compartment as regards IHN, KHV and VHS. The compartment consists of a land-based production establishment, which uses filtrated sea-water and recirculation technology for the production of Sea bass, Sea bream and Meagre for human consumption, all which are considered to be species not susceptible to VHS or IHN. On this basis, the declaration is submitted in accordance with Article 50.1(a) of Directive 2006/88/EC.

A.11 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) of the compartment "Bruthaus Feldmann" in Pfullendorf-Schwäblishausen.

The Commission informed about a declaration from Germany of disease free status for IHN for a compartment comprising a hatchery. The compartment was previously part of a zone declared free of IHN and VHS, but lost its free status for IHN due to an outbreak of this disease in 2015. The hatchery has subsequently been subject to an eradication scheme including cleaning, disinfection and fallowing for more than six weeks. The compartment consequently fulfils the criteria set out in Decision 2015/1554 for the regaining of disease free status.

A.12 Information concerning two declarations from Slovenia on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartments "Rižana" and "Koligar".

The Commission informed about two declarations from Slovenia on disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS.

The first declaration concerns the compartment "Rižana", comprising a fish farm and the river Rižana from its spring to the first artificial barrier, and the stream Farmska Mlinsčica. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance with reduced

sample size, following a previous period of systematic surveillance, all without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

The second declaration concerns a compartment comprising one farm producing Marble trout for the purpose of restocking of open waters. Marble trout, which is a species not considered to be susceptible to IHN and VHS, is the only species reared on this farm. Based on that, the declaration is submitted in accordance with Article 50.1(a) of Directive 2006/88/EC.

A.13 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on a surveillance programme for achieving disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "GMID1000900048".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Slovenia concerning a surveillance programme for achieving disease-free status for IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising an on-growing site and parts of the stream Sujica. Rainbow trout and Brook trout are the only species produced on this farm, mainly for human consumption. The surveillance programme has been prepared as a two year programme with reduced sample size, based on previous years of systematic surveillance.

Links to the declarations will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.14 Information by Germany as regards the decreasing of the amount of serological tests necessary for retaining the officially enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free status.

Germany presented the epidemiological situation regarding the enzootic-bovine-leukosis (EBL) specifying that the country is recognized as officially free of EBL since 1999 and emphasizing the favourable current situation.

Germany informed the Commission and the Member States about the intention to reduce the number of serological tests to 1% of herds each year, as provided for in the second sentence of point F(d) of Chapter I of Annex D to Council Directive 64/432/EEC.

The Member States and the Commission took note of that information and had no comments related to the subject.

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, as regards the entry for Latvia.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend the Annex of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in view of updating regionalisation and extension of the relevant zones subjected to control measures for this disease.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding a financial contribution by the Union to emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and pests in 2016 and 2017.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding a financial contribution by the Union to emergency measures to combat certain animal diseases and plant pests in 2016 and 2017. This Decision serves as a financing decision for emergency measures implemented by the beneficiaries or for actions directly implemented by the Commission to combat the eligible animal diseases and pests for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017. The Commission referred to the presentation of this Decision during the PAFF Committee on Plant Health on 27-28 June 2016 and confirmed that the comments made by the colleagues at this session of the Committee were taken into consideration. The Member States had no questions on the substance of the Decision.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive.

The aim of the proposal is to amend the above Implementing Regulation by including new opportunities to use manure of farmed animals a fuel in combustion plants and to introduce a new processing method for production of biofuel.

Vote postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2009/156/EC as regards methods for African horse sickness diagnosis.

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision on the amendments of Annex IV to Council Directive 2009/156/EC. This draft aims at the update of diagnostic methods for African horse sickness (AHS) by deleting a description for the competitive ELISA, as the test is no longer used by National Reference Laboratories

and it is no longer available commercially, by updating the procedures for the indirect and blocking ELISA tests in accordance with Chapter 2.5.1. of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals of the OIE and by adding real-time RT-PCR to make that method available for the purpose of pre-movement testing. The amendments are supported by the report prepared by European Union Reference Laboratory for AHS and consulted with other reference laboratories for AHS diagnosis.

The draft Decision will be presented for vote during the PAFF Committee meeting in September.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex E to Council Directive 91/68/EEC, Annex II to Commission Decision 2000/572/EC, Annex III to Commission Decision 2007/777/EC, Annex III to Commission Decision 2010/470/EU and Annex II to Commission Decision 2010/472/EU.

The representative of the Commission presented a draft Decision on amending several animal health certificates in order to reflect recent amendments of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. Originally this draft Decision was supposed to amend five legal acts but finally it refers to Annex E to Council Directive 91/68/EEC, Annex III to Commission Decision 2010/470/EU and Annex II to Commission Decision 2010/472/EU.

Those certificates are used by the Member States and non-EU countries during intra-EU trade in and imports from non-EU countries of ovine and caprine animals and semen thereof:

- (i) to certify compliance with the relevant EU rules and
- (ii) to enable official controls to check compliance with those rules.

The amendments refer to the conditions for trade in ovine and caprine animals (for fattening and for breeding) of rare breeds and of animals moved between approved bodies, institutes or centres as defined in Article 2(1)(c) of Directive 92/65/EEC, as well as to the conditions for trade in and imports of semen of ovine and caprine animals kept at the semen collection centre in connection with their classical scrapie status.

The draft Decision will be presented for vote during the PAFF Committee meeting in September.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States.

Item was withdrawn from the agenda.