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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Italy, Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic provided an update on the ASF epidemiological situation and control measures in their territories.

A.03 EFSA opinions on the welfare of animals during transport and on the welfare of pigs at farm level - presentation by EFSA.

The Commission introduced EFSA opinions as key milestones towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation planned in 2023. EFSA presented the five scientific opinions on welfare of animals during transport and on the welfare of pigs at farm level published recently. There were a few questions and comments from Member States:

- Sources used by EFSA?
- Importance of training and of the use of new technologies.
- Highlighting the usefulness of EFSA opinions not only for planned legislative but also to work already today at national level to improve animal welfare.
- Would limiting the number of piglets per sow not go against genetic improvement?
- Several Member States praised EFSA for the solidity of their work and one Member State expressed hope that the impact assessment would be as solid as the EFSA opinion.

The Commission confirmed this was the objective and called on Member States to submit any relevant data they have on the impacts of the options being considered and EFSA recommendations, as part of the contractors' consultation activities or directly to the Commission.

A.04 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Member States affected by new HPAI outbreaks in poultry or captive birds have presented the updates on the epidemiological situation and on the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease. With the exception of certain areas in France and Hungary where higher number of outbreaks are concentrated in areas with dense poultry population, the outbreaks of HPAI are sporadically detected in poultry or captive birds, in areas where the virus has been also detected in wild birds. Germany has provided details on an incident where the HPAI virus has been spread from an exposition to high number of establishments keeping captive birds of high genetic, rare breeds. In addition, Belgium informed on the HPAI virus of subtype H5N1 being detected in a small establishment with captive birds. The HPAI virus has been also detected in ferrets kept in that establishment, in the enclosure in contact with the captive birds pen.

A.05 Information from the Commission as a follow up on the EFSA scientific opinions as regards assessment of listing and categorisation of infection with Equine Herpesvirus-1 within the framework of the Animal Health Law and clinical impact, diagnosis and control of that disease in Europe.

The Commission recalled the outcome of the EFSA scientific opinions related to the infection with Equine Herpesvirus-1 presented by EFSA during the previous meeting of the PAFF Committee. Taking into account that outcome and the efficiency and proportionality of measures, as well as subsidiarity rules, the Commission proposed not to include the infection with Equine Herpesvirus – 1 in the list of Annex II to the Animal Health Law. Member States supported the proposal of the Commission.

A.06 Information from Spain on sheep pox and goat pox.

Spain presented an update of the SGP epidemiological situation, with an emphasis to the last 2 outbreaks, in the region of Castilla - La Mancha. In response to these outbreaks, all previous protection and surveillance zones in this region have been re-established and a new further restricted zone has been established too. The Commission informed the MS that a new Implementing Decision, amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2333 regarding sheep pox and goat pox measures in Spain, has been drafted and will soon be circulated for MS opinion, through a written procedure.

A.07 Information from France on the infestation with small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) in the Department of Reunion.

France explained the details relevant for several SHB outbreaks over summer on Reunion and the implemented measures.

A.08 Information from invited Member States submitting applications for disease-free status regarding category B diseases.

Spain presented the key data supporting their application for disease-free status for the Autonomous Communities of the Balearic Islands, Catalonia and Murcia in Spain regarding infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (*M. bovis*, *M. caprae*, *M. tuberculosis*).

A.09 Information from the Commission on a report on the technical and economic feasibility of introducing mandatory electronic identification of bovine animals throughout the Union.

The Commission informed about a planned report to the Council and the European Parliament on the technical and economic feasibility of introducing mandatory electronic identification of bovine animals throughout the Union. Member States were invited to contribute to the report by replying to a short survey on the current use of electronic identification of bovine animals in their country.

A.10 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS CoV 2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

A.11 Future implementing regulation on contingency plans and simulation exercises.

This point was withdrawn from the agenda.

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) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

A revision of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 was proposed to the Member States. It included enlargement of restricted zones for Italy and Poland around cases of ASF in wild boar. But it also included a revision of certain zones of Poland and Italy towards lower level of risk. In particular for the first time the Italian Region of Sardinia was put in different risk category given the improved ASF epidemiological situation in the island.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU zoning for HPAI has been amended to take into account the restricted zones established for new outbreaks confirmed by Czechia, Germany, France, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary and Poland.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

The Commission presented the draft for a vote.

The proposed Regulation will repeal the current ASF Regulation and replace it with the revised special disease control measures related to ASF. The main changes relate to:

- (i) the extended scope of the special disease control measures in relation to movements within the restricted zones of kept porcine animals kept in restricted zones and products thereof, and
- (ii) National action plans for wild boar in order to avoid the spread of ASF in the Union. The proposed Regulation will enter into force from 21 April 2023.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases.

The Commission explained the changes in the draft compared to the version circulated prior to the meeting.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down emergency measures as regards confirmed cases of infestation with small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) in Italy and France and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/597.

The proposed Decision adds a new zone in France (Department of Reunion) infested with *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle) to the list of Member States or zones thereof subject to emergency measures due to that disease and for the sake of clarity to repeal and replace Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/597.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.07 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 movements between Member States of consignments of cervid animals.

The Commission presented a draft Regulation which intends to align the model certificates for the movement between Member States of cervid animals set out in Annex I, Chapters 11 and 12, to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 as recently amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2246 as regards the restrictions, *inter alia*, of movements of cervid animals moved in conjunction with human activity between Norway, the Member States currently affected by chronic wasting disease (CWD) and the rest of the Union, in order to prevent further spread of CWD in the Union.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

M.01 One Health Surveillance in Animals and the Environment.

The Commission, together with EFSA and HaDEA informed about next steps as regards the OH surveillance under the EU4H in response to questions posed by Member States at previous PAFF.