



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

sante.ddg2.g.5(2016)6900238

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 07 NOVEMBER 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 General Information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease in poultry.

Romania informed about a confirmed outbreak of Newcastle disease in a backyard poultry flock in Suseni, Vaslui County in the East of Romania and the measures taken according to Council Directive 92/66/EEC on Newcastle disease control.

A.03 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) for the zone "Wassereinzugsgebiet des Würzbachs".

Information concerning three declarations from Germany on disease-free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for two zones and one compartment.

The Commission informed about three declarations from Germany concerning disease-free status as regards IHN and VHS for the compartment "Bruthaus Bolstern" and the zones "Wagenhauser Bach" and Wassereinzugsgebiet des Würzbachs", all localized in Baden Württemberg.

The two declarations concerning the compartment "Bruthaus Bolstern" and the zone "Wagenhauser Bach" are linked. Those are today both parts of a compartment which has been recognized as free of IHN and VHS since 1996, and have since then been subject to systematic surveillance. Now "Bruthaus Bolstern" is declared as a disease free compartment independent of the surrounding waters, and "Wagenhauser Bach" declared as a disease free zone from the spring of the stream with the same name, to an artificial barrier 500 meter down-streams the fish farm "Anlage Wagenhauser".

The third declaration concerns disease free status for the zone "Wassereinzugsgebiet des Würzbachs", which is a part of a larger zone already declared free of VHS and IHN in 2004. The zone comprises two farms which experienced outbreaks of IHN in 2006 and 2008. The farms has since then been emptied, cleansed, and disinfected and restocked with disease free material. The whole zone has subsequently been subject to targeted surveillance without detection of this disease.

A.04 Information concerning four declaration from France on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) two zones and two compartments in France.

The Commission informed about the following four declarations on disease-free status for IHN and VHS in France:

1. A declaration concerning the compartment "Percafrance" in the department of Ardenne, which comprise a fish farm producing European perch and pike-perch. These species are not known to be neither susceptible nor vector species to IHN and VHS. The declaration is thus based the requirements set out in Article 50.1(a) of Directive 2006/88/EC – absence of susceptible species.
2. A declaration concerning the compartment "Bonnefon" in the department of Lot et Garonne, which comprises one fish farm producing Koi carp and gold fish. These species are not known to be susceptible species to IHN and VHS, and the declaration is thus based on the requirements set out in Article 50.1.(a) of Directive 2006/88/EC – absence of susceptible species.
3. A declaration concerning the zone "la Cuisance" in the department of Jura. The zone comprises two fish farms with a common biosecurity system producing rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout for human consumption. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance without detection of the pathogens of concern.
4. A declaration concerning the zone "l'Effrenay" in the department of la Haute Saône. The zone comprises a fish farm producing rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout for human consumption, and the declaration is based on a four year surveillance programme with reduced sample size, without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

A.05 Information concerning a declaration from Italy on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Agricola Piscicoltura Burrini".

The Commission informed about a declaration from Italy on disease free status for IHN and VHS for the compartment "Agricola Piscicoltura Burrini" located in Via Bornia. The fish farm, which produces rainbow trout for human consumption, was closed due to an outbreak of IHN in 2013. Subsequently an eradication programme including emptying, disinfection and fallowing has been carried out prior to introduction of new breeding material from disease free areas. Since then the farm has been subject to targeted surveillance without detection of the agents of concern.

Links to the declarations presented under A.03, A.04 and A.05 will be made available on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.06 Update from Latvia and Lithuania on the epidemiological situation, control and surveillance measures applied as regards African swine fever.

Latvia, Lithuania and Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The situation in Latvia and Lithuania was reviewed by the Committee with respect of the improvement of the epidemiological situation in the pig sector. The Committee noted the changes in the epidemiological situation for this disease in these three Member States.

A.07 Information from Germany on low pathogenic avian influenza in captive birds.

Germany reported the confirmation of low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N3 in a wildlife park in Mannheim (Baden-Württemberg) on 18 October 2016. Two pheasants died and tested positive for the virus out of the ~ 450 birds present in that park. Birds kept together with the infected ones were culled. The remaining birds that are healthy are tested repeatedly. Public access to the aviary is prohibited. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing.

A.08 Update from the Commission on the discussions at the ministerial meeting on African swine fever held in Poland.

Poland informed the Committee of the African swine fever ministerial conference organised in Warsaw on 28 October 2016 with the participation of the Eastern EU Member States, together with the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Moldova. The Commission referred to the outcome of the meeting and highlighted the conclusions which were agreed among the participants. These conclusions addressed political and technical aspects while underlining the need to strengthen international cooperation when fighting against transboundary diseases.

A.09 Update from the Commission on EU animal welfare activities.

The Commission representative gave a short overview of the animal welfare activities performed in 2016 and to be achieved for 2017. The activities are directed towards five axes as follows: (1) the completion of the EU animal welfare strategy adopted in 2012 with three reports and three studies to be performed in 2017; (2) the enforcement of the existing legislation with two priorities: the welfare of pigs (provision of manipulable materials for pigs/stop routine tail docking) and live export; (3) the development of an animal welfare platform – the subject will be further developed by the Commission at the forthcoming Council Meeting of 14 November 2016; (4) designation of EU reference centres for animal welfare following the forthcoming adoption by the EU of the regulation on official controls – the designation will take place within one year following the publication of the adopted regulation, foreseen around February/March 2017; (5) the continuation of the animal welfare international

activities with, on one hand with the OIE (participation to the animal welfare working group for drafting standards, financial support to OIE activities in implementing international standards within and outside Europe) and on the other hand through bilateral cooperation.

Following the presentation, some Member States took the floor for specific issues: animal welfare platform (Denmark), transport of pregnant females (France), follow up of a judgment of the Court on animal transport (Slovenia). On the platform the Commission representative could not go into details since the process is still ongoing. As regards the transport of pregnant females to slaughterhouses, the Commission informed the Committee that EFSA was working on this specific question. As regards animal transport, the Commission explained that the analysis of the judgment was complex and would take time before a formal reply could be provided. However, the Commission emphasized that Member States could implement a number of practical measures on live export that already clearly apply and which could be better respected, as the Commission reminded Member States before summer 2016.

A.10 Information from Hungary on the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N8 in a wild bird.

Hungary reported the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in a wild mute swan found dead on 19 October 2016 near Lake Fehér-tó in Csongrád county. On 3 November 2016 the same virus was confirmed in a holding located in Tótkomlós locality, Békés County, that kept 10,200 fattening turkeys in five pens. All poultry present on the holding was culled and destroyed. Protection and surveillance zones have been established around the infected holding and surveillance is ongoing. The epidemiological investigations have so far not identified any contact to other holdings.

A.11 Information from The Netherlands on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

The Netherlands informed about an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in a holding located in the village of Deurne, in the province of Noord-Brabant, where 11,000 turkeys were kept indoors as well as ~5000 pheasants and ducks in free range. Only the turkeys tested positive for the virus. All poultry on the farm were culled and destroyed and a 1km restricted zone established around that holding. Epidemiological investigations and testing of poultry in the restricted zone are ongoing.

A.12 Information from Bulgaria on Newcastle diseases in poultry.

Bulgaria reported on an outbreak of Newcastle disease confirmed in a backyard poultry holding in Mladenovo, Lom municipality in the Montana region and the disease control measures taken according to Council Directive 92/66/EEC.

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.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Hungary.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Decision concerning protective measures in relation to the first outbreak in poultry in Hungary (see agenda item A.10). The Hungarian authorities have established protection and surveillance zones around the infected holding. In these zones control measures and restrictions on movements apply according to Directive 2005/94/EC. The Committee endorsed the extent of the zones which are described in the Annex to this Decision.

B.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union for expenditure incurred by Italy in 2013 for the financing of the emergency measures to combat avian influenza. Decision allowing Italy to receive a third tranche of the contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2013, awaiting the final result of the ex ante on the spot audit.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision allowing Italy to receive a third tranche of the contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2013, awaiting the final result of the ex-ante on the spot audit.

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 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States and explained how these measures were related to the changes in the epidemiological situation discussed earlier and to the improvements in the pig sector in certain areas of Latvia and Lithuania.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

M.01 Denmark – exchange of information on the issue of former stray dogs sent for adoption to other Member States.

Denmark raised concerns about the increasing number of former stray dogs dispatched from the Balkan countries in view of rehoming in Denmark and wanted to share knowledge about the magnitude of the issue in the other Member States. Those

cross-border movements are mostly operated by animal protection organisations and are not always carried out in accordance with the applicable EU legislation.

Several Member States expressed similar concerns and would welcome the implementation of a broad European strategy to deal with the issue. Contact points should be identified in each Member State in order to facilitate the transmission of information on cases of non-compliance detected by Member States. In this respect France informed Member States of the existence of a French task force to combat organised dog trafficking.

Germany also reminded the importance to fight against the roots of the problem in implementing proper control programmes for stray animal populations. Romania explained the national measures in place to better control the dog population on its territory and proposed a contact point to deal with documented non-compliances.

The representative of the Commission reminded that there is a comprehensive EU legislation in place regarding the cross-border movement of dogs and that the enforcement of this legislation is the responsibility of Member States which need to develop the necessary tools and procedures to address the possible fraudulent disguise of commercial movements of dogs and cats as non-commercial movements of pet dogs and cats. The Commission's Better Training for Safer Food initiative has helped to develop an effective network of officials carrying out checks on the movement of dogs and cats and facilitated exchange of best practices, experience and intelligence between authorities in relation to illegal practices. The Commission is ready to gather relevant information regarding the contact points identified by Member States and national rules in place in Member States.

M.02 HPAI in Croatia.

Croatia informed about the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in wild birds.

M.03 Avian influenza in Switzerland.

Switzerland informed about findings of Influenza A virus in wild birds found dead at Lake Constance. The virus subtype and its pathogenicity must still be determined.