



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Unit G.3 Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals

Draft Minutes

"Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625"

Thursday, 6 February 2020, **14H30 – 18H00**
Centre de Conférences A. Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, Bruxelles

WORKING GROUP of MEMBER STATES on OFFICIAL CONTROLS

1	14:30 – 14:40	Welcome by the Commission: 1) Follow-up on the Conference “ <i>Smarter rules for safer food and plant health</i> ” of 13 December 2019, and 2) Information on upcoming BTSF events	COM presented the successful outcome of the conference on 13/12/2019, which attracted more than 400 participants from all over the world. Among the main conclusions was mentioned the fact that the OCR and the Plant Health Law both represent modernised legal frameworks which will contribute considerably to the new European Green Deal.
2	14:40 – 15:20	Implementation of Article 9 (1)(d) on private quality assurance schemes	COM presented the issue and queried whether additional steps should be taken to come to a harmonised understanding of this provision. While MS saw the merits of relying on the results of private quality assurance schemes, they also pointed to the scope of such schemes which was different from official controls related to safety.
3	15:20 – 15:45	Presentation by the Commission on the state of play of, and novelties in, the implementing acts published under the OCR	COM presented the novelties in the implementing acts under the OCR. Questions and comments from MS revolved around plant health checks, IMSOC/CHED, future work revamping certain model certificates (PWP), prior notification, the frequency of border controls and the entry into the Union of food and feed of non-animal origin.
4	16:00 – 16:30	IMSOC – state of play (information and exchange of views)	COM provided an update on the state of play of IMSOC, with reference to a practical demonstration of the tool and provided replies to detailed questions of MS.
5	16:30 – 16:45	Member States’ notifications under the OCR – information by the Commission	COM explained the outline of a CircaBC page where relevant information would be collected.
6	16:45 – 17:15	First impressions of implementing the implementing acts under the OCR (discussion with Member States)	See above
7	17:15 – 17:55	Requests from Member States as regards the future work on implementing acts (new model official certificates etc.)	Future work: COM made a presentation on the state of play of its internal reflections as regards new model certificates to replace the current ones (Article 90 of the OCR and Article 238 of the AHL). As for empowerments not used so far, MS mainly suggested that focus should be put on PDOs, PGIs, TSGs (Article 26), traceability of samples (Article 46), presentation of consignments in BCPs (Article 49) and a European food fraud reference centre (Article 97).
8	17:55 – 18:00	Conclusion of the meeting	MS were invited to submit written comments within the weeks to follow, and informed that the next OCR expert group meeting would be planned for the second half of April 2020.