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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*
15 - 16 March 2021

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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

Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Latvia and Bulgaria presented an update on the current ASF epidemiological situation. Hungary presented the control measures implemented in the domestic pig population and the plan for the long-term management of wild boar.

A.03 Information from the Commission outlining new procedures for declarations of freedom and for eradication programmes for aquatic animals which will apply in certain zones and compartments from 21 April 2021, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

Information was provided by the Commission concerning new procedures for declarations of freedom and for eradication programmes for aquatic animals which will apply in certain zones and compartments from 21 April 2021, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/689. Particular attention was drawn to the fact that the declaring Member State will be responsible for a new task which is to alert other Member States and the Commission on the day that their provisional declaration is posted on their website.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): independent compartment of the fish farm “Povh” and the stream Ljubnica.

The Commission briefly explained key elements of the declarations, explained where they will be made available for further scrutiny by the Member States at the following home page and stated that according to the procedure in Directive 2006/88/EC these take effect 60 days from the date of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing:

(https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en).

The Commission informed the delegates that this declaration was changed compared to the agenda and it concerned a zone, rather than an independent compartment.

A.05 Information concerning a declaration from Slovenia on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): independent compartment of the fish farm “Okroglo” and the stream Bistričica.

The Commission briefly explained key elements of the declarations, explained where they will be made available for further scrutiny by the Member States at the following home page and stated that according to the procedure in Directive 2006/88/EC these take effect 60 days from the date of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing:

(https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en).

The Commission informed the delegates that this declaration may be still changed by the Slovenian authorities compared to the agenda, following some recent clarifications. In any case the information that will be made available on their national home page for the Member States, will duly reflect the final consideration.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the upper Sarre Rouge.

Summary for items A.06-A.11:

The Commission briefly explained key elements of the declarations, explained where they will be made available for further scrutiny by the Member States at the following home page and stated that according to the procedure in Directive 2006/88/EC these take effect 60 days from the date of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing:

(https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en).

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): independent compartment of Pauline Air Farm.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.06.

A.08 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of Source de l’Eclimont.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.06.

A.09 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment of the Dorme.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.06.

A.10 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): independent compartment of Source de Farguette.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.06.

A.11 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment on the Isle river.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.06.

A.12 Commission update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission provided an update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/2183 of 21 December 2020. These updates addressed the outbreak in Greece.

A.13 Revision of the Strategic approach to the management of African swine fever for the EU.

The Commission provided information on the ongoing revision of EU guidelines based on the new legislation (AHL and Implementing Regulation on ASF) from 21 April 2021.

A.14 Revision of the Principles and criteria for geographically defining ASF regionalisation.

The Commission provided information on the ongoing revision of EU guidelines based on the new legislation (AHL and Implementing Regulation on ASF) from 21 April 2021.

A.15 Information on actions related to the implementation of the Animal Health Law.

The Commission informed delegations about the general state of play of activities and actions in preparation to the entry into application of the Animal Health Law. The Commission also presented and explained draft Commission staff working document (SANTE/7104/2021) providing guidance to the Member States as regards certification of movements within the EU during the transitional period following the entry into application of the Animal Health Law. The Commission highlighted that, at this stage, the document is focused on Bluetongue, but other topics that need further guidance, might be added.

A.16 Information from the Commission on ongoing work on the future Commission Implementing Regulation replacing Commission Implementing Decision 2016/2008/EU for specific measures against Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (LSD).

A presentation was made to the Member States on the work being carried out in relation to the future Implementing Regulation on lumpy skin disease. The presentation consisted of an overview of the epidemiological situation of LSD in Europe, an analysis of the new regulatory framework and finally an explanation of the main aspects of the new implementing regulation.

After the presentation two Member States raised questions, regarding the possibility of lifting the current restricted areas, which was answered that it will be analysed when the draft is discussed, and another regarding the entry into force, to which the answer was that there will be instructions for this transitional period.

A.17 Information from the Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Germany, Denmark, France, Sweden, Poland, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary and Italy presented updates of the epidemiological situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in these countries. The Commission presented an overview of the HPAI in the EU and a comparison of the current epidemic season with the one in 2016/2017, with the purpose to highlight the similarities/differences which can lead to conclusions on the aspects on which further reflection is needed with the purpose to improve the capacity to prevent infection of the poultry population.

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 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429, (EU) 2016/1012 and (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the identification and registration of equine animals and establishing model identification documents for those animals.

The Commission presented the draft (SANTE/7004/2019 Rev1) as revised following comments received from 60 stakeholders during public consultation and 14 Member States after discussion in the February PAFF Committee. During the discussion, several Member States either took the floor or included comments in the chat. Questions have been answered and suggestions for improvement of the text noted for the final revision.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission 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 a Decision to revise the current ASF regionalisation for the following Member States: Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Latvia and Germany.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the officially brucellosis-free status for Croatia regarding bovine herds.

Croatia presented the eradication programme and their epidemiological situation, and the measures they intend to take to maintain the favourable status regarding brucellosis in bovine herds. No other Member States commented.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down emergency measures in relation to confirmed cases of infestation with small hive beetle in Italy.

The Commission briefly presented the background to the draft proposal. One Member State asked several questions for which clarification was given by the Commission and by Italy, respectively.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning special control measures relating to classical swine fever.

After two working group meetings and the discussion at the February Committee, the Commission presented the Draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning special control measures relating to classical swine fever to replace the measures set by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU of 13 December 2013 concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to monitoring and reporting infection of SARS-CoV-2 in certain animal species.

The Commission presented Draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to monitoring and reporting infection of SARS-CoV-2 in certain animal species based on ECDC and EFSA recommendations. This Draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to repeal and replace the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/2183 for reporting obligations. The discussion in the Committee indicated that several Member States would not be able to implement the active surveillance requirements due to the burden it would represent in terms of human resources and financial requirements. The Commission committed to explore further more flexible options that would take stock of other measures already in place in Member States (e.g. surveillance in targeted human populations).

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation repealing Regulation (EC) No 535/2002, Regulation (EC) No 1226/2002, Decision 93/317/EEC, Decision 2002/598/EC, Decision 2004/226/EC, Decision 2006/563/EC and Decision 2008/946/EC.

This point has been withdrawn from the agenda.

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1809 concerning certain protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The Decision amends the EU regionalization for highly pathogenic avian influenza, taking into account the epidemiological situation with the disease in certain Member States. There was no intervention by Member States.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council with regard to the Union antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation which will complement the rules laid down in Part III of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the delegated act referred to in Article 48(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards the requirements for the Union antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks. It aims at supporting the animal health policy concerning vaccination within the strategy for the prevention, control and eradication of category A diseases. The Commission requested Member States to provide comments to the presented document by 12 April 2021.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on laying down minimum frequencies for certain official controls to verify compliance with Union animal health requirements.

The Commission explained some elements of the draft, also in light of questions, comments and suggestions received during a recent written consultation from Member States. Several Member States asked further questions, which the Commission clarified. The Commission noted the general support while indicated that Member States might still send in comments until the end of the week for smaller elements. The draft will be submitted to internal consultations before coming back to this forum.

M.01 Certification of Aujeszky's Disease status for movement of pigs from an officially free Member State to another officially free Member State.

Slovenia is a country officially free of Aujeszky's Disease (AD) and has consignments of pigs coming from other countries officially free from AD. It is clear that further guarantees are not necessary. The question relates to clarification regarding certification according to Article 7 of Decision 2008/185/EC for AD for trade with pigs.

Following Art. 7 (2) of Commission Decision 2008/185/EC, the relevant article confirming this has to be entered in health certificate, accompanying animals. This has to be done in point II.3.3.1. of Section C of the health certificate. This is also necessary if the animals are being moved from a Member State officially free of AD to another Member State officially free of AD.

Clarification was sought by both Slovenia and Belgium on the certification process and the Commission duly obliged.