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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*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information on the state of play and actions related to the implementation of the Animal Health Law.

The Commission updated on the state of play of activities and plans related to the implementation of the AHL

The updates to document SANTE/7104/2021 (revision 5) were presented. They refer to the prolongation of the transition period for entry into the EU and to the certificate to be used for the movements within the EU of small ruminants intended for fattening.

A.03 Commission update on reports 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) 2021/788 of 12 May 2021. These updates addressed the outbreaks in Sweden, Greece and Spain.

A.04 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Romania presented an update on the ASF epidemiological situation with focus on critical aspects of recent evolutions.

A.05 Situation 2020 bovine and swine diseases.

The Commission presented the draft document "Situation 2020" - bovine and swine diseases, and invited Member States to provide corrections before 15 October. The Commission informed on the Union Reporting on listed diseases for 2021 and the development of a reporting tool in ADIS, where notified outbreaks will be prefilled, where possible. Furthermore, the Commission informed the Committee that the modules of the ADIS project were prioritised in terms of delivery. This implied releasing module on Union reporting in the early months of 2022 and the module for

two way interoperability with OIE-WAHIS towards the end of first semester of 2022. Training activities would be rearranged accordingly. Coordination with OIE in this respect was continuing successfully. The Commission also reiterated the fact that the mapping system used by ADIS is closely linked to OIE-WAHIS, meaning that an update of the maps in ADIS would require first an update in OIE-WAHIS. With respect to ongoing AIDS updates, the Commission detailed on the ongoing process of bug-fixing and improving the functionalities of ADIS.

A.06 Information from Finland concerning Varroa mites.

The Commission thanked for the information and indicated that the status quo will be administratively followed up – among other elements - in the draft presented under point B.03. of the agenda.

A.07 Information on IHN in Denmark.

Details of four new outbreaks of IHN, which have occurred in Denmark since the July PAFF meeting were presented. The path forward concerning IHN in Denmark was also described including ongoing and planned testing in farms and Put & Take fisheries, as well as details of the suspension of IHN certification from 13 September until at least 1 November. A Member State sought clarification concerning the testing which was carried out in one of the establishments prior to the outbreak, and sought further clarification concerning the competent authorities plans for testing in Denmark in the coming months. Denmark provided the required clarifications.

A.08 Information from Spain and Portugal on bluetongue outbreaks.

Spain and Portugal explained the new outbreaks in BTV free areas, (Islas Baleares and Huelva Province in Spain and Alentejo in Portugal) making reference to the location of the new outbreaks, the measures taken and the affected areas to be de-listed as BTV free. There were no questions raised by Member States.

A.09 Information from Spain on Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC).

Spain explained the new situation regarding MTBC, following the obtaining of a free zone in the whole of the Autonomous Community of Galicia and in the Principado de Asturias.

A.10 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Luxembourg presented updated information in relation with the situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza on their territory. The Commission clarified on the provisions laid down in Article 23 of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards the derogations that may be granted by the competent authority from the measures to be implemented in the restricted zone established following an outbreak of HPAI in establishments keeping up to 50 captive birds.

A.11 Presentation from EFSA on the tools for Early Warning on the risks for HPAI virus introduction in the EU with the migratory wild birds.

EFSA presented the tool (Migratory tool) available for Early Warning on the risk for introduction of HPAI viruses into the EU with the migratory wild birds. It also informed on a pilot project to develop a spatiotemporal model to predict the risk of entry and

establishment of HPAI in wild birds in EU. In addition, EFSA informed the Committee about results of active surveillance with positive tests for HPAI virus in wild birds in Georgia during summer. The Commission highlighted that information on HPAI virus circulating in wild birds in Georgia in addition to the OIE notifications from Russia on the HPAI outbreaks in poultry and wild birds during summer it should be considered as early warning for the upcoming risk of new introduction of the HPAI viruses in EU in the next months with the migratory wild birds during their autumn migration and to start their preparation to implement preventive measures to mitigate the risk for introduction of the virus into the poultry establishments.

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.

The Regulation presented for vote to the Committee has been drafted to revise the restricted zones in several Member States, namely:

- Germany, for one case in wild boar in restricted zone I;
- Poland, one outbreak in domestic pigs in restricted zone II;
- Hungary, one case in wild boar in restricted zone II, but in close proximity to restricted zone I
- Latvia, reverting certain restricted zone III to restricted zone II thanks to good management of ASF in domestic pigs.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the disease-free status of the Autonomous Community of Galicia and the Autonomous Community of Principado de Asturias in Spain from infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex, amending Annex VIII thereto as regards the disease-free status of Autonomous Community of Islas Baleares, Sierra Occidental region in Huelva province and some municipalities of Jerez de los Caballeros region in Badajoz province in Spain and some municipalities of Alentejo in Portugal from infection with bluetongue virus and amending Annex IX thereto as regards the disease-free status of the Åland islands in Finland from infestation with Varroa spp..

All the modifications to the Implementing Regulation were explained and, in each of the annexes that are modified (MBTC, BTV, Varroa and IHN) the cause of the modification and the affected area were pointed out. No questions were raised 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 the draft document and asked for Member States' comments by 22 October 2021.

One Member State requested clarification on access to the Union antigen, vaccine and diagnostic reagent banks and references to the delegated acts to be adopted pursuant to Article 47 of Animal Health Law in relation to the vaccination policy. Another Member State suggested the acquisition of RVF antigens and vaccines to strengthen surveillance and response capacities.

M.01 Rabies – Germany.

The German delegation reported about an outbreak of rabies in a puppy following its non-compliant introduction into the EU from a third country.

M.02 Import – Antelope – France.

France informed the Committee about the intention to import antelopes from the US which are destined to a confined establishment on its territory in accordance with the relevant Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692. The Commission thanked France and informed the Committee about an ongoing reflection to ensure that such information obligation can be done in the future with the least burden for Member States.