

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group

to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act on the movement within the Union of terrestrial animals, such as ungulates, poultry and other animal species, under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

26 November 2018, Brussels

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A provisional agenda was circulated in advance and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The working document to be discussed was provided in advance.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public and attended by representatives of the competent veterinary authorities of Member States and EEA countries. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission recalled the general context of the working document and its place amongst the delegated acts in preparation under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ (AHL).

The Commission informed about the structure of the entire delegated act on supplementary animal health requirements for movement of terrestrial animals within the Union, and explained that the working document discussed at the meeting is composed of chapters discussed in previous meetings and amended based on comments received from Member States, supplemented by chapters not previously presented.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- 4.1. The Commission confirmed that a new article will be added on the scope of the delegated act, which will specify which articles apply to all movements within the Union and which apply only to movements between Member States.
- 4.2. On request, the Commission explained that the supplementary animal health requirements for movements of ungulates between Member States regarding category C diseases will reflect the outcome of the ongoing discussions on disease surveillance, eradication and control in the expert group on the draft delegated act under Part II of the AHL. The requirements for surveillance, the criteria for approval of eradication programmes and granting free status, as well as the supplementary animal health requirements for movements of ungulates between Member States regarding infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) and bovine virus diarrhoea will be discussed in the next meeting of that expert group planned for 14 December 2018.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law) (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1).

- 4.3. Some experts raised the question on the possibility of maintaining the bilateral agreements that currently allow the movement of animals not fulfilling all animal health requirements from one Member State to another, under specific conditions. The Commission explained that such bilateral agreements are not provided for in the AHL. In some circumstances, if this would be set in the discussed draft delegated act, Member States can set specific conditions under which they accept animals that do not fulfil all animal health requirements for movement, however this should be open for all other Member States.
- 4.6 The time limits in relation to movement through assembly operation were further discussed. Some delegations supported the proposed time limits, considering them a compromise to their original preference of shorter periods, whereas others repeated the need of increasing those periods to cover for the specific structure of their industry. The Commission will reflect on possible ways to accommodate the needs of Member States.
- 4.5. One Member State raised again their request that requirements for the movement to Member States with non-vaccinating status for infection with Newcastle diseases virus apply also to captive birds. In reply the Commission repeated that currently the status does not concern captive birds, therefore, no such requirements can be laid down. However, the requirements for movements of birds will mirror the outcome of the discussions on the non-vaccinating status for the disease in the relevant expert group.
- 4.4. Member States argued that pet birds should not participate in exhibitions, as according to the definition of pet animals their movement is the result of the movement of the owner, which is not the case when participating in exhibitions.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working document by 12 December 2018.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve the text of the working document.

6. NEXT MEETING

During the last meeting of this expert group planned for 21 January 2019, the intention is to present the revised versions of the chapters not fully agreed.