

Brussels, 15 March 2024

Summary of the meeting of the expert group on possible amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 as regards certain animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals

E00930

on 15 March 2024

on-line meeting

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was as circulated prior to the meeting as part of the invitation.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public. The meeting was organised on-line where experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health attended via the WebEx platform. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council. Circulated draft: PLAN/2024/19.

3. List of points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The Commission recalled that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 as regards infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus.

To assist that, the relevant draft was circulated well in advance of the meeting.

3.2 Exchange of views as regards possible amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688(EU)

The Commission explained the proposed regulatory changes. The objective is to provide for additional risk-mitigating measures applicable to movements of listed species for infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus. The additional risk-mitigating measures are:

- Requirements related to vaccination.
- A framework for specific animal health requirements under derogation(*) that the competent authority of the Member State of destination may wish to specifically establish to provide sufficient protection against the disease considering their local animal health situation.

Some experts considered that:

- There are initial technical-scientific studies showing that infectivity period is shorter, and that certain species play a limited role in the epidemiology of the disease; these aspects should be considered in the draft amendment.
- The possibility of moving vaccinated animals without additional testing if the movement takes place less than 60 days after vaccination.

- Vaccination may hamper export of animals to third countries and disease detection.
- Derogations(*) should not be stricter than the general rule.
- Derogations(*) should be publicly available.
- Health status of the animals or health status of the Member State(s) of passage might be affected during the movement of the animals to the final destination; this risk should be addressed by the draft amendment.
- Surveillance activities to detect the disease are important.

The Commission replied that it awaits those technical-scientific studies, once finalised, for assessment also by the European Food Safety Authority in view of possible amendments to CDR (EU) 2020/688. Concerning vaccination, the waiting period after vaccination and possible additional testing ensures that vaccinated animals that were possibly infected at time of vaccination do not spread the virus to the area of destination. The Commission also agreed that surveillance is an important element for early detection and that Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 provides for a legal basis to implement it.

4. Conclusions

The Commission concluded that the elements of this revision have been thoroughly discussed and confirmed that it took due note of some suggestions. The Commission emphasised however that the purpose of the meeting is to solicit expert views on the draft amending CDR (EU) 2020/688 and certain suggestions or raised topics went beyond that.

5. Next steps

The Commission asked the experts to send in their written comments to the draft (if any) by 5 April 2024. The Commission explained that expressed agreements are welcome, absence of inputs will be considered as an agreement and encouraged the experts to share their reasoning, in case of different views.

The Commission will progress with internal consultations and subsequent steps leading to adoption and publication as soon as possible. No further expert group meetings are planned, unless necessary.

END