



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)7849192

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
14-15 December 2023

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain on infection with bluetongue virus.

The Netherlands presented their BTV- 3 situation, with almost 6,000 establishments affected by BTV-3 since the first outbreak in September throughout the country. Belgium followed with 5 outbreaks of BTV-3 since October confined to the North of the country. Both member states stressed the importance of having a vaccine soon.

Spain presented the evolution of the disease (BTV-1 and BTV-4) during 2023. BTV-4 spread to areas in Andalucía Castilla la Mancha, Galicia, Asturias, Madrid and Murcia. Also, two outbreaks of BTV-1 in some areas of Andalucía were detected (last outbreak in December 2021). On a positive note, Spain has submitted to the Commission a request to grant BTV free status to Islas Baleares as there has been no outbreaks in the last 2 years.

A.03 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Croatia, Italy, Poland, Latvia and Slovakia provided information on the ASF epidemiological situation in their territories and on the control measures implemented.

A.04 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of the veterinary programmes submitted by Member States and third countries for Union financial contribution for 2024.

HaDEA presented the final outcome of the budget allocation for the veterinary programmes for the year 2024 as per Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/690. The total budget granted amounts to 40,7 M€. The 2024 Grant Agreements will have to be signed by the Member States and by HaDEA before 31 January 2024 and are therefore invited to follow closely the grant agreement preparation in EGRANT. HaDEA also updated the Member States as regards the signature of the amendment of the 2023 veterinary programmes grants. Up to date, 26 countries out of 32 have already signed their grant amendment in EGRANT. The remaining six countries were invited to sign their amendment in EGRANT by 20 December 2023 at the very latest.

A.05 Information from Member States on Highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland presented the updated epidemiological situation with HPAI on their territory. Denmark also informed the Committee on a new outbreak of HPAI that has been confirmed that day in an establishment where ducks and laying hens were kept. The number of the outbreaks of HPAI in poultry establishments in the other Member States is limited and related to the virus introduced with direct or indirect contact with infected wild birds. The number of outbreaks in wild birds is smaller comparing with the same period of the previous epidemic seasons. Several Member States in the Central and Eastern part of the EU detected HPAI virus in Common cranes, with higher number of outbreaks involving these birds in Hungary, where an important migration stopover site is located.

A.06 Presentation from EFSA of the results of surveillance for Avian Influenza in year 2022.

EFSA presented the main results of the avian influenza surveillance efforts made by Member States in 2022. The Commission has reminded that 2022 is the first year when the requirements of the new Union Surveillance Programme (USP) as laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 have been implemented for the whole year. Following suggestion of Member States, the Commission and EFSA will explore the need to elaborate guidance on reporting the avian influenza surveillance data, to ensure a homogenic reporting by Member States and a better understanding of the results of surveillance designed to meet the objectives of the USP.

A.07 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.

In Bulgaria there have been no new cases of sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) since the one single outbreak recorded in Burgas in September 2023. As a result, all measures have been lifted as of 30 November 2023. Surveillance for SGP continues in the framework of the TADs and THRACE programmes. In Greece, an SGP outbreak was detected in the Island of Lesbos in October 2023 with no secondary outbreaks ever since. However, in December 2023, the disease unexpectedly occurred in the Phthiotis regional unit, in mainland Greece (region of Central Greece), producing 2 outbreaks 2,4 km apart. A surveillance zone and a protection zone have already been established, along with the other measures of Reg. (EU) 2020/687. Source of the new outbreaks is unclear (epidemiological investigation is ongoing). Samples from both locations (Lesbos and Central Greece) will be sent to the EURL for further testing. An EUVET mission has been planned for Central Greece (20-21 December 2023) to help assess the situation and provide technical assistance.

A.08 Information from the Commission on the PDF version of certificates in TRACES.

The Commission informed participants of a recent development in TRACES in relation to certificates. In particular, in response to the request of several Member States, not selected attestations of certificates will continue to appear as strike-through text in the interface of TRACES but will no longer appear in the PDF version of those certificates printed from the system. This change concerns certificates for the movement between Member States and for entry into the Union and will be implemented in the system as of January 2024.

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.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision Amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2725 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in certain Member States.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2725, and explained that this amendment is necessary in response to the new sheep pox and goat pox outbreaks in Central Greece. Clarifications were also provided regarding the criteria used for the proposed regionalisation and the duration of the restricted zones (protection, surveillance and further restricted zones).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented a draft Implementing Regulation to revise the restricted zones in Croatia (delisting of the restricted zones (protection and surveillance zones) for domestic pigs from Part B of Annex II and listing of those restricted zones in Parts I and III of Annex II), Latvia (delisting certain restricted zones III, reverting into restricted zones II), Italy (enlargement of restricted zones I and II in Lombardy and Liguria for ASF cases in wild boar in restricted zones I/lifting of restricted zones (protection and surveillance zones) from Part B of Annex II for one single outbreak of ASF genotype II in Sardinia), Poland (enlargement of restricted zones I and II for ASF cases in wild boar in restricted zone I) and Slovakia (enlargement of restricted zones I and II for ASF cases in wild boar in restricted zone I).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The EU regionalization for outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza needed to be updated to take into account the development of the epidemiological situation in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary and Poland. The Commission explained the changes added by the draft in the Annex to Decision (EU) 2023/2447. Due to internal administrative reasons the documents couldn't be finalized on time for being submitted for vote during PAFF meeting and the Commission informed that the opinion of the Member States will be asked by urgent written procedure in the following days.

Vote Postponed

- B.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) (BTV) and the approval of the extension of an eradication programme for infection with BTV.**

The item was withdrawn from the agenda.

- B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Commission Implementing Decision C(2023) 1119 as regards the implementation of actions under the Single Market Programme.**

The Commission presented for vote the amendment to the 2023 work programme aiming, as regards the Food Chain strand, to increase the budget with 33.9 Million EUR.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

- C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2025-2027 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses and phytosanitary programmes for plant pests.**

The Commission presented draft Commission Implementing Decision. Member States mostly enquired if consultations and discussions took place on plant health part and reasons for reduced budget compared to past years. The Commission provided clarifications and indicated that discussion on plant health part will continue in another Plant Health PAFF Committee meeting.

- M.01 Information from the Commission of the new system for the designation of labs that can issue valid rabies titration tests.**

The Commission reminded of the new system for the designation of labs that can issue valid rabies titration tests. The new system is laid down in a Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 and it is currently subject to the scrutiny period of the European Parliament and of the Council. The Commission will further update Member States in the PAFF of January 2024.

- M.02 Information on the review of the designation of the EURCAWs.**

The Commission informed on the coming review of the designation of EURCAWs for pigs and Poultry and SFA, the process that will be followed for this review and the request of information on the performance of the concerned EURCAWs that the Commission will send to Member States.

- M.03 Information from the Commission concerning public registers of aquaculture establishments in compliance with Article 185(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Article 21(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/691.**

The Commission gave a presentation on the subject which was well received by Member States.