



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate D – Food chain: stakeholders and international relations  
**Unit D4 Food safety programme, emergency funding**

SANTE-2017-10341

**REPORT ON THE**

**MEETING OF THE PLENARY TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING**

**ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES**

Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017

# **TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION**

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force

8th February 2017- from 09:30 to 17:00

Albert Borschette Conference Center

## **Participants:**

Representatives from Member States: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK.

## **European Commission (DG SANTE)**

### **Unit D4:**

Christophe Bertrand (CB) - Chair  
Valentina Piazza (VP)  
Christian Boesinger - Froidevaux (CBF)  
Pedro Rosado Martín (PRM)  
Nicolas Krieger (NK)  
Bernardo Catanese (BC)  
Chiara Pinna (CP)  
Noelia Garzón Serrano (NGS)

### **Unit G2:**

Rudolf Span (RS)

### **Unit F2:**

Lena Englund (LE)

**Agenda:** see Annex

## **1. Opening by Christophe BERTRAND, Head of Unit D4 “food safety programme, emergency funding” in DG DSANTE**

The chair CB welcomed the representatives of the Member States. He reminded the participants about the objectives and importance of this annual meeting, which are amongst others:

- to give an overview of the activities implemented in previous years in the field of co-funded programmes,
- to exchange with Member States information regarding their needs and possible evolutions related to the veterinary programmes and activities of the Task Force subgroups,
- to help Member States in their objectives to survey and eradicate animal diseases.

The agenda was adopted (see detailed agenda in Annex).

## **2. ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE (TF) SUBGROUPS**

### **2.1 Report of the TF meetings held in 2016**

- African swine fever in Ukraine
- African swine fever in SK

PRM presented the work carried out by the subgroup of ASF of the TF in 2016. Two meetings were held: Ukraine (August) and Slovakia (December). During both missions there were meetings with competent authorities, visits to the NRLs and field visits to farms and hunting grounds (in Slovakia).

The main recommendations during the visit to Ukraine were:

- Active surveillance in domestic and wild boar populations is of little value to early detect the disease and should be replaced by an enhanced passive surveillance system;
- Wild boar population management in infected areas should take into account minimum biosecurity measures;
- Due to the reported difficulties in depopulating infected hunting grounds, alternative strategies, country tailored, aimed in eradicating ASF in wild boar populations should be explored.
- The NRL has appropriate facilities for diagnosis, qualified staff, validated ASF techniques and procedures. Nevertheless, there are several shortcomings (PCR equipment, serology and diagnosis at regional level) that hampers the control of the disease

The main recommendations during the visit to Slovakia were:

- Risk areas for ASF introduction should be re-defined;
- Legal binding minimum biosecurity requirements should be established for pig holdings and for wild boar hunting;
- Number of samples taken in the framework of passive is very low and this might hamper the early detection of the disease and therefore the sampling size should increase
- In the risk area:
  - it is essential that hunted wild boar do not leave the hunting ground before tested ASF negative;
  - hunting should take into account the minimum biosecurity measures;
  - winter-feeding should be forbidden and bating minimized.
- Wild boar management should be addressed in reaching the optimal density as determined by the National Hunting Authorities;

It should be highlighted that the cooperation of the competent authorities was excellent during both missions.

## **2.2 Proposal in relation to TF subgroups meetings to be held in 2017**

NK presented the meetings of the Task Force subgroups planned to take place in 2017.

As regards the brucellosis subgroup, a meeting is confirmed in Greece on sheep and goat brucellosis from 29 to 31 March 2017.

As regards the *Salmonella* subgroup, a possible meeting is under discussion with Poland during the second quarter of 2017.

As regards the African swine fever subgroup, a possible meeting has to be confirmed in Romania for the end of March.

As regards the rabies subgroup, possible meetings have to be confirmed in Romania and in the Balkans.

## **3. POINTS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Information on the delegated act supplementing the list of diseases of Annex II to Regulation 652/2014**

VP presented the Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/67 amending the list of diseases of Annex II to Regulation 652/2014. She explained the reason of this modification: In order to take account of the situations that are provoked by those animal diseases and zoonoses that have a significant impact on livestock production or trade, the development of zoonoses which pose a threat to humans, or new scientific or

epidemiological developments, Article 10 (2) of this Regulation empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts, in respect of supplementing the list of diseases and zoonoses of Annex II for which your financial contribution is foreseen.

The epidemiological situation of sheep and goat plague, sheep pox, goat pox and lumpy skin disease that are listed only under Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 that includes diseases for which only emergency measures can be taken, has been evolving in the last year and the EU is under threat of those diseases.

Sheep and goat plague and sheep pox or goat pox are very contagious viral diseases of sheep and goats, endemic, respectively, in East Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Middle Eastern countries and India, and North African countries, Middle Eastern and Asian countries. Sheep and goat plague is widespread in Africa and Asia and it has been reported in Turkey and Northern Africa countries since 2014. Sheep pox and goat pox are endemic in North African countries, Middle Eastern and Asian countries, with recurrent epidemics in Greece and Bulgaria, as in 2013–2014, entering from bordering third country (Turkey).

Those diseases have a severe impact on the profitability of ovine and caprine farming causing disturbance to trade within the Union and export to third countries.

As a consequence, in order to implement an appropriate EU co-funded annual-multiannual surveillance programmes for early detection, rapid reaction and eradication of the above-mentioned diseases, it was necessary to supplement the list of animal diseases and zoonoses of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 to include them.

Member States welcomed and requested more detailed in relation to the template to be used to submit those new programmes and the criteria that should be taken into account to submit a programme (EG: only MSs at risk of introduction or to eradicate the disease if already present). It was explained that such details will be included in the revised guidelines for 2018 EU co-funded veterinary programmes.

### **[3.2 Draft working programme \(WP\) SANTE/2017/10191 for the implementation of veterinary programmes to be co-funded for 2018-2020](#)**

VP presented the preliminary draft of the Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2018-2020 for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses.

She explained that the annual/multiannual work programme sets out: objectives pursued; expected results; method of implementation and contains: description of measures to be

financed, indicative implementation timetable and includes: priority actions; evaluation criteria; funding; indicative list of eligible measures and costs.

In particular the group of priority diseases has been highlighted, explaining the "ratio" of the classification of the possible EU co-funded diseases in 4 priority groups. Then the expected results per disease were described. It was made clear that more detailed are included in the guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes for the years 2018-2020. It was requested to MSs to send their written comments by 21<sup>st</sup> of February in order to revised the document and present it for discussion at the PAFF on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. The WP need to be voted at the PAFF beginning of April as it has to be adopted by 30 April 2017. MSs welcomed the document but some of them requested to revise the diseases listed under the different priority group and in particular in relation to bovine tuberculosis. The Commission took note of the comment and requested MSs to send further comments by 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

### **[3.3 Update guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes for the years 2018 to 2020 \(WD SANTE/2017/10186\)](#)**

PRM explained that the current draft will replace document SANCO10181/REV7. The document develops and clarifies several aspects of the "WP for veterinary programmes to be co-funded for 2018-2020" (see point 3.2). The main change compared to the current guidelines is the update of the expected results.

NK made reference to the 2018 to 2020 eradication programmes for bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis and sheep and goat brucellosis, it was mentioned that programmes in free regions or Member States (meaning regions or Member States with a herd prevalence equal to 0 or with no confirmation of cases of brucellosis, or with less than 0,1% of herds confirmed as infected from bovine tuberculosis) will not be eligible for co-funding. The calculation of the baseline for the expected results for these programmes will also be clarified and harmonised in order to present the actual prevalence and incidence of the disease in the entire Member State, and not only in the regions covered by the programme. Some explanations were also given as regards the possibility to submit programmes on lumpy skin disease, peste des petits ruminants and sheep and goat pox, for the Member States infected or at direct risk to be infected as bordering an already infected Member State or third country.

Member States were invited to submit written comments by 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

### [3.4 State of play of the pdf templates for 2016 reports and 2018 programmes.](#)

CBF made a presentation on:

a) Final reports 2016 and payment application: pdf template for submission:

- Pre filled-in pdf to be sent to the MSs contact points by early March 2017, with specific password to submit the data online.
- General template published on the DG SANTE website **for information only**:

*[https://ec.europa.eu/food/funding/animal-health/national-veterinary-programmes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/funding/animal-health/national-veterinary-programmes_en)*

b) Programmes 2018: pdf template for submission:

- General template published on the DG SANTE website **for information only**:

*[https://ec.europa.eu/food/funding/animal-health/national-veterinary-programmes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/funding/animal-health/national-veterinary-programmes_en)*

- The templates are not yet available because of slight improvements/simplifications to be introduced in the templates and also amendments due to the modification of the unit costs (procedure expected to be completed by mid-April 2017),
- The pdf templates for the submission of the 2018 programmes will be available by end of April 2017 and also sent to the Member states directly by email
- The work programme 2018-2020 will be presented at the PAFF committee meeting of 6-7 April 2017 and, if accepted, the Decision will be adopted by end of April 2017. Legally speaking, the Commission cannot accept programmes' submissions for EU cofinancing before the work programme is officially adopted.

### [3.5 Main outcome of technical audits carried out by DG SANTE \(Directorate F\), in relation to the implementation of EU co-funded veterinary programmes in the last 3 years and planning of the 2017-2018 activities](#)

LE (Unit F2) presented the main outcomes of the audits carried out by the FVO from 2013 to 2015 in the field of the eradication programmes, and has reviewed the key points for an effective implementation of these programmes.

### [3.6 Special report of the European Court of Auditors on "\*\*eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases\*\*": state of play on Commission follow up and discussion on the potential need to revise the technical indicators as by WD 12915/2012 rev 2](#)

Extensive presentation on the state of play of the action plan addressing the four recommendations of the ECA special report was made by CBF.

- a) Facilitate the **exchange of epidemiological information** between MSs
- Commission has no plan to develop an additional IT tool for epidemiological data.
  - Already existing source of epidemiological information: ADNS, OIE notification system, (plan for merging of ADNS (Commission) and WAHIS (OIE) into ADIS), EFSA annual zoonoses report, EFSA annual TSEs report, etc
  - MSs annual technical reports of implementation of programmes to be published on the DG SANTE website starting from 2015 programmes (first annual reports submitted online based on an harmonised PDF template)
  - Presentation by the Member states of the results of the implementation of their co-financed programmes at PAFF committees: extension to all diseases on going:
  - Any suggestion by the MSs is welcome (none provided during the session).
- b) Examine whether the existing set of **indicators** should be updated to provide better information on veterinary control activities and the cost-effectiveness of programmes
- veterinary control activities: see presentation by BC
  - the cost-effectiveness of programmes:
    - No model available
    - OIE ongoing work (see Resolution 35 of 84<sup>th</sup> general session of world assembly of OIE delegates), followed by COMM on cost-effectiveness. Following outcome, cost-effectiveness analysis to be introduced for the veterinary programmes
    - Planned external study on cost effectiveness for food safety expenditure (including vet programmes) – will serve for future multiannual financial framework (MFF) and ex post evaluation of current MFF – result expected by end 2017
    - Any suggestion by the MSs is welcome (none provided during the session).
- c) Systematically include, when relevant, the **wildlife** aspect in the veterinary programmes
- Exists already for several diseases/programmes: rabies, CSF, ASF, AI
  - For bovine tuberculosis and bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis: additional question, concerning specific actions related to wildlife is included in the pdf



templates for submitting programmes (from 2017 programmes on); during the programmes assessment, a clear review of information given on wildlife is done.

- For the other diseases, a mapping of the relevant diseases is carried out and additional questions, concerning specific actions related to wildlife will be included in the pdf template for submitting programmes where relevant
  - Any suggestion by the MSs is welcome (none provided during the session).
- d) Support the availability of **vaccines** for use by the MSs when epidemiologically justified
- Banks of vaccines or of antigens exists already for classical swine fever and foot and mouth disease for many years.
  - In April 2016, the EU vaccine bank was extended to lumpy skin disease (3,125,000 doses available, 475,000 doses already delivered, stopping the extension of the disease).
  - The financing decision for the creation of vaccine banks for two additional diseases (sheep and goat pox, sheep and goat plague) was adopted in 2016. Vaccine doses will be soon available in case of need.
  - According to the epidemiological situation, the extension to other diseases will be examined and organised.
  - COMM action in fostering/funding research for vaccine development for relevant diseases (priority African swine fever) in the framework of R&D programmes H2020 (*See presentation of Valentina Piazza (point 3.7 of agenda)*)
  - Any suggestion by the MSs is welcome (none provided during the session).

Then BC delivered a presentation "Discussion on the need to revise technical data and indicators". The main objectives of the presentation were to:

- Analyze the need
- Explore suggestions from users
- Analyse the recommendations of the Court of Auditors (special report on eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases; recalling in particular the request proposed by the Court of Auditors to "Examine whether the existing set of indicators should be updated to provide better information on veterinary control activities and the cost-effectiveness of programmes").

Then, it was requested to the MSs to comment in particular as regards to:

- Suggestion for improvements

- Definition of new data to request
- Suggestion for creating better ".pdf"
- Identification of other indicators
- Comments on processes
- New ideas how to further develop and if MSs might agree with the suggestions by the Court of Auditor report to use additional indicators especially in relation to disease eradication (e.g.: Brucellosis), such as:
  - time interval between testing,
  - proportion of outbreaks where source of infection identified,,
  - No of herds without herd test,,
  - % of vaccinated animals in a farm,
  - % of vaccinated farms.

### **3.7 Blueprint and roadmap on the possible development of an ASF vaccine: state of play.**

VP shortly presented the purpose and the content of the blueprint and roadmap on possible development of a vaccine for African swine fever: the commission gave a specific mandate to the EU reference laboratory for African swine fever to prepare, with the support of external experts, a blueprint and roadmap in order to summary the state of play in relation to the research on possible African swine fever vaccine development and to identify the main gaps and needs to be addressed in future research. VP explained that this would be the basis to include a specific research on ASF vaccine in the next research project under "Horizon 2018-2020" and also to shortly address some of the identified research steps already under specific DG SANTE funds already available.

### **3.8 State of play of the midterm evaluation CFF**

CP presented the state of play of the interim evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 on the management of food safety expenditure (Common Financial Framework for food and feed). As provided by article 42.1 of the Regulation itself, the Commission shall establish a mid-term evaluation report on the implementation of the CFF and present it to the European Parliament and to the Council by 30 June 2017. CP gave a general picture of the overall evaluation procedure and goals, focusing on the ongoing external evaluation carried out by IBF International Consulting. She informed the members of the Plenary TF that they will be contacted by this consultancy for a technical advice when conducting the case studies, and encouraged them to actively cooperate in this exercise.

CP explained that the outcome of the current piece of work will feed the Commission report that will be submitted to the attention of the EP and of the Council, laying the basis for the upcoming discussion and negotiation of the proposal for the post-2020 food safety programme.

## ANNEX

### TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION

**Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication programmes**

**Albert Borschette Conference Center  
8th February 2017, from 09.30 to 17:00**

#### AGENDA

- 1. Introduction, opening by Christophe Bertrand: Head of Unit D4/DG SANTE**
- 2. Task Force (TF) subgroups.**
  - 2.1 Report of the TF meetings held in 2016:**
    - African swine fever in Ukraine
    - African swine fever in SK
  - 2.2 Proposal in relation to TF subgroups meetings to be held in 2017**
- 3. Points for information and discussion.**
  - 3.1 Information on the delegated act supplementing the list of diseases of Annex II to Regulation 652/2014**
  - 3.2 Draft WP for veterinary programmes to be co-funded for 2018-2020**
  - 3.3 Update guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes for the years 2018-2020**
  - 3.4 State of play of template for submission of 2018 programmes.**
  - 3.5 Main outcome of technical audits carried out by DG SANTE (Directorate F), in relation to the implementation of EU co-funded veterinary programmes in the last 3 years and planning of the 2017-2018 activities**
  - 3.6 Special report of the European Court of Auditors on "eradication, control and monitoring programmes to contain animal diseases": state of play on Commission follow up and discussion on the potential need to revise the technical indicators as by WD 12915/2012 rev 2**
  - 3.7 Blueprint and roadmap on ASF vaccine: state of play.**
  - 3.8 State of play of the midterm evaluation CFF**