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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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**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 the Member States on African swine fever**

Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Italy provided an update on the ASF epidemiological situation in their countries.

**A.03 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on assessment of animal diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antimicrobials: ad-hoc method of assessment and groups of animal species covered.**

The Commission briefly introduced the initiative leading to these scientific opinions. EFSA presented the main elements of the mandate, the followed methodology, the scope and the various steps of the fact-finding phase of the work and shared the main findings as related to the groups/species of animals: dogs and cats, horses, cattle, sheep and goats, swine, poultry, rabbits and fish. The Commission emphasized the size and importance of this initiative and urged the Member States to seek all the clarifications they may need. Several Member States appreciated the initiative and asked several questions which EFSA clarified.

**A.04 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on listing and categorisation of animal diseases within the framework of the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) No 2016/429): certain antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.**

EFSA presented the main findings as related to the 8 pathogens covered by the respective scientific opinions. In summary none of those pathogens are recommended to be listed under the Animal Health Law. EFSA mentioned also the uncertainties related to the findings. Several Member States asked several questions (e.g. on the used criteria) which EFSA clarified. The Commission invited the Member States to study the details of the scientific opinions in the coming period and share their opinion with the Commission with the view to potentially organize a follow-up policy discussion at the Committee later this year, as necessary.

**A.05 Information from the Commission and discussion with the Member States on the state of play and on the way ahead as regards infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.**

The Commission shared with the Member States a summary about the applicable legal framework, the official data in hand in the ADIS and TRACES systems and scientific data received from other sources. The scarcity of official data, new scientific findings and the complexity related to the pathogen itself, and to some European aspects, hinders rapid policy development. Current data do not seem to suggest an emergency. In summary, the temporary emergency Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/361 is not planned to be prolonged. The Commission emphasised that in the long-term proportionate and sustainable rules are the priority and urged the Member States to share relevant data to help developing those. The Commission mentioned that the most important seems to prevent contacts between kept and wild salamanders locally. In the meantime most of the decisive actions can and should be taken locally (to survey Bsal in various populations, etc.). The Member States who took the floor agreed and also mentioned the presumed illegal activities of some salamander keepers.

**A.06 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Member States recently affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry or captive birds presented the epidemiological situation and the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease.

**A.07 Information from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on its projects to support Member States preparedness for HPAI.**

EFSA reported on the progress with the development of the Early Warning Systems for HPAI to support Member States in their preparedness activities.

**A.08 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 informed the Committee on updates received from Member States on the epidemiological situation for SARS CoV-2 in mustelidae and raccoon dogs; the updates concerned updated information on a new outbreak in Poland; the coordination between animal health and public health authorities was noted.

**A.09 Information on the SMP Food Chain Strand budget situation and the way forward.**

- The Commission presented the current budgetary situation with the SMP Food Chain Strand. There is a big budgetary gap due to the 2020/2021, 2022 emergency measures for animal diseases and plant pests. If no co-financing outside SMP is made available, the proposed way forward is a reduction of the co-funding rates by 40% as from 2023 to 2025 for eradication/phytosanitary programmes and from 2021/2022 to 2025 for the eradication dossiers (emergency measures). For the emergency measures, the reduction will be retroactive; the Commission underlined that given the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, no additional financing has so far been secured outside the SMP, although efforts are continuing.

- Several Member States took the floor and underlined that they were surprised and very concerned. The major issue for them is the retroactive application of the reduction for the 2021-2022 emergency measures. They stated that commitments from the national budget have already been made and this will destabilise their finances. In addition, any further reduction of the co-funding, although not retroactive, will probably render not worth the administrative efforts to prepare and submit applications;
- Several countries suggested that the way forward presented by the Commission needed to be discussed at higher national level.
- Questions were raised as to whether money was left for new outbreaks of emergency measures, and what would happen if the situation of massive outbreaks continued for several years.
- One Member State asked the Commission to prepare a document explaining in more detail the state of play and proposed way forward, which could be handed to their finance colleagues.
- The Commission acknowledged the concerns and clarified that no changes are proposed for the grants already signed. It explained that there is no overall budgetary cut but the way forward concerns a re-allocation of the budget to different activities to be able to cover the unexpected spending on emergency measures incurred in 2021 and 2022. The total budget available for 2021-2027 SMP Food Strand remains unchanged. The Commission indicated that the proposal was prepared based on the current state of play of the outbreaks.

The Commission also pointed out that not all parts of the Food Strand are concerned with the proposed reduction - it covers animal and plant health, while other parts, e.g. EURLs, remain unchanged.

The Commission agreed to prepare a document on the budgetary state of play and the proposed way forward.

**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 Commission presented for a vote draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.

**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) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.**

The validity of the Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 had to be extended due to the evolving epidemiological situation with HPAI in the EU. In addition, EU zoning for HPAI needs to be amended due to new outbreaks confirmed by certain Member

States in poultry or captive birds. Moreover, to facilitate the link between the restricted zones listed in the Annex with the corresponding outbreak, the ADIS reference number of the outbreak for each zone has been added to the Annex.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down special control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605.**

The Commission presented a revised draft Commission Implementing Regulation for discussion and asked for a written comments from the Member States by 28 September 2022.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules on the recording, storing and sharing of written records of official controls performed on livestock vessels and on contingency plans.**

The Commission presented the content of the Implementing Act and highlighted that consultations took place with National Contact Points. The module is already functional on a voluntary basis. Member States were invited to come forward with their nominations for national administrators of the module.

One Member State asked about a deadline for comments and another Member State asked whether this module was embedded in IMSOC.

The Commission replied that currently it is not part of IMSOC as the module is still being tested in its usefulness. The deadline for comments was agreed to be set before the next PAFF Committee meeting on 21 October 2022.