

Brussels, 8 October 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft Commission Delegated Regulation amending and correcting Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

E00930

on 8 October 2024, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved 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 in a hybrid format: some experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health attended it physically in Brussels (CCAB), while the other experts attended it remotely via Webex. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The background document (PLAN/74/2024) was circulated to the experts ahead of the meeting.

3. List of points discussed

3.1. Introduction

The Commission summarised the objectives of the work on the draft Delegated Regulation amending and correcting Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin (the draft). The main goal is to refine, clarify and align several provisions taking account of the experience gained.

3.2. Exchange of views on the draft

The Commission presented the draft amendments and explained the rationale for the proposed text in relation to:

- derogation for captive birds and their hatching eggs,
- identification of ungulates, ratites and captive birds,
- epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD),
- Meat, dairy and egg products,
- shelf-stable composite products containing dairy and/or egg products,
- highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination programmes,
- equine animals,
- corrections related to registered horses and breeding equine animals.

The experts thanked the Commission for presenting the draft. They asked several questions.

One expert raised a question regarding means of identification, such as ‘neck tags’, which are not listed in Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 as valid means of identification of kept terrestrial animals. The Commission explained that ‘neck tags’ are currently cited in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 as a valid means of identification for ratites to be imported into the Union, and therefore, they are not introduced in this draft amendment. The means of identification listed in Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 are those to be used for the identification of terrestrial animals kept within the Union. Other means of identification may also be used for imported animals. Ratites shall not be reidentified after entry into the Union (this only applies to kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid, and cervid animals), and there are no specific rules for the identification of these animals kept in the Union.

Another expert requested a definition of closed leg-rings referring to the CITES definition as outlined in Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006. The Commission took note of this request and will further consider it.

One expert asked for a clarification on whether the derogation provided for in draft Article 53(4) also covers means of identification or only the identification number. The Commission clarified that the derogation also covers means of identification; however, the competent authority must ensure that there is an unequivocal link between the bird presented and the accompanying documents.

One expert raised a comment regarding shelf-stable composite products containing dairy and/or egg products, requesting that the wording of Article 163(3), point (b), of the draft - concerning a declaration and responsible operator – be aligned with the wording in other EU legislation on public health requirements for the entry of composite products into the Union, particularly Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2292. The Commission clarified that composite products, as such, are not covered by the scope of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and therefore the requested alignment may not be possible.

The Commission took note of all the comments and provided some preliminary answers.

4. Conclusions

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and invited them to provide their written feedback by 22 October 2024.

5. Next steps

The Commission will use the outcomes of the discussion and the opinions obtained during this expert group meeting and the requested written comments to develop a revised version of the draft.

The Commission intends to organise another meeting of the Expert Group at the earliest opportunity.