

Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group to discuss a delegated act on prevention and control rules of certain listed diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

12 July 2018, Brussels

1. Approval of the agenda

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and agreed at the beginning.

2. Nature of the meeting

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. List of points discussed

A. Introduction

The Commission presented the scheduled calendar for the forthcoming months. In particular it was highlighted that after summer discussions will start on category A diseases of aquatic animals.

The Commission asked Member States for their feedback on the draft circulated previously to the meeting by 6 September 2018.

B. Presentation and exchange of views with Member States on prevention and control rules of certain listed diseases

The Commission presented the working document and the discussion focussed on the following main points:

- measures in the protection zone: experts supported the proposed approach on general prohibitions for the movements of animals and products and activities not allowed to be carried out in that zone. Measures in the surveillance zone will mirror the agreed structure.
- derogations to the prohibition to move animals in case of outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) and classical swine fever (CSF) in the protection zone: the majority of experts were in favour of giving more flexibility in these situations and were inclined to remove the current standstill period before allowing animals to be sent to a designated slaughterhouse.
- repopulation of establishments in the restricted zones: a few experts highlighted the need to review and, if needed, to align with the OIE code the measures on cleaning and disinfection. One expert questioned the envisaged tasks for official veterinarians as regards the laboratory tests. The Commission committed to take on board those comments in the next versions of the draft.
- specific conditions for repopulation in case of ASF outbreaks: experts were in favour of maintaining specific conditions when vectors are involved in the transmission of ASF.
- disease control measures in wild animals: some experts raised concerns on the plan for disease control in case of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild animals and the role of official veterinarians in it. Different options on whether the hunting activities would be allowed or restricted were discussed.
- vaccination: one expert opened the discussion on the meat devaluation when vaccination is carried out and possible alternatives to limit it. Few experts questioned the extension of the buffer zone in case of vector borne diseases. The appropriate terminology when differentiating infected from vaccinated animals was also discussed. Repopulation in case of vaccinated establishments was clarified and the recovery of the health status and its interaction with the OIE provisions was examined.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions and next steps

The Commission obtained a favourable feedback on the structure and measures with comments on the presented draft working document which will be used for further drafting. The Commission thanked Member States experts for their input and constructive approach during the meeting.

Next meeting will be held on 26 October 2018.