

**Minutes of the meeting of the Expert group
to discuss the exercise of the listing of animal diseases relevant for Union
intervention according to the Animal Health Law**

18 January 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 Council and the European Parliament.

3. List of points discussed

I. Introduction

The Commission explained that the discussions would be focused on cattle, sheep and goats, equine and swine diseases and will be held following the same approach as in previous meetings. The representative of the Commission highlighted that after this meeting, the first round of discussion for all the assessed diseases will be carried out.

The Commission thanked the delegations for the comments received on the multiple species, avian, bees, aquatic and amphibian diseases and stressed again the importance of having their written feedback by 2 February 2018, on the diseases discussed at this meeting, in order to best accommodate their technical views.

II. Presentation on the listing exercise of animal diseases according to the Animal Health Law criteria

The Commission presented the outcome of the exercise as regards the listing of cattle, sheep and goats, equine and swine diseases in the framework of the Animal Health Law (AHL). The Commission provided detailed explanations on its proposals when EFSA opinions delivered a non-consensus in particular criteria.

III. Exchange of views with Member States

As regards the cattle diseases, there was general support to list Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD), Infection with mycobacterium tuberculosis complex [*M. bovis*, *M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis*], Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Trichomonosis, Bovine genital campylobacteriosis and Lumpy skin disease for EU intervention. Concerning the Infection with *M. tuberculosis* complex some experts pointed out the need to link the discussion with the listed species for which control measures will apply. The Commission proposal to delist Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL) was questioned by the majority of the Member States delegations.

In addition, for Sheep pox and goat pox, Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Ovine epididymitis (*O. ovis*) and Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus, the Commission proposal that they fulfilled the criteria laid down in the AHL to be considered eligible to be listed was

supported. Discussions were focussed on whether or not Border disease complies with the criteria to be listed.

The main concerns of the equine diseases were related to the Commission proposal not to include Contagious equine metritis (CEM) and Borna disease in the list. On the contrary, for Equine infectious anaemia (EIA), Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western), Dourine, Infection with equine arteritis virus (EAV), Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) and Glanders there was a full support to include them on the revised Annex II of the AHL. As regards CEM, the likely negative impacts on trade were raised against the Commission proposal by some delegations arguing that the sector on its own would not be able to control the disease, while others were in agreement with the Commission's proposal. Concerning Borna disease one delegation informed about the studies ongoing on the zoonotic potential of the disease that could potentially lead to perform a new assessment against the criteria of the AHL.

Finally, the experts supported as proposed by the Commission, and in line with the OIE, to delist Vesicular stomatitis and Swine vesicular disease for the EU intervention. Since Infection with Aujeszky's disease fulfilled the criteria of the AHL, it was proposed to be listed with no objection from experts. However, the assessment on the criteria for Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) to include the disease on the list was questioned by several delegations, arguing that it is wide-spread, the animal health impacts are not significant and giving misleading signal to trade partners taking into consideration the EU position in relation to the recently revised OIE standard, that could have serious implications.

4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions and next steps

The Commission obtained a favourable feedback and support for the majority of the diseases presented to be included on the list of transmissible diseases for Union intervention. However, further discussions are needed for some diseases where the Commission proposal was not broadly supported. The Commission thanked Member States for their input and constructive approach.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 5 February 2018.