



Brussels, 05/12/2019

Minutes

Meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee, the sub-group of the Advisory group on the food chain and animal and plant health held in Brussels on December 3rd, 2019.

Approval of the agenda of 2nd Meeting of 2019 of the Animal Health Advisory Committee

Introduction – morning session: Eva Zamora Escribano, Head of Unit G2 Animal health and welfare – DG SANTE

The Commission explained briefly the purpose of the meeting and with no points raised under AOB, the Commission proceeded with the agenda.

1. Animal Welfare

The Commission presented and update on animal welfare: the outcomes of the last Platform meeting in October, the extension of the mandate of the Platform, the designation of a second EU reference centre for animal welfare (on poultry and other farm animals), the ongoing evaluation process, the project on quality controls and indicators as well as the audits planned in 2020.

FVE thanked the Commission for the extension of the Platform. EFFAB asked what follow up will be given the subgroups of the Platform.

The Commission replied that, in the context of the new Commissioner, the activities of the Platform will need to be reassessed, and it was difficult to predict at this stage the future of the subgroups.

2. Animal Health Law

The Commission gave an update on the state of play and general overview of the Animal Health Law.

FVE and EFFAB asked if the Commission intends to consult stakeholders also on implementing acts, and if yes, how? The Commission explained that all implementing acts will be made available for public feedback in the same manner as delegated acts, i.e. through the “better regulation portal”.

FVE raised the issue of a legal loophole for indicating treatment of young fowls in equine passport and asked about the Commission’s intention to develop an implementing act concerning animal health visits. The Commission in its response clarified that the issue of treatments in equine passport is being solved through a delegated act, which will be adopted based on the Veterinary Medicinal Products regulation. It has also replied that for now it has no plans to further regulate animal health visits.

EFFAB wanted to know more about the common models of certificates. The Commission briefly explained the approach whereby the goal is to have a common model certificate covering various attestations relevant for public health, animal health, animal welfare, etc.

FESSAS asked about the Commission’s plans concerning rules on vaccination and the reasons why this was separated from the delegated act on disease control. The Commission explained that a more comprehensive reflection was needed here, this area is broad enough, it covers various diseases and should fit different purposes. The discussion and exchanges on this matter will continue in 2020.

EAZA asked if the list of third countries currently laid down in Regulation No 206/2010 will be repealed and the Commission in its response confirmed that.

The Commission also presented an overview of the recent public feedback on the following delegated acts:

- **Movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (Part IV AHL)**

In its presentation, the Commission informed that 56 feedbacks were received during the public consultation of this Delegated Act. The Commission explained that following the assessment of the feedback, parts of the text were reworded to make it clearer, without decreasing the flexible approach. No questions were raised under this point.

- **Surveillance, eradication, disease free-status**

The Commission gave an update of the main comments raised during the public consultation. It also mentioned that the text is expected to be adopted in the coming weeks.

FESASS explained that there are concerns in several Member States due to the provisions of the Bluetongue eradications programmes. The reason is that they may provoke difficulties in existing trade patterns. The Commission replied that the movement restrictions of the Bluetongue eradication programmes are flexible and that the eradication programmes are voluntary.

- **Rules for aquaculture establishment and transporters of aquatic animals**

An update was provided on two draft Delegated Regulations which deal solely with aquatic animals and products. One of these deals with rules for aquaculture establishments and transporters, and the other deals with movements within the Union.

Details were provided in relation to the public consultation on the DA on establishments and transporters which closed on November 25th. The public consultation on the second DA will start in the coming weeks, or possibly in January, 2020.

OFI intervened and thanked the Commission for the information and expressed the view that whilst some of their members had expressed initial concerns, they are now apparently satisfied. EFFAB expressed the view that it would suit better if the public consultation on the DA concerning movements within the Union could run in January, rather than December.

- **Control measures (Part III AHL)**

The Commission in its presentation informed about the public feed-back where 23 feedbacks were received during the public consultation of the Delegated Act on disease control measures.

As regards this point, EAZA raised a question on the derogations from the prohibition of vaccination against avian influenza in confined establishments. The Commission informed that provisions regarding vaccination against A diseases will be provided for in a Delegated Act adopted under Article 47(1) of the AHL.

- **Entry into the Union (Part V AHL)**

The Commission in its presentation informed about the public feed-back where 27 feedbacks were received during the public consultation of the Delegated Act on entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin and in addition, four third countries submitted their feedbacks in the frame of the SPS-committee consultation.

As regards this point, no questions were raised.

3. Registration and approval obligations for operators of establishments keeping animals and germinal products under AHL

- **Introduction of the topic by DG SANTE – Unit G2**

The Commission in its introduction presentation explained the differences between requirements and procedures for registration of establishments and approval of establishments under the AHL.

- **Presentation by ERPA**

ERPA made a presentation on the registration forms for “non-commercial” poultry establishments.

4. Presentation by FESASS

FESASS made a presentation on their recent 'Technical Days' discussion on implementation by farmers and veterinarians of the Animal Health Law.

Introduction – afternoon session: Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit G3 Official controls and eradication of diseases in animals - DG SANTE.

5. Official Controls - Christian JULIUSSON – Policy Officer Unit G3

The Commission gave an overview on the state of play of the Official Controls Regulation which entered into force on April 29, 2017 and applies from December 14, 2019. A considerable number of delegated and implementing acts have been adopted and published in the Official Journal of the European Union, mostly revolving around controls of animals and goods entering the Union, which will also become applicable on 14 December 2019.

The Commission also gave details of a major conference 'Smarter rules for safer food and plant health' coming up on December 13, 2019. The purpose is to manifest the entering into application of the Official Controls Regulation and the Plant Health Regulation, and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The participants were informed that it was still possible to register to the conference, by using the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/smarter-rules-safer-food-and-plant-health-2019-dec-13_en

6. Animal disease outbreaks (SANTE G3)

The Commission presented an update on the animal health situation in the EU with the focus on African swine fever, avian influenza and lumpy skin disease. It noted how the use of efficient control measures such as vaccination, disease control and regionalisation allowed the prevention of the spread and eradication of several major diseases in the EU. The Commission recalled the upcoming ministerial conference on African swine fever organised by the Commission which will be held in the margins of the Green Week in Berlin on January 17, 2020.

All of the presentations may be found at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/health/advisory_committees/presentations_en

7. Any other business/next meeting

No additional agenda items were requested.

A date for the next meeting has not yet been proposed, however, Members of the Animal Health Advisory Committee will be informed of the date as soon as possible.

List of participants

<i>Stakeholder Organisation</i>
AIPCE-CEP European Fish Processors & Traders Association
ATA Animal Transportation Authority
AVEC Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU
CEFIC European Chemical Industry Council
COGECA European agri-cooperatives
EAZA European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
EDA European Dairy Association
EFFAB European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
EFRA European Fat Processors and Renderers Association
EPO European Pet Organisation
ERPA European Rural Poultry Association
Euro Coop
FACE Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU
FEAP Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
FEFAC European Feed Manufacturers' Federation
FESASS Fédération européenne pour la santé animale et la sécurité sanitaire
Food Supplements Europe
Four Paws/Vier Pfoten

France Galop
FVE Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
IPATA International Pet and Animal Transportation Association
OFI Ornamental Fish International
UECBV European Livestock and Meat Trading Union

Members of TROIKA – Romania and Croatia