



Brussels, 11/12/2012

SUMMARY REPORT ON EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL HEALTH LAW

Time, place: 7th December 2012, Brussels, DG SANCO (F101). The objective of this meeting was the discussion on some elements of the draft legal proposal for the Animal Health Law, version 7221R3-EN CIS.

Participation: SANCO: Barbara Logar, Helen Fasham and partially for different topics other responsible colleagues from SANCO Unit G2; External expert: Sigrid Cabot.

The following documents were used as a basis for discussion:

- AHL – version 7221R3-EN CIS
- Comments DG MARE, ENV and LS

The main points for discussion and resulting considerations are summarised below.

1. On general structure and major changes following Inter-Service consultation

Experts agreed that the changes of the proposal have to be made very carefully in order not to affect the general structure and the scope and objectives of the proposal. Until this moment this was sufficiently achieved. Experts also concluded that a number of internal comments helped in improving the quality of the proposal and ensured coherency with the linked policies.

2. On chapters on aquatic animals

The group has in particular discussed the scope of the proposal in terms of catching and harvesting animals for direct human consumption. The text was carefully scrutinised in order not to expand the scope from the existing situation. The group furthermore re-discussed (in particular in light of DG MARE comments) and clarified the definition of aquaculture and also touched upon the question of compartments, where the COM is adjusting the approach with the OIE international standards. Some drafting suggestions have been proposed by the expert group.

3. Elements and measures for wild animals, biodiversity and the use of animals for scientific purposes

The group has in particular discussed the scope of the proposal in terms of the elements of biodiversity and the link with Invasive alien species. The text was carefully scrutinised and some drafting suggestion have been proposed in order to correctly link both sets of legislation.

Some drafting suggestion has also been made in order to improve the legal requirements (exemptions) for the movement of animals for scientific requirements and to bring them in line with the existing directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.