



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 04 FEBRUARY 2015
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

CIRCABC Link: <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

A.01 Information from the Committee and exchange of views on the highly pathogenic avian influenza situation worldwide.

The representative of the EU Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (EURL) in Weybridge, UK, gave a presentation showing the circulation in poultry and wild birds of several HPAI viruses of different subtypes (H5N1, H5N2, H5N8..) in the different continents (Asia, Europe, North America and Africa). The EURL's specific work on preparedness for diagnosing virus incursions such as working with global networks, EU and global virus characterisation, diagnostic test evaluation, provision of specialised reagents, ongoing fitness for purpose assessment of tests and advanced phylogenetics was presented.

A.02 Information concerning a declaration from Poland of disease free status with regard to koi herpes virus disease (KHV) and spring viraemia in carp (SVC) for the compartment Koi Yoshikigoi Breeder Gospodarstwo Rolne Hodowla Ryb Teresa Driessen.

The Commission informed about a declaration submitted from Poland of disease free status with regard to KHV and SVC for the compartment Koi Yosikigoi Breeder Gospodarstwo Howdowla Ryb Teresa Driessen. This compartment comprise a single farm producing ornamental fish intended for further breeding in household water bodies, garden ponds and pet stores. The declaration is submitted in accordance with Article 50(2) of Directive 2006/88/EC with regards to the free status of KHV. As regards SVC, which is no longer a disease listed in part II to Annex IV of Directive 2006/88/EC, that Article will not apply. However, eventual intra-Union trade restrictions regarded as necessary to prevent the introduction of this disease into the compartment, may be approved in accordance with Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

A.03 Information concerning a declaration from France of disease free status with regard to infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a the compartment "la ferme aquacole de Rein".

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration submitted from France of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for the compartment "la ferme aquacole de Rhein". The compartment comprises a single farm which has been subject to targeted surveillance for two years without any detection of the diseases of concern. The declaration is submitted in accordance with Article 50 (2) of Directive 2006/88/EC.

Link to the declarations presented will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.04 Update on the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in the Baltics and Eastern Europe Region.

The Commission provided an update on the ongoing discussions on African swine fever in the framework of the Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs). This led to a specific initiative for the creation of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in the Baltics and Eastern Europe Region. This group of experts agreed for a series of field visits in the seven countries affected this disease. Once these visits would be completed the Standing Group of Experts would be reconvened to assess the outcomes and recommend the way forward.

A.05 On request of Germany information concerning a possible mandate for EFSA on issue of transport and slaughter of pregnant cows.

Following its previous requests to the Commission, the German delegation asked if the Commission has finally requested the opinion of the EFSA on this matter and complained that they did not received any answer from the Commission. The request to EFSA on the transport and slaughter of pregnant cows was supported by both the Dutch and Danish delegations. The Commission representative replied that he thought that the Commission has already replied to the German CVO but will further check and come back to them as necessary.

A.06 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on lumpy skin disease in Cyprus.

A representative of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) presented the findings and the recommendations of the second CVET mission in Cyprus.

Cyprus provided an update on the measures being taken by the competent authority; this included considering the vaccination option in line with the recommendations of the CVET mission. The Committee was concerned by the evolution of the current situation and risk of introduction of this disease in other Member States bordering

with Thrace. The Commission referred to the existing legislation and the need to coordinate activities within the EU.

A.07 Preliminary information on the multiannual work programme for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses for 2016-2017.

As by statement by the Commission (Regulation (EU) No 652/2014), preparatory work for the design of the work programme for the implementation of the veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses has to be carried out with experts of the MSs in early February of each year in order to give Member States the relevant information to establish the eradication and surveillance programmes: this is the purpose of this preliminary information. All Member States welcomed the preliminary information.

A.08 Information from the EURL for bee health on guidelines for the surveillance of small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) infestation.

This point was dropped due to the non-availability of EURL expert.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union and in third countries.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2006/415/EC on protective measures in relation to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in poultry in Bulgaria

Commission Decision 2006/415/EC lays down certain protection measures to be applied in order to prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, including the establishment of areas A and B following a suspected or confirmed outbreak of that disease. Following the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N1, Bulgaria has established areas A and B accordingly. The Commission has examined those measures in collaboration with Bulgaria, and considers that the borders of Areas A and B established by Bulgaria are at a sufficient distance to the actual location of the outbreak. These areas can therefore be confirmed and the duration of that regionalisation fixed in the Annex to Decision 2006/15/EC which should be amended accordingly.

Report by Bulgaria on disease situation

The Bulgarian representative made a presentation on HPAI subtype H5N1 confirmed on 26/01 in a Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) found dead in Poda protected area (Burgas Region). Bulgaria reported on the implementation of protection measures according to Commission Decision 2006/563/EC which foresees zoning around HPAI H5N1 positive findings in wild birds and investigations in poultry holdings in a 10km radius as well as restrictions of movements for live poultry and certain poultry products. On 02/02 an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in backyard poultry holding in the village of Konstantinovo, Kameno municipality,

Burgas region located 13 km from the place where the HPAI H5N1 positive Dalmatian pelican had been found. Bulgaria reported that the disease control measures according to Directive 2005/94/EC and the additional protection measures laid down in Commission Decision 2006/415/EC were implemented.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for the United States in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza following outbreaks in the State of Idaho and California

Document SANCO/12923/2014 on a Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for the United States in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza obtained a favourable opinion at the vote at the PAFF Committee on 14/01/2015. It lays down regionalisation of imports of poultry commodities from the US territory by restricting imports only from the disease affected parts, namely the whole State of Washington and Douglas county in the State of Oregon, further outbreaks of the disease have occurred requiring the extension of the prohibition on imports to areas in the State of Idaho, California and Oregon.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for the United States in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza following outbreaks in the State of Idaho and California

See above. Due to the change in the epidemiological situation for HPAI in the USA, a further amendment to Decision 2007/777/EC is suggested to include additional areas from which imports of poultry meat products may only be authorised when they have undergone a specific treatment.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision implementing Directive 2006/88/EC as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods for aquatic animal diseases to the Committee. This draft proposal was a revision of a the draft presented to the Committee at the PAFF meeting in 4 July 2014, revised in line with the comments and suggested amendments received at the meeting of a Technical Working Group on

this issue in Brussels 28 October 2014. The Commission informed briefly about the changes made to the document and the justification for these changes.

Germany and the United Kingdom had forwarded comments to the document in advance of the meeting. These comments were addressed and discussed. In addition France signalled their intention to forward additional comments. In order to be able to finalise the draft and to present the document for voting at the next PAFF meeting, the Commission asked the Member States to forward eventual new comments to the Commission within 15 February 2015.

M.01 African swine fever in Poland.

Poland provided an update on the current epidemiological situation and control measures applied, including the information on one outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) in a backyard farm near the border with Belarus. On request of the Committee, the Commission agreed to work with Poland to adapt the current regionalisation to the current risk due to ASF.

M.02 Application of model health certificates for trade in bovine animals and swine set out in Decision 2014/798/EU.

Following the PAFF Committee which took place on 13-14 January 2015, BE raised again a point on difficulties with practical use of a new format, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 599/2004, of model health certificates for trade in bovine animals and swine. Several Member States (Lithuania, Slovenia and Ireland) joined the discussion and expressed their opinion on this issue. All the comments were noted by the Commission. The Commission informed that there is already prepared draft Decision amending model health certificates, in particular point I.31. where species, sex, date of birth and other data on the animals forming the consignment must be indicated. The draft, in paper version, with proposed amendments was circulated to the representatives of all Member States and there was a request for a careful reading of proposed amendments as probably a draft Decision amending Annex F to Directive 64/432/EEC will be submitted for vote in the next PAFF Committee which will take place in March. The representative of the Commission also informed that TRACES was already adapted in order to make optional those data which caused problems.

M.03 Foot and Mouth Disease simulation exercises in Denmark and Bulgaria.

The representatives of Denmark and Bulgaria provided information on FMD simulation exercises, including conclusions, which were carried out in 2015 on the territory of those Member States. In both cases neighbouring countries joined the simulation exercise, in Denmark the activities were carried out with the cooperation of Germany and in Bulgaria with the cooperation of Serbia and the former Republic of Yugoslavia. As regards Denmark those were real-time exercises. Bulgaria, as those conducted so far were only simulations in the office, is going to carry out real-time exercises this summer.

M.04 Information from Croatia on a national reference laboratory listed in Part A of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC.

The representative of Croatia informed on necessary amendments of a list of national reference laboratories set out in Part A of Annex XI to Directive 2003/85/EC as regards Croatia. The laboratory listed in a row for Croatia should be deleted. The Commission confirmed that all necessary amendments are being prepared.

M.05 Information from DE on glanders.

The representative from Germany presented information on glanders infection in one horse which was detected in the district of Osnabrück (OS), Lower Saxony, and which was confirmed on 27 January 2015. The horse was born in May 2008 and has never left the territory of Germany. It was tested for glanders during an examination for the purpose of exportation to the United States and was found to have a positive result in the complement fixation test. The horse was culled on and histopathological examination was conducted. The bacteriological tests yielded negative findings. Epidemiological investigations were launched immediately. It has been established that the glanders-positive horse had never been moved to other Member States or third countries. At the end samples of skin in real-time PCR showed a positive result for DNA of *Burkholderia mallei*.

Contact horses were either established in other holdings in Lower Saxony or in other Federal States (Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hessen). All contact horses have so far been tested negative for glanders. The cause of introduction of *Burkholderia mallei* is still unknown and the epidemiological investigation is on-going.

M.06 Reminder on the transposition obligations of Directive 2013/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 92/65/EEC as regards the animal health requirements governing intra-Union trade in and imports into the Union of dogs, cats and ferrets.

The Commission's representative reminded Member States that the transposition deadline of Directive 2013/31/EU **expired on 28 December 2014.**

Therefore, on **29 January 2015**, an infringement procedure was started by sending a **Letter of Formal Notice** to those Member States which did not notify to the Commission, in the relevant database, their national measure transposing Directive 2013/31/EU. This Letter of Formal Notice must be answered within two months.

If the Commission services are not satisfied with the information and conclude that the Member State in question is failing to fulfil its obligations under EU law, the Commission may then send a formal request to comply with EU law (a "**Reasoned Opinion**"), calling on the Member State to inform the Commission of the measures taken to comply within two months.

In the specific case of Member States that have failed to communicate to the Commission the measures transposing within the aforementioned deadline, the Commission may request the Court to impose a financial penalty on the Member State concerned already at the first referral to the Court of Justice. The referral to the Court of Justice with a request to impose financial penalty could be expected with 12 months from the sending of the Letter of Formal Notice.

Member States must therefore take action to transpose without delay Directive 2013/31/EU. If Member States fail to take action to ensure compliance, the Commission may decide to pursue the infringement.

M.07 Low pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N2 subtype in Italy.

The Italian representative informed the Committee about an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) confirmed on 27/01/2015 in a hobby duck flock in the commune and province of Arezzo, Tuscany region. On that holding samples were taken in order to allow participation in a fair as required by national legislation. The affected holding was placed under restrictions and the 81 ducks present there, were culled. Cleaning and disinfection are being carried out. Around the infected holding a restricted zone of a 1 km radius was established. A second related holding was placed under official restrictions. Investigations are ongoing in order to identify possible virus spread.

M.08 HPAI H5N8 DE update backyard flocks in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

The German representative gave a presentation on two outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 confirmed on 20/01 and 26/01 in backyard poultry flocks in the town of Anklam. The holdings are situated at a 1400 m distance from each other i.e. that the second outbreak occurred in the area of the protection zone already established around the first case.

A Commission proposal (SANTE/7006/2015) on protective measures in relation to these two outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 had obtained a favourable opinion by written procedure on 28/01/2015.

M.09 Denmark informed the Committee about detection of *Bonamia* infestation in oysters from the Limfjord area.

There are clear indications of the parasite in histopathology and preliminary PCR examinations and samples have been sent to the EURL for mollusc disease for confirmation. This detection is from an area previous declared free of *Bonamia ostreae* and *Marteillia refringens*.