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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Discussion on the Work Programme 2021-2022 for veterinary programmes.

The Commission presented the draft Work Programme for the implementation of veterinary programmes for 2021-2022, mainly describing the diseases prioritisation, the objectives, the expected results and the co-funding rates that would be applied in order to meet the budget ceiling. Member States were invited to provide comments by 19/2/2021.

A.03 Commission update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission provided an update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/2183 of 21 December 2020. These updates addressed the outbreaks in Spain and Poland.

A.04 Future of SARS-CoV-2 surveillance in Mustelidae and raccoon dogs in the EU.

The Commission explored possible ways to implement the surveillance in Member States. Member States expressed concerns related to weekly testing of mink farms due to the burden it represents on competent authorities.

A.05 Information from Italy on results of surveillance activity carried out for small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*).

Italy presented surveillance, control and eradication activities for small hive beetle in application of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/909/EU. In particular Italy explained the epidemiological situation in Sicily, i.e. that years of robust surveillance prove that small hive beetle is absent from Sicily and the one outbreak of June 2019 which was the consequence of an illegal activity by one beekeeper was swiftly and successfully eradicated. Italy requested that the ban by Decision 2014/909/EC on movement of honeybees out of Sicily is to be lifted. One question by a delegate was

clarified. As that Decision 2014/909/EC will cease to apply on 21 April, the Commission indicated that it will proceed with an internal consultation on a draft Decision along the Italian request, on the new legal basis of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and will likely to table a draft proposal in the next month.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Meuse.

The Commission shared its analysis of some specificities of animal health official controls which exist in, and are based on, current rules, in light of the new legal context and general rules in Regulation (EU) 2017/625. All this with the view of possible specific new Commission rules under Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The Commission briefly explained the possible content of the new rules (including checks on animal identification and registration requirements). Those who spoke appreciated the information and mentioned that the current threshold to annually check 3% of the establishments for compliance with animal identification and registration requirements is burdensome. They suggested lower value in general terms. The Commission indicated that it will proceed with a written consultation with the MS on two possible draft new rules, one Delegated and one Implementing Regulation.

A.07 Information from the Commission on ongoing work on two future Commission acts for specific official controls and minimum frequencies thereof to verify compliance with animal health requirements, including for identification and registration of certain terrestrial animals.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.12.

A.08 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment of the Thèze.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.12.

A.09 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the upper Yonne.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.12.

A.10 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the upper Chaux.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.12.

A.11 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the upper Vrin.

Standard declaration, summary under Point A.12.

A.12 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment of the Celle.

For items A.07-A.12 the Commission briefly explained key elements of the declarations, explained where they will be made available for further scrutiny by the Member States at the following home page and stated that according to the procedure in Directive 2006/88/EC these take effect 60 days from the date of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing (https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en).

A.13 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment Trotarium Trotilcoltura Bellunese Soc. Agricola Semplice.

This item was withdrawn from the agenda prior to the meeting and was not discussed.

A.14 Information from Poland on the first outbreak of rabies in 2021.

Following the update from Poland, with two new cases in January in an area out of the vaccination area where cases were not found in almost 20 years, the Commission highlighted the seriousness of the situation and offered technical support if needed.

A.15 Information on activities related to the implementation of the Animal Health Law.

The Commission informed participants on the application of the Animal Health Law and on planned actions to support Member States in preparation of its implementation.

A.16 Information from Member States on African swine fever.

Poland, Slovakia, Germany, Romania and Hungary presented an update on the current ASF epidemiological situation in their countries.

A.17 Information from the Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Member States affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry present the updated epidemiological situation with the disease, the measures in place to control the spread and eradicate the disease and information on the enhanced surveillance in poultry and wild birds.

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.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The draft that provides for special ASF control rules (from 21 April 2021) based on the new legal basis (Regulation (EU) 2016/429) was presented in the Committee.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Germany.

Draft Commission Implementing Decision approving the plan for the eradication of African swine fever in feral pigs in certain areas of Germany was presented by the Commission.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation approving the status of Member States, zones or compartments and approving eradication programmes for certain listed diseases referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU)2016/429.

The Commission explained the double purpose of the draft: carry over the current disease statuses granted in accordance with existing EU rules and grant new disease statuses in accordance with the provisions of the AHL. Member States were reminded to verify carefully the administrative regions with an status that are listed in the Annex. The draft will be submitted for written consultation in the coming days.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 535/2002, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1226/2002, Commission Decision 2002/598/EC, Commission Decision 2004/226/EC, Commission Decision 2006/563/EC and Commission Decision 2008/946/EC.

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member State.

All Member States supported the revision of the Annex and the newly proposed restricted areas in Germany, Poland and Slovakia.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1809 concerning certain protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.

The Commission informed about the draft Commission Implementing Decision to amend the Regionalization at EU level following evolution of the epidemiological situation in certain Member States.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing Category 2 materials.

Member States presented their opinion and asked for clarification of customs exports procedure. The Commission provided for a clarification on difference between the proposed inclusion of the customs exports procedure for exports of fertilisers and the existing TRACES channelling.

Vote Postponed

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation concerning special control measures relating to classical swine fever.

After the working group meetings, the Commission presented the working document for preparing the follow-up to Commission Implementing Decision 2013/764/EU of 13 December 2013 concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States. All Member States supported the initiative.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to reporting infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission presented a working document with measures to be put in place once Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/2183 expires (to allow continuing of reporting of SARS-CoV-2 in minks).

C.03 Exchange of views and possible technical agreement of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429, (EU) 2016/1012 and (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the identification and registration of equine animals and establishing model identification documents for those animals.

The Commission presented the draft, explaining the structure of the document, the similarities to the current provisions and the challenges resulting from the complexity of the draft legal act based on three basic acts and a number of Delegated Regulations already adopted. 13 Member States took the floor or entered comments in the chat-room concerning largely editorial issues or requests for clarification; however the comments from the Zootechnical authorities of one Member State are of fundamental nature and will be processed accordingly. Several Member States informed on written comments to reach the Commission soon.