



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 05 DECEMBER 2014  
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

**A.01 African swine fever - Information from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied.**

Information was provided on African swine fever (ASF) by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the epidemiological situation, surveillance activities and control measures applied. Information was presented on personal consignments confiscated at border control posts that could represent a threat to the animal health situation of the Union. The Commission informed on the planned meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever in the Baltics and Eastern Europe Region scheduled to take place in Minsk very soon.

**A.02 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team missions on bluetongue in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Albania.**

Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team missions on bluetongue (BT) in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Albania was provided. The report included recommendations in relation to BT and advocated for coordinated efforts and application of control measures (i.e. vaccination strategy and surveillance) in the region for reducing the impact of BT in the following vector season and for anticipating the possible spread of the virus in the following year.

**A.03 Information from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Austria, Spain and Italy on the bluetongue situation and related control measures.**

Information was provided on the bluetongue (BT) situation and control measures in place in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Austria, Spain and Italy. Some Member States reported on the intention to undertake a

vaccination programme while others were still considering valid options. The Commission indicated that besides the technical assistance already provided, the veterinary programmes existed to provide specific support to Member States. The current season with low vectorial activity would be an opportunity for the Member States to take appropriate measures in view of the next 2015 vector season.

**A.04 Information on a declaration from Italy regarding disease freedom for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for the compartment "Santo Massimo".**

The Commission informed about a declaration submitted from Italy of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for the compartment "Santo Massimo" situated in Poggio Berni. This compartment comprises the hatchery "Santo Massimo" which rear brown trout, rainbow trout and pike for the purpose of releasing into the wild. The declaration is based on two years of targeted surveillance regarding the diseases of concern and is submitted in accordance with Article 50 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

**A.05 Information on a declaration from Slovenia regarding disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) for a compartment in Slovenia.**

The Commission informed the Committee about a declaration submitted from Slovenia of disease free status with regard to IHN and VHS for a compartment comprising the fish farm "Plave" and the stream "Sopet". The farm was listed as IHN positive in 2005, but was emptied, cleaned and disinfected in the summer 2007. No clinical sign of VHS or IHN or the pathogens has been detected from this farm since then. From January to October 2014 all tanks have been emptied due to reconstruction work including installation of updated equipment and a partial recirculation system. The declaration is based on the fulfilment of the criteria set out in Point 4.2 of Part II of Annex V to Directive 2006/88/EC.

**A.06 Information from Romania on Newcastle disease in poultry.**

Romania informed about a Newcastle disease outbreak in a commercial broiler holding confirmed on 12/11/2015 in Smirna, Ialomita County in the South of Romania. The holding was depopulated and zoning established. No movements of poultry took place during the risk period. Investigations have not shown any spread of infection.

**A.07 Information from Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in poultry and wild birds.**

The Netherlands reported on an outbreak (No 5) of HPAI H5N8 in a laying hen farm in Zoeterwoude, province of Zuid Holland. Early detection and notification are key as well as strictly adhering to hygiene protocols. Wild ducks (widgeons) were found positive for the HPAI H5N8 virus near Kamerik. Wild bird monitoring was enforced aiming at determining the risk period for infection.

The United Kingdom reported on the progress of tracing investigations that gave negative results and on the measures to lift the restrictions for protection and surveillance zones. Communication with the industry and the public highlighting the importance of biosecurity and vigilance are seen as a priority.

Germany informed that the veterinary restrictions in the protection zones in relation to the outbreak in the turkey fattening holding that had been confirmed on 5/11/2014 in Heinrichswalde, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, were lifted on 1/12/2014 and that lifting for those in the surveillance zone is foreseen by 10/12/2014.

#### **A.08 Presentation of the FVO Overview Report on Laboratory Performance**

The Commission (Food and Veterinary Office) presented the main findings and conclusions included in the FVO overview report on laboratory performance in the Member States with a view to identifying horizontal issues which could usefully be addressed by Member States or by the European Commission services.

#### **A.09 Explanatory note on Articles 7 and 11 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the application of the derogation from the anti-rabies vaccination condition for young dogs and cats**

Member States have discretion whether or not they allow the introduction onto their territory of dogs and cats which are less than 12 weeks old and have not received an anti-rabies vaccination, or are between 12 or 16 weeks old and have received an anti-rabies vaccination but are not yet fully protected (hereafter “young dogs and cats”).

The main question for discussion was whether Member States are allowed to apply conditions for such movement in a discriminatory and changing way depending on the perceived rabies risk for young dogs and cats coming from

- different Member States, for example those with a longer or shorter history of rabies freedom;
- territories or third countries as compared to coming from Member States; or
- certain territories or third countries but not from other equally listed territories or third countries.

The question of intra-Union trade in young dogs and cats was also discussed while import of young dogs and cats into the Union being clearly prohibited was not.

The Commission's representative reminded the Member States of the following:

1. Non-commercial movement of young dogs and cats into a Member State from another

Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 regulates the non-commercial movement of dogs and cats that are less than 12 weeks old and have not received an anti-rabies vaccination and those between 12 and 16 weeks old and have received an anti-rabies vaccination, which however does not yet meet the validity requirements for that vaccination.

This Article provides an obligation for the owner or authorised person to provide a signed declaration drawn up in accordance with the model set out in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 attesting, where the animals are moved without their mother, that from birth until the time of movement the young dogs or cats have had no contact with wild animals susceptible to rabies. Where the animals are moved with their mother on whom they still depend, the passport of the mother should document a valid anti-rabies vaccination received before their birth.

Where a Member State decides either accepting or prohibiting the non-commercial movement of young dogs or cats into its territory from another Member State, this decision applies in a non-discriminatory way to all Member States of dispatch. This is an ‘all or nothing’ decision of the Member State of destination, which should not change depending on the situation with regard to rabies in the Member State of dispatch, e.g. self-declared freedom according to OIE, presence of rabies in wildlife or occurrence of imported rabies cases in dogs or cats.

The decision should be solely based on the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. No other conditions, such as the rabies vaccination status of the mother of those young animals, should be required when moved alone, nor should any discrimination between moved alone or moved accompanied by their mother be made, nor should any discrimination between unvaccinated or vaccinated but not yet protected young dogs and cats be made, since both categories of animals are of similar status and risk with regard to rabies.

## 2. Intra-Union trade in young dogs and cats

Given that paragraph 2 of Article 10 of Directive 92/65/EEC as amended by Directive 2013/31/EU makes an explicit reference to Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013, the same applies to intra-Union trade in young dogs and cats. Thus, once a Member State has taken a decision to derogate from Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 576/2013, it must apply that decision consistently for the purpose of intra-Union trade in young dogs and cats and in a non-discriminatory way vis-à-vis all Member States.

This alignment of non-commercial movements of and intra-Union trade in young dogs and cats is necessary because otherwise intra-Union trade risks being fraudulently disguised as non-commercial movement

## 3. Non-commercial movements of young dogs and cats into a Member State from a territory or a third country

Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 regulates the non-commercial movement from certain listed territories or third countries of dogs and cats that are less than 12 weeks old and have not received an anti-rabies vaccination and those between 12 and 16 weeks old and have received an anti-rabies vaccination, which however does not yet meet the validity requirements for that vaccination.

This Article provides an obligation for the owner or authorised person to provide a signed declaration (drawn up in accordance with the model set out in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013) attesting, where the animals are moved without their mother, that from birth until the time of movement the young dogs or cats have

had no contact with wild animals susceptible to rabies. Where the animals are moved with their mother on whom they still depend, the health certificate of the mother should document a valid anti-rabies vaccination received before their birth.

Where a Member State decides either to accept or to prohibit the non-commercial movement of young dogs or cats into its territory from a territory or a third country listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013, its decision should apply in a non-discriminatory way to all listed territories or third countries of dispatch.

This is also an ‘all or nothing’ decision of the Member State of destination.

The decision should be solely based on the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. No other conditions, such as the rabies vaccination status of the mother of those young animals, should be required when moved alone, nor should any discrimination between moved alone or moved accompanied by their mother be made, nor should any discrimination between unvaccinated or vaccinated but not yet protected young dogs and cats be made, since both categories of animals are of similar status and risk with regard to rabies.

In addition, although Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 refers to paragraph 1 or 2 of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013, it does not include any other condition regarding a possible distinction between the territories or countries. The use of ‘or’ is purely of legal drafting nature since a territory or a third country can only be listed pursuant to either paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013.

Furthermore, Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 lists territories and third countries:

- a. which either are free of rabies; or
- b. which apply rules the content and effect of which are the same as those laid down in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013; or
- c. in respect of which the risk of rabies spreading to the Union, as a result of non-commercial movements of pet animals from them, has been found to be no higher than the risk associated with such movements between Member States.

Taking a different decision for the non-commercial movement of young dogs or cats coming from some of the territories or third countries listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 is therefore unjustified from a risk point of view.

If the rabies situation in a territory or a third country becomes potentially a risk for the Member States, the Commission is empowered to amend the list of territories or third countries accordingly.

Moreover, the decision taken for the movement of young animals from territories or third countries should be independent from the one taken for the movement of young animals from another Member State, since the decisions are based on two different enacting terms of the basic legal act.

**A.10 Information about two declarations from France regarding disease freedom for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) in the compartments "de la pisciculture de Coquainvilles" and "ferme aquacole de l'Épinay".**

The Commission informed the Committee about two declarations from France of diseases free status with regard to IHN and VHS for two compartments.

Compartment A, "la pisciculture de Coquainvilles" is situated in the basin of Pre d'Auge in Normandie. This compartment comprises a hatchery for the production of Atlantic salmon fry and fingerlings. The declaration is based on four years of targeted surveillance of material from both Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout used as sentinel fish.

Compartment B, "ferme aquacole de l'Épinay" is situated in the basin of la Valmont also in Normandie. This compartment also comprises a single farm producing rainbow trout, char and brook trout from eggs to market size for human consumption. This declaration is also based on 4 years of targeted surveillance, and both declarations are submitted in accordance with Article 50 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.**

The Commission presented the new draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States. It highlighted the need for a minor change in the body of the text in order to harmonise the measures taken to protect Member States and third countries together with an update of the delimitation of regionalisation that would take into account the new epidemiological situation.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of Cyprus as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)**

Cyprus has submitted to the Commission documentation demonstrating compliance with the conditions laid down in point 1 (b) in Section II of Chapter 1 of Annex A to Directive 91/68/EEC to be recognised as officially free of brucellosis (*B. melitensis*) for its whole territory. Following an evaluation of the documentation submitted by Cyprus, that Member State should be recognised as being officially free of brucellosis

(*B. melitensis*). The purpose of this Commission Implementing Decision is to amend Annex I to Decision 93/52/EEC accordingly.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia in 2014**

No discussion took place.

**Vote postponed**

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment, and the information relating thereto, in respect of the emergency measures against animal diseases referred to in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

The Commission presented the Commission Implementing Decision laying down the procedures for the submission of applications for grants and requests for payment, and the information relating thereto, in respect of the emergency measures against animal diseases referred to in Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The Commission explained the main aspects of the new procedures and reporting regarding request for Union contribution by the Member States to fight outbreaks and other emergency situations related to animal diseases. This document constitutes the basis for the submission of requests for contribution regarding emergency measures against animal diseases following the new Regulation on Management of Expenditure for Food and Feed (EU<sup>o</sup> 652/2014).

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Member States.**

Following confirmation on 16/11/2014 of HPAI H5N8 in a laying hen holding in Hekendorp in the province of Utrecht, The Netherlands, Commission Implementing Decision 2014/808/EU on interim protective measures was adopted. It provides that the protection and surveillance zones established by the Netherlands comprise at least the areas listed in its Annex. The measures were reviewed within the framework of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on 20/11/2014 and confirmed by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/833/EU taking into account the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around further outbreaks in Ter Aar and Kamperveen. On 30/11/2014 a further outbreak was confirmed in a poultry holding in Zoeterwoude in Zuid-Holland and zoning was established. In order to prevent any unnecessary disturbance to trade within the Union and with third countries these areas are also defined at Union level and the duration of that

regionalisation fixed. Implementing Decision 2014/833/EU should therefore be amended.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union's contribution to emergency measures to combat African swine fever in Poland/ Latvia/ Lithuania/ Estonia in 2014**

The purpose of this Decision was to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland towards the expenditure that incurred for compensation, operational costs and other essential costs as regards emergency measures implemented by the Member States to combat African swine fever during the second half of 2014.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.