



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Directorate D – Food sustainability, international relations
Unit D4 Food safety programme, emergency funding

SANTE-2021-10452

REPORT ON THE
MEETING OF THE PLENARY TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING
ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES

Videoconference, 17th March 2021

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication programmes

**Albert Borschette Conference Center - Skype For Business Videoconference
17 March 2021, from 09:30 to 13:00**

Participants:

Representatives from Member States: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK

Representatives from non EU Member States: Switzerland.

European Commission (DG SANTE)

• **Unit D4:**

Antonio DI GIULIO (ADG) – Chair

Valentina PIAZZA (VP)

Christian BOESINGER - FROIDEVAUX (CBF)

Nicolas KRIEGER (NK)

Marc VALLONS (MV)

Dimitrios DILAVERIS (DD)

Tommaso CIRASA (TC)

Effimia MAGKOU (EM)

• **Unit A3:**

Didier DELACOURT (DDE)

Agenda: The proposed agenda was adopted with one AOB point proposed by D4 (see below and Annex). No AOB points were proposed by the MS delegations.

1. Introduction

The chair, Antonio Di Giulio, Head of Unit D4, welcomed the representatives of the Member States. He reminded the participants about the objectives and importance of this annual meeting.

The agenda was presented and it was announced that under AOB, there would be a short point on the externalisation of tasks related to veterinary programmes, to the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

1. Update on the Single Market Programme (SMP) and provisional timeline for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022

VP presented the indicative timetable for the adoption of the Work Programme 2021-2022. The new Single Market Programme (SMP) Regulation will most likely be adopted by May 2021. This will be followed by the adoption of the Financing decision (FD) and the Work Programme (WP), including all SMP activities, most likely by June 2021. Consequently, submission of veterinary programmes 2021-2022 will probably take place around the same period, and signing of the relevant Grant Agreements may be expected around October 2021 (with retroactive effect, as of 01/01/2021). To be noted that a call for expression of interest will be launched before this summer to recruit veterinary experts for the external evaluation of the veterinary programs 2021-2022.

2. Draft work programme for the implementation of the veterinary programmes in 2021-2022

CBF presented the main points of the draft work programme (WP) for the implementation of veterinary programmes in 2021-2022, including objectives and priorities. The presentation concluded with the analysis of two different scenarios of total budget allocation for 2021, taking into account the veterinary programmes and corresponding MS requests of the previous year (2020). In the first scenario, calculation of total funds for 2021 is based on the 2020 co-financing rates (CFR). In the second scenario, calculations use the new CFR, that take into account the available annual budget (reduced compared to 2020) and the 2021-2022 priorities. It was further clarified, that depending on the MS requests for 2021-2022, CFR for low priority (“Group 2”) diseases may be further readjusted upwards or downwards to ensure effective use of the available budget.

In the discussion that followed explanations were provided to the MS on the new CFRs and the phasing out of certain diseases, like tuberculosis and bluetongue. It was further clarified that due to the late adoption of the new legal framework (SMP), some of the 2022 programmes may need to be submitted separately: by the end of May 2021 for approval in line with the “Animal Health Law” (AHL), and later, when the SMP and the WP will be adopted, for EU co-financing (SMP Regulation). Nevertheless, every effort is made to align both templates in order to facilitate the work of the MSs colleagues.

NB: submission for the purpose of the AHL is not supposed to be repeated every year.

3. Technical guidelines for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022

DD presented an overview of the draft guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2021-2022, focusing on the expected results, the measures to be funded per disease as well as major changes compared to the guidelines of previous years. Emphasis was placed on the indicative timetable for the submission and assessment of the veterinary programmes this year. In view of the timeline for the adoption of the new SMP Regulation, veterinary programmes submitted in 2021 will be assessed and their technical approval will cover both 2021 and 2022. Likewise, the deadlines for the submission of these programmes will be adjusted accordingly and there will be no intermediate reporting for the 2021 programmes.

In the discussion that followed explanations were provided to the MS on the possibilities for EU funding of veterinary programmes in neighbouring Third Countries* (e.g. for rabies) as well as the specific measures that may be eligible for EU co-financing per disease. It was further clarified that certain measures will no longer be eligible in view of budgetary limitations and disease prioritization. In addition, the draft guidelines will be subject to further scrutiny and fine-tuning to address specific remarks of the MS as appropriate (e.g. unit costs for tuberculosis, PCR tests for rabies etc.).

4. New unit costs for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022

MV presented the methodology for new unit costs calculation and future granting forms for Veterinary Eradication and Monitoring Programmes. Calculation of the new unit costs was assigned to the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC). Analysis for this purpose included information collected from the MS (questionnaire), data available through Eurostat 2019 (classification of the 27 MS into "salary bands"), Market Study and the EU Reference Laboratories concerned. By combining the testing/sampling salary for each MS, the specific sampling/testing times and other relevant information (e.g. overheads for sampling and real consumable costs for testing) new unit costs were calculated, for sampling and testing in relation to various animal diseases. These new unit cost will better reflect the specific conditions in each MS.

Work on further simplification is underway and will make it possible to replace the current funding system, where MS receive reimbursement of the real costs incurred for their EU co financed veterinary programmes, following the technical and financial assessment of the relevant reports. The objective of such a new system would be to simplify the current obligations on actual cost reporting (MS) and financial ex-post audits (EC) by using the principle of "lump sums", subject to ex-ante approval of the scientific-technical and financial content of the programmes undertaken by them.

Work is ongoing to see if such a funding system which is promoted by the European Court of Auditors could be envisaged for the veterinary programmes in the future. In parallel, the process will also be further aligned with the Commission financing processes, with the use of the E-Granting electronic system of the EC, for the preparation of the relevant Grant Agreements (next step).

In the discussion that followed, it was explained to the MS that those unit costs that differ significantly from the old ones may also reflect changes in market prices or the salaries reported by the MS.

5. Templates for the submission of the veterinary programmes 2021-2022

CBF explained briefly that new pdf templates that will be used for the submission of veterinary programmes are underway. The new templates will match the requirements of the WP and the SMP Regulation, and, for the concerned diseases, those of the AHL. In the meantime, MS are encouraged to start preparation of the programmes they intend to submit, using the old templates, since the new ones are not expected to have fundamental changes. This way transfer of ready text and figures, from the old templates, will save time and effort to the MS when the new templates will become available and submission of programmes will be possible (after the adoption of the SMP Regulation and the WP) .

* Updated information to be circulated, once available.

6. AOB: Externalisation of tasks related to veterinary programmes to the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

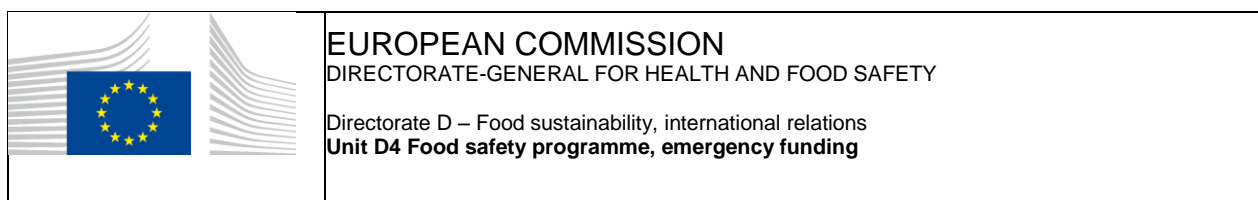
NK presented an update of the externalisation process where, all activities related to veterinary programmes (currently undertaken by D4) will be transferred to the new Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). HaDEA will formally begin its work as of 01 April 2021. Member States will be informed in due time of this process that will be progressive in 2021 and about the possible changes that it may generate as regards the submission of the veterinary programmes (future eGrant tool, etc).

NB: It should also be noted that the funding of the emergency measures will not be externalised to HaDEA and will remain in DG SANTE.

Closing of the meeting:

At 12.15 pm, the chair thanked the participants, for their useful remarks and fruitful discussions, and encouraged them to send any written comments they may have, on the documents presented or other topics discussed during the meeting, within a week (by 24/03/2021) at the latest.

ANNEX : AGENDA



Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication programmes

**Videoconference
17 March 2021, from 09:30 to 13:00**

- 1.** Introduction
- 2.** Update on the Single Market Programme (SMP) and provisional timeline for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022
- 3.** Draft work programme for the implementation of the veterinary programmes in 2021-2022
- 4.** Technical guidelines for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022
- 5.** New unit costs for the veterinary programmes 2021-2022
- 6.** Templates for the submission of the veterinary programmes 2021-2022.

AOB: Externalisation of tasks related to veterinary programmes to the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).