

Minutes of the meeting of the expert group
to discuss a working document in relation to a draft delegated act on the movement
within the Union of terrestrial animals, such as ungulates, poultry and other animal
species, under Regulation (EU) 2016/429

21 January 2019, Brussels

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A provisional agenda was circulated in advance and agreed at the beginning of the meeting. The working document to be discussed was provided in advance.

2. NATURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was non-public and attended by representatives of the competent veterinary authorities of Member States and EEA countries. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and the Council.

3. INTRODUCTION, OPENING, GENERAL REMARKS

The Commission recalled the general context of the working document and its place amongst the delegated acts in preparation under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ (AHL) and noted that the working document to be discussed at the meeting is amended in accordance with the discussions in previous meeting of this expert group and written comments received.

In the frame of this meeting, the Commission also updated Member States on the state of play as regards movements of products of animal origin within the Union. In particular, the Commission explained that a relevant draft has already been developed, but it is not yet decided if this draft will be a separate act or incorporated in the delegated act for the movement within the Union of terrestrial animals. However, because there are links to the measures taken for disease control under Parts II and III of the AHL, this draft will be presented in the expert group meeting on disease control measures for A diseases on 7/2/2019.

4. DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OPINIONS

The main conclusions of the meeting were the following:

- 4.1. Following the discussion in previous meetings of this expert group on the detailed rules for assembly operations, a compromise text was presented and agreed by the experts.
- 4.2. The animal health requirements for movements of ungulates in relation to infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) (BTV), introduced in the working document on the basis of the outcome of the expert group on Part II and IV of the AHL on 14 December 2018, did not trigger comments from Member States during the meeting. The Commission presented a new text on risk mitigating measures for transit operations regarding vector borne diseases. Some experts proposed to develop a more specific text focused on BTV. The

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law) (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1).

Commission took note of the comments, and stated that the requirements regarding BTV will be further discussed at the expert group meeting on Part II of the AHL on 28 January. A new text proposal will be distributed for written comments after this meeting.

- 4.3. Some experts proposed to include more specific testing requirements for pregnant cows moved to a Member State or zone thereof free of bovine virus diarrhoea.
- 4.4. Following discussion, the Commission concluded that the timeframes for the pre-movement surveillance programs described in Annexes III and IV will be laid down in the relevant articles.
- 4.5. In relation to movements of poultry, the Commission suggested aligning the pre-movement testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza to the testing scheme for the surveillance of the disease and therefore limiting the pre-movement testing to ducks and geese. The Commission also presented the proposed new requirements for movements of poultry in relation to low pathogenic avian influenza.
- 4.6. One Member State requested to lay down specific requirements for birds of prey. The Commission asked Member States to submit specific suggestions for such requirements.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Commission invited experts to provide written comments to the presented working document by 8 February 2019.

The outcome of the discussion and opinions provided by the participants of this expert group as well as written comments/suggestions received will be used by the Commission to improve the text of the working document.

6. NEXT MEETING

No further meetings are foreseen for this expert group. Amendments in the document will be circulated to the experts for written comments.