



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL for HEALTH and FOOD SAFETY
Unit G5 Food chain and animal health expenditure

SANTE/10528/2015/

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

Brussels, 4th March 2015

TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force

4th March 2015- 9:30 H – 13:30 H

Participants:

Representatives from Member States: AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK.

Private Experts:

Prof. Sternberg Lewerin Susanna (chair of the Tuberculosis sub-group)

Dr. Fabrizio De Massis, (chair of the bovine and sheep and goats Brucellosis sub-group);

European Commission (DG SANTE)

Unit G5:

C. Bertrand (CB), Chair,
V. Piazza (VP),
C. Boesinger - Froidevaux (CBF)
Rosado Martin Pedro (PRM)
Krieger Nicolas (KN)
G. Seif (GS)
B. Catanese (BC)

Unit F6:

Junttila Juha

European Court of Auditors:

Mr Friel Colm and Ms Kokot Joanna

Agenda: see Annex

1. INTRODUCTION

The chair welcomed the representatives of the Member States, private experts, colleagues from Unit F6 and from European Court of Auditors. He highlighted that 2015 and 2016 and it is a cross-period between the new Regulation managing, *inter-alia*, the *inter-alia*, the expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare and the future Animal Health Law.

The agenda was adopted (see detailed agenda-Annex 1). Austrian (AT) delegations expressed the intention to make a presentation on the situation in AT in relation to "Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis" (IBR). The chair agreed under condition that time allowing it, being IBR not listed amongst diseases for which a Union financial contribution is foreseen.

2. REPORTS OF THE TASK FORCE SUBGROUPS HELD IN 2014

- Bovine *tuberculosis*: Ireland (chair)
- Bovine, sheep and goats *brucellosis*: Portugal (Chair)

A. INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS OF THE "*TUBERCULOSIS* SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, 5th and 6th MARCH 2014

Prof. S. Sternberg Lewerin (chair of the tuberculosis sub-group) presented the summary of the implementation of bovine *tuberculosis* (TB) eradication programme and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting held in Ireland.in March 2014.

She explained that this was an extra meeting with special issue to discuss due to the fact that the Commission had certain doubts about the proper implementation of some of the measures of the Irish programme. The Commission would have a full picture through the outcome of this meeting and to see clear progress as result of the implementation of the EU co-financed programme, which is one of the most expensive. For that reason, three additional experts (out of the TF group) were invited by the Commission to ensure the broadest range of expertise be available to assist to review the results achieved and to discuss the scientific basis and rationale behind the Irish programme as a whole and indeed various elements within it.

The Commission asked the group to provide an assessment of the progress since 2009, and to comment on movement restrictions.

The overall impression from the group was positive and the progress is steady but slow.

The chair presented the main conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is a very high number of animal movements. These include various types of movements, some via markets will be registered as 2 movements but the figure is still very high and many animals move 2-3 times during their lifetime. Movements appear to contribute

in some degree to the number of outbreaks at the time, according to data presented around 7% of all outbreaks are attributed to animal movements. Animal movements represent a risk of disease movement and this should be continuously emphasised to farmers by all parties involved in advising them on various issues. The risk presented by animal movements should be regarded as a part of biosecurity that all farmers must be aware of.

2. The group also recommends greater use of culture and molecular subtyping. For example, some of the conclusions that have been made based on epidemiological investigations need to be substantiated by molecular epidemiology.
3. A further assessment of the zone where contiguous herds are controlled around infected farms is recommended. More investigations in a larger area will make it possible to determine if the current size is sufficient. The meeting did not cover all details around the contiguous testing and therefore the group cannot give detailed recommendations but there may be an opportunity for improvement of the detection capability by including more herds as contiguous.
4. The conclusions drawn from epidemiological investigations in breakdown herds were not discussed in detail, but there is a need to substantiate the conclusions about source of the infection and a thorough scientific evaluation should be made of these. This applies also to herds detected by slaughterhouse surveillance; a thorough evaluation of all data from such herds needs to be done in order to substantiate the assumption that these herds reflect a sensitive surveillance system in slaughterhouses and not a suboptimal testing in the field. Moreover, an analysis of the association between number of reactors in a herd and means of detection would be useful, if not already done.
5. The criteria for depopulation should be considered, so as to ensure that this tool is used to its full potential, whenever a control benefit could be derived from it.
6. Biosecurity measures should be advised based on the research performed on the risk of transmission from wildlife and how this varies in time and space. Although there was no time to discuss this research in detail during the meeting, the group wants to encourage the incorporation of the results from it in future policy and advice.

Full report of this subgroup meeting (SANCO10819/2014) is public available [here](#).

B. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE AND SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION, HELD IN VILA REAL, PORTUGAL , 15-16 MAY 2014

Dr F. De Massis, chair of the bovine and sheep and goats Brucellosis sub-groups presented the summary of the implementation of sheep and goats brucellosis eradication programmes and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting held in Vila Real, on 15-16 May 2014.

The chair presented the situation in Portugal in relation to the implementation of both brucellosis programmes, including structure of veterinary service, distribution of bovine and ovine/caprine livestock data from 2013.

The overall outcome of the meeting was positive and has been recognised that the eradication programmes for Bovine (BB) and Sheep and Goat (S&GB) *brucellosis* have been well designed by the country and there has been a continuous but slow reduction of BB and S&GB prevalence at national level and the Task Force acknowledges the progresses made towards eradication.

The chair presented the main conclusions and recommendations:

1. Efforts should be made by the competent authority:

- to reinforce the existing level of commitment in brucellosis eradication programme and to improve specific aspects on the control of the disease.

2. Data produced in the context of the eradication plan should be more deeply analysed both at central and local levels, to identify the weak points and to adjust the measures accordingly.

3. Special measures to reduce incidence should be implemented, like:

- vaccination of all flocks in risk areas and
- reinforcement of animal movement control (trade and sharing of same environment).

4. Even if the data provided were not complete, there is sufficient information to conclude that vaccination coverage is still insufficient in some regions (in terms of implementations and areas of application). Vaccination coverage should be improved.

5. Movement of animals and direct contact with infected herds/flocks have been recognized as main risk factors for the spread of both BB and S&GB and reinforcement of movement controls and trace-back and trace-forward of outbreaks may contribute to reduce brucellosis incidence rate.

6. The results of epidemiological investigation should be used to identify not only risk factors but also probable sources and contacts at risk.

7. Measures taken in case of positive test results are appropriate and positive animals in non-infected herds/flocks are investigated in bacteriology: further efforts and adequate means should be kept to maintain a good level of bacteriological investigation in suspect cases.

The group recommends the enforcement of an audit system for the veterinary services in charge of the implementation of the eradication programme.

Full report of this subgroup meeting (SANCO/11482/2014) is public available [here](#).

3. POINTS FOR DISCUSSIONS

3.1 "COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE MULTIANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016 -2017 AND THE FINANCING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERINARYPROGRAMMES FOR ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOZOSES" (SANTE/135/2015)

VP introduced the draft Decision, and shortly highlighted the main points and legal deadlines.

Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, managing, *inter-alia*, the expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, foresees that the Commission shall adopt annual or multiannual work programmes for the implementation of the measures under eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for EU financial contribution. This draft Decision contains the multiannual programme for 2016 and 2017 and it should be also a financing Decision for the programmes to be implemented in 2016: it shall be adopted by 30 April 2015 and for that reason it should be voted at the latest at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) on 16-17 April 2017.

VP made clear that the draft is under inter-services consultation and substantial modifications would be possible.

Several delegations (ES, HR, IT, NL, AT, PL, DE, BE, UK) requested clarification and made comments on several point and in particular in relation to: analysis of the evolution of the co-funding rate for TSE programmes (planned phasing out) and on the unit cost for rapid tests on bovine animals in a context of decrease of tests done on healthy slaughtered animals, phasing out of co-financing of vaccination in breeder against *salmonella*, possibility to co-finance an extended list of test for virus isolation in case of rabies. In addition, clarification were requested in relation to the management of the aquaculture programmes, technically approved by DG SANTE but co-funded by DG MARE.

Delegations were requested to send further comment by 20 March.

3.2. " GUIDELINES FOR THE UNION CO-FUNDED PROGRAMMES OF ERADICATION, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOZOSES FOR THE YEARS 2015-2017: UPDATE FOR 2016" (WD SANCO/10181/2014 Rev 3)

VP explained that the document it is un updated of previous version (published on SANTE web site) concerning the legal basis (EU Regulation No 652/2014 managing *inter-alia*, expenditures related to food and animal health) and targets in relation to the expected results of the implementation of eradication, control and surveillance programmes (veterinary programmes) by 2017. Priorities are kept identical as in the previous version but aquaculture diseases have been added to complete the list. The revised targets for 2016 and 2017 have been estimated on the basis of the 2013 results.

Annex III to the document contains the expected results for 2015, from the previous version.

The guidelines aim to provide the Member States with update information in order to better design the programmes to be implemented in 2016 and 2017 in a technical perspective.

Delegations were requested to send further comment by 20 March.

3.3 "GUIDELINES FOR DRAFTING SALMONELLA MONITORING AND ERADICATION PROGRAMMES" (WD SANTE/10207/2015)

CBF presented the document that responds to the need to clarify the EU minimum requirements to design and implement a *Salmonella* programmes in the frame of EU co-financing. The document has been drafted with the technical support of national experts.

Several delegations (NL, ES, BE, AT, PL) requested clarifications and made comments in relation to compensation of the eggs, vaccination of breeders, measures eligible in the field of biosecurity and other eligible measures. The Commission suggested to request for funding of additional measures, when duly justified.

Delegations were requested to send further comment by 20 March.

3.4 "GUIDELINES TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN EU CO-FINANCED PROGRAMME ON ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF RABIES WILDLIFE" (WD SANTE/ 10201 / 2015)

PR explained that the purpose of the document is to provide guidance to Member States and Third Countries to design and implement a programme to accelerate progress of eradication and to stimulate discussions. It has been prepared by Commission services with the technical advice of the Rabies Task force members.

Some delegation made preliminary comment:

PL highlighted the difficulties to find an agreement with third countries, when too many requirements as regards the vaccine to be used are requested. The Commission took note.

HR asked whether derogations to the vaccination "golden standard" were possible as HR has the intention to include under its eradication programme the possibility to vaccinate the bordering areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). The Commission explained that this derogation can only be granted after a sound epidemiological assessment and when the infection pressure is low.

Under miscellaneous the HR delegation presented the situation as regards rabies vaccination in the western Balkans and highlighted their concerns about the future oral rabies vaccination campaigns in their neighbouring countries. The Commission informed that collecting information process is ongoing but, based on preliminary information; it seems that BiH may stop vaccinating in autumn 2016.

Commission suggests to HR to include in their 2016 rabies programme the vaccination in a buffer zone in BiH. In case the BiH competent authorities stop vaccinating, this would reduce the risk in the bordering areas.

The Commission understands the difficulties to cooperate with third countries and give all the possible support to prioritize the strategy in these cases.

Delegations were requested to send further comment by 20 March.

4. POINTS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 "TIMING 2015-2016"(WD SANCO/10211/2015)

SG explained that the purpose of the document is to clarify changes due to the switchover from old regime (according to Council Decision 2009/470/EC) to new regime ((EU) Regulation No 652/2014) for the submission of veterinary programmes and related reports.

The new timing refers to the deadline for the 2015 programmes currently in progress during transitory regime. This foresees the submission of the intermediate financial report 2015 the deadline of 31st of August 2015: new tool will be available soon to submit "online" intermediate and final reports via "pdf" templates.

She also highlighted that the new regime for the 2016 programmes foresees the new deadline for submission of programmes by the 31st May 2015. The deadline to submit the intermediate financial report is 31st August 2016 and the online intermediate and final reporting via "pdf".

GS reminded that the national veterinary programmes and associated funding to be implemented in 2016 (and following years, if multi-annual) will be approved by 31 January 2016 by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January to 31 December of that year [Art. 13 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014].

GS also emphasized that the presented document includes flowcharts on procedure for programmes and a summary table on transition from old regime to new regime.

4.2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMMES SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES FOR 2016-2018

VP shortly introduced the point underlining the aim of the assessment of the veterinary programmes. As the past experience was very useful and positive, a new "call for expression of interest" will be published on 5th March 2015 with the aim to select experts to assist the Commission with the pre-assessment of the programmes that will be submitted for 2016. Delegates were reminded that the deadline for submission of applications is open until 30 April 2015 and that once selected, the candidates must not resubmit an application. Reserve lists will expire in 2017. A short description of the different steps and timeline was given and VP reminded that the Commission will complete the evaluation of the programmes and contact MS asking for modifications or additional information if needed following the technical and financial evaluation.

4.3 STATE OF PLAY OF PDF FOR SUBMISSION OF 2016 PROGRAMMES AND INTERMEDIATE REPORTS 2015

The pdf template for submitting 2016 programmes are being improved from the technical and financial point of view (.in particular for zoonotic *Salmonella* and rabies).

For programmes implemented in 2015 onwards, the reporting online is compulsory and a pdf template is being developed by the Commission. The intermediate report must be sent by 31/8 of the year of implementation of the programme. The annual report must be sent by 30/4 of the year following the implementation of the programme. The intermediate report consists of two financial tables: the S1 (activities done) and the S2 (forecast).

Member States were asked for volunteers to test the draft pdfs (submission and reporting).

5. MISCELLANEOUS

CB announces the creation of a working group to analyse eligible costs for veterinary programmes and emergency measures, and to discuss problems encountered during the last years. The group will be constituted by four or five volunteer Member States. An e-mail about this working group will be sent soon.

The Commission wish a safe return back home and wish a good work for the submission of the veterinary programme for 2016 and informed that all the document presented during the meeting will be made available under SANTE web site soon.

END

Annex: Agenda

ANNEX

TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force

4th March 2015

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction, opening by Christophe Bertrand: Head of Unit G5/DG SANTE**
- 2. Reports of the Task Force subgroups meetings held in 2014:**
 - Tuberculosis: Ireland (Chair)
 - Brucellosis: Portugal (Chair)
- 3. Points for discussion**
 - 3.1 "Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2016-2017 and the financing for the implementation of veterinary programmes for animal diseases and zoonoses" (SANTE/135/2015)**
 - 3.2 " Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2015-2017: update for 2016 and 2017 (WD SANCO/10181/2014 Rev 3)**
 - 3.3 WD Guidelines for drafting Salmonella monitoring and eradication programmes (WD SANTE/10207/2015)**
 - 3.4 Working Document "guidelines to design and implement an EU co-financed programme on eradication and control of Rabies in wildlife (WD SANTE/ 10201 / 2015)**
- 4. Points for information**
 - 4.1 Timing 2015-2016 (WD SANTE/ 10211/2015)**
 - 4.2 External evaluation of the programmes submitted by Member States for 2016 and following years**
 - 4.3 State of play of pdf for submission of 2016 programmes and intermediate reports 2015**
- 5. Miscellaneous**