

Brussels, 01 March 2024

**Minutes of the third meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft Delegated Regulation (EU) on approval and recognition of disease-free status of compartments keeping terrestrial animals**

**E00930**

**on 28 February 2024, Brussels**

## **1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated prior to the meeting as part of the invitation.

## **2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public. The meeting was organised in hybrid format: some experts of the Expert Group 00930 on Animal Health attended physically in Brussels (F-101), while the other experts attended it remotely via Webex. The Chair noted the absence of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The revised draft for discussion (1113-EN CIS\_rev1\_expert group Feb2024 with annexes 1113-EN ANNEX CIS\_rev1\_expert group Feb2024) was circulated to the experts ahead of the meeting.

## **3. List of points discussed**

### **3.1. Introduction**

The Chair summarised the objectives of the work and past discussions on the draft Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards rules for approval and recognition of disease-free status of compartments keeping terrestrial animals (the draft).

The Commission presented the modifications made to the draft and explained the rationale for the proposed text, following comments from Member States' experts and from Commission internal consultation.

The major changes concerned:

- the general structure and redaction of the draft;
- the responsibilities of operators, compartment managers and competent authorities;
- the general rules for approval and for review, suspension and withdrawal of approval;
- transitional rules for already approved compartments
- specific requirements for poultry compartments free from HPAI and NDV.

### **3.2. Exchange of views as regards the draft Delegated Regulation (EU) on approval and recognition of disease-free status of compartments keeping terrestrial animals.**

The experts thanked the Commission for the revised draft, especially for having included a majority of their comments, such as the possibility to approve cross-border compartments.

Some experts requested more clarity in the recital #8. The Commission proposed to split the paragraph and clarify one recital for a prerequisite for approval and one for the details of the procedure.

Some experts questioned the clarity of responsibilities between the operator and compartment manager. The Commission clarified that the compartment manager was responsible for the biosecurity management, and was appointed by the operator, who was responsible for the application for approval to the competent authority.

Certain experts asked the Commission to also clarify the types of information to be sent from the compartment manager to the competent authority.

The Commission noted all the comments and gave some preliminary answers, while indicating that the comments will all be considered, together with further written comments, in the next revision of the draft.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and invited them to provide their written feedback by 7 March 2024.

#### **5. Next steps**

The Commission will use the outcomes of the discussion and the opinions obtained during this expert group meeting and the requested written comments to develop a revised version of the draft.

The Commission does not at this stage plan to organise a fourth meeting of the Expert Group. If deemed necessary, it will be organised.