



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 09 NOVEMBER 2015
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 Information from EFSA and the EURL for bee health on the results of the EFSA statistical analysis of data from Epilobee, a pan-European epidemiological study on honeybee colony losses 2012-2014.

EFSA briefly presented the background, context and elements of the statistical analysis along with several results. Among them some factors which correlate with higher or lower colony mortalities, such as demography (age) and training of beekeepers, size of their operation, some health issues of their colonies, and so on. During the ensuing discussions, several Member States appreciated the work done and asked clarification as regards practical ramifications and/or suggested aspects to consider for the future in case surveillance re-start. EFSA and EURL addressed the questions, suggestions. The Commission indicated that the full study will be made public soon, committed to circulate more information as it becomes available and appealed to the Member States to try to implement as much as possible from the study on a practical level for better bee health by working with their beekeepers, apiculture sector and fellow national (regional) public administrators of related policy areas as possible. All agreed that best practices by the beekeepers, apiculture sector themselves are key as already emphasised by the Commission Communication on bee health from 2010 (COM(2010) 714 final), the basis of these actions.

A.02 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on lumpy skin disease in Greece.

The Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) has been sent to Greece from 3 to 5 November 2015 to provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot aspects required for the development and refinement of the control strategy for lumpy skin disease in Greece. The preliminary outcomes and draft recommendations of this mission have been presented to the Member States.

A.03 Report on the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission on bluetongue in Hungary.

The Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) has been sent to Hungary in 28 & 29 Nov 2015 to provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot aspects required for the development and refinement of the control strategy for bluetongue (BT) in this country, with an emphasis to the use of vaccination as a control measure. The preliminary conclusions and recommendations of this mission were presented to the Member States.

A.04 Update of the strategy on African swine fever.

The Commission presented the working document on the African swine fever (ASF) strategy for the eastern part of the EU. Following a discussion the document was amended and endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the continuing spread of ASF in Ukraine (to the south and the east of the country) and the risk it represents for the Union. Options for supporting the Ukrainian competent authority were being explored by the Commission. It was noted that a control strategy for ASF has been requested to the Ukrainian authorities to better assess their needs. This information was not yet received.

A.05 Report on EU Veterinary Emergency Team established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC.

In line with Commission Decision 2007/142/EC, the Commission informed the Member States of the current composition of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team. It invited the Member States to submit the list of experts proposed for designation as members of the team.

A.06 Bluetongue – Update from France, Hungary and Romania on the epidemiological situation and the control measures in place.

The delegations of France, Hungary, Romania and Spain presented an update of the BT epidemiological situation in their countries including the specific measures in place as regards the movement of animals from restricted areas, vaccination policy against the disease and relevant bilateral agreements between Member States in accordance with art 8 of Com. Reg. (EC) 1266/2007.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the evolution of animal diseases in the Union.

No item raised.

B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision

2004/558/EC as regards the infectious bovine rhinotracheitis-free status of the Federal States of Bremen, Hessen and Lower Saxony of Germany.

Germany has submitted to the Commission and the Commission has evaluated positively the documentation supporting the application for the Federal States of Bremen, Hessen and Lower Saxony to be considered free of IBR and consequently for additional guarantees in accordance with Article 10 of Directive 64/432/EEC. Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down standard requirements for the submission by Member States of national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for Union financing and repealing Decision 2008/425/EC.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down standard requirements for the submission by Member States of national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for Union financing and repealing Decision 2008/425/EC.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1500 and Annex I to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/XXXX.

The aim of the proposal is to amend the above Implementing Decisions by including additional parts of Greece both in the restricted zone as well as in the vaccination zone in relation to lumpy skin disease. These amendments are deemed necessary due to lumpy skin disease spread in the regional unit of Chalkidiki. A presentation was also delivered by the Greek delegation providing an update of the LSD situation in their country.

Vote postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2013/722/EU as regards the maximum amount of the Union's financial contribution for the programme for the eradication of rabies in Latvia in the year 2014.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2013/722/EU.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision intended to amend Commission Implementing Decision 2014/709. The document was discussed and amended as requested by the Committee. The document and its annex were voted and unanimously supported by all Member States.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat sheep pox in Bulgaria in 2013.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision allowing Bulgaria to receive a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat sheep pox in Bulgaria in 2013.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decisions 2005/734/EC, 2006/415/EC, 2007/25/EC and Implementing Decision 2013/657/EU as regards their period of application.

The current epidemiological situation, with increased numbers of outbreaks and geographical spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry flocks and wild birds, continues to threaten animal and human health in the Union. The draft proposes to prolong several measures to aimed at preventing and controlling avian influenza including biosecurity measures, early detection systems and certain protection measures in relation to future outbreaks of that disease in poultry flocks in the Union. Given that outbreaks also continue to occur in several third countries, it is equally important to maintain measures directed at preventing the possible entry of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses via imports of poultry commodities and via the introduction of pet birds into the Union.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Italy 2013.

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision allowing Italy to receive a second tranche of the contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2013, awaiting the final result of the ex-ante on the spot audit.

The Commission explained also that this draft Commission Implementing Decision would be presented for vote in the next PAFF of December.

