



Minutes from the Experts Group meeting with Member States

**"Official Controls on animals and goods (including plants) entering the EU:
Delegated acts under Regulation EU 2017/625"**

Wednesday, 29 May 2019, 9H30 – 11H

Chair: Tim Gumbel, Deputy Head of Unit G3, European Commission (COM)

Members: EU Member States (MS): AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE, SI, SK, UK

	TOPIC	BACKGROUND
1	<p>Art 53.1.a + Art 53.1.e: Checks elsewhere than BCPs including derogations from documentary checks for plants.</p> <p>COM presented a revised draft of the articles.</p> <p>As regards the text of the presented articles concerning the issue of checks at control points other than BCPs, MSs main concern was related to the terminology used in the text. A few MSs expressed concern about the application date for consignments of plants, plant products and other objects that is now 14/12/2020 based on the Article 165(4) of Regulation EU 2017/625. Several MSs expressed concern that several CHEDs have to be issued during transfer of consignments to control points.</p> <p>As regards documentary checks performed at competent authorities situated at distance from the border control post or at a control point, several MSs asked to include option to perform these checks on original official certificates.</p> <p>COM provided clarifications on the issues raised and invited MSs to provide written comments on the draft by 15/05/2019.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Art 149 and Art 165: Amending the OCR as regards the date of application of certain Commission Implementing Regulations</p> <p>COM presented a draft Delegated Regulation and explained that the document, based on the latest informal advice from the Legal Service, currently only addresses the date of application of the Implementing Regulations to be adopted under Article 47(2)a, Article 54(3) and Article 58(a) of the OCR.</p> <p>Further to questions raised by the MS, it was clarified that the same date of application (14/12/2019) will apply also for the Delegated Regulations to be adopted under Article 48, Article 51(1) and Article 53(1) of the OCR. Furthermore, it was clarified that any derogations from that general date of application will be established in the respective Regulations.</p>	<p>Draft document shared with Member States ahead of the meeting.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Accreditation of Laboratories:</p> <p>COM gave a brief overview of the feedback base on the Accreditation of Laboratories Questionnaire sent out to MS on 12 April 2019. The replies received will provide a very useful basis for the future discussions of these matters.</p> <p>For instance, while most of the MS considered making use of the possibility to designate an official laboratory situated in another country, there would clearly be a need for better cooperation and information as regards for which methods the laboratories have been accredited. COM will reflect upon how it best could help to facilitate such an exchange of information.</p> <p>As regards the empowerment in Article 41 of the OCR (derogation from the requirement of having accreditation of all methods used), further reflection and analysis is needed: While several MS see no need for the empowerment to be used, other considered it as potentially useful – for instance in the field of plant health – and had already some suggestions as to in which cases, and under which conditions, such a derogation could be acceptable.</p> <p>The MS that have not yet replied to the Questionnaire were invited to do so, in view of the matter being discussed again at an upcoming meeting of the OCR Expert Group.</p>	<p>Presentation slides will be shared with Member States after the meeting.</p>
	<p>Conclusion, end of the meeting</p>	