



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

sante.g.3(2024)7847406

**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed**  
**Section *Animal Health and Welfare***  
**19-20 October 2023**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/55b2edd3-069e-40fd-ad4a-8b163f54ff1f/library/d36ff9ae-0fd1-41e0-8ee0-8fec085e3c37>

<b>SUMMARY REPORT</b>
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**A.01 General information by Member States.**

No item raised.

**A.02 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.**

Italy, Poland, Croatia, Sweden and Lithuania provided an update on the ASF situation in their territories.

**A.03 Report on the African swine fever EUVET mission to Sweden (20-22 September 2023).**

The EUVET mission team leader reported the main findings and recommendations of the ASF EUVET mission to Sweden held in September 2023 after the first notification of ASF in wild boar in this country.

**A.04 Report on the African swine fever EUVET joint mission to France and Italy (11-13 October 2023).**

The EUVET mission team leader reported the main findings and recommendations of the joint ASF EUVET mission to France and Italy held in October 2023 to steer cooperation and preparedness between those two countries at the border.

**A.05 Guidelines on the prevention, control and eradication of African swine fever in the Union ('ASF guidelines').**

The Commission presented a draft Commission notice on the Guidelines on the prevention, control and eradication of ASF in the Union. Member States supported the draft and therefore the notice should be adopted by the Commission and published in the OJ and on the Commission website on ASF in due time.

**A.06 Information from the Commission and discussion on movements between Member States of certain live animals (use of the so-called "non-harmonised certificate" in TRACES).**

Following several recent questions, the Commission clarified the applicable EU legal framework for the certification and notification for the movement between Member States of certain terrestrial animals (e.g, rabbits, hares, hedgehogs, etc.) and certain animals defined as 'other animals' (e.g., insects, lizards, frogs, sea mammals etc.). The Commission indicated that neither certification, nor notification is needed for the movement of those animals. The Commission asked Member States to indicate if they have a different understanding as soon as possible, especially that the Commission is planning to disable the so-called "non-harmonised" certificate in TRACES by the meeting of the PAFF on 14-15 December 2023.

**A.07 Information from Romania on its "National action plan for wild porcine animals in order to avoid the spread of African swine fever in the Union".**

Romania presented the new pig law adopted to regulate the pig productions, including the national action plan for wild boar in order to avoid the spread and eradicate ASF.

**A.08 Information from EFSA concerning recently adopted Scientific Opinions concerning vector and reservoir species of the diseases of aquatic animals which are listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2016/429.**

EFSA presented details of the above- mentioned Scientific Opinions concerning the potential listing of vectors or reservoir species of the listed diseases of aquatic animals, as well as the conditions under which those species could be considered to be vectors or reservoirs. EFSA described the general approach taken on the Commissions mandate, and gave a summary of the conclusions which were reached. No questions were asked by Member States.

**A.09 Information from the Commission on possible follow up on recently published EFSA Scientific Opinions concerning vector and reservoir species of the diseases of aquatic animals which are listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2016/429.**

The Commission presented details of the follow-up steps which are proposed concerning the Scientific Opinions which were presented by EFSA in Point A.08. Details were also provided concerning a change to the list of susceptible species for infection with *Marteilia refringens*, which has been made recently in the WOAHA Aquatic Code and Diagnostic Manual. Elements of the Scientific Opinions from EFSA and the recent changes made by WOAHA should be taken into account in an amendment to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882. No questions were received from Member States. Member States will consult their experts and were invited to provide written comments by 3 November.

**A.10 Information from Member States on sheep pox and goat pox.**

Spain informed the Commission and Member States that no new outbreaks of Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) were recorded in their territory since mid-May. All restricted zones and relevant measures were lifted as of 26 September and the disease can now be considered eradicated.

Bulgaria informed the Commission and Member States about the SGP outbreak that was confirmed on 16 Sep 2023 in the village of Gorno Yabalkovo (in the region of

Burgas). The affected holding comprised 225 sheep, 4 of which were affected. The actual means of introduction of the disease remain debatable. Virus sequencing is in progress at the EURL. Active clinical surveillance is in progress in the restricted zones, along with the measures of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2067. No secondary outbreaks reported to date.

**A.11 Presentation from EFSA on the latest overview report on the epidemiological situation with avian influenza and on other activities of EFSA related to highly pathogenic avian influenza HPAI.**

EFSA presented the main conclusions and options for response following assessment of the epidemiological situation with HPAI in EU and worldwide in June-September 2023. In addition, they presented the functionalities of the Bird Flu Radar, a new early warning tool for HPAI. EFSA also informed on other activities carried out for surveillance of HPAI, in particular the launching of a call for active surveillance of wild birds in certain areas of the EU.

**A.12 Presentation from EFSA on the first part of scientific opinion regarding vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

EFSA published the scientific opinion for the first two Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the mandate received from the Commission regarding vaccination against HPAI. The opinion provides the results of the assessment related to available vaccines against HPAI and to vaccination strategies. EFSA presented to the PAFF Committee these results.

**A.13 Presentation from EFSA on the results of the citizen flash poll on Avian Influenza.**

EFSA presented the results of the citizen poll carried out with questions related to avian influenza, intended to determine the level of awareness of the general public regarding the disease, the source from where the public is getting information on the disease, the knowledge on the preventive behaviour when dealing or manipulating with sick or dead birds.

**A.14 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

Denmark, Poland and Norway, where HPAI virus was recently detected in kept birds, presented the epidemiological situation and measures taken to control and eradicate the disease. Ireland informed on the decision to approve preventive vaccination against HPAI of birds kept in zoos and presented the vaccination plan.

**A.15 Information from the Commission on the state of play of Animal Health Law and notification of provisions under its Article 268.**

Based on the results from reports received from Member States, the Commission presented a brief overview of penalties for the AHL rules applicable in Member States. The Commission also asked for further update information on those provisions, where applicable.

**A.16 Update on the development of ADIS.**

The Commission gave an update of the development of the current ADIS iteration with new releases being regularly released to address priority bugs. It also provided an

update on the work to link ADIS with WAHIS with bi-directional communication and the setting up of a Pilot group of Member States that would have early access to the ADIS-WAHIS linked platform. Finally, the Commission reported on the progress in Union reporting by Member States and reiterated that the reports on detection of listed diseases will be featured in the ADIS public pages to be finalised soon.

**A.17 Reminder for the nomination of MSs' representatives for the informal "Commission Expert Group of Liaison Bodies on the Protection of Animal Welfare During Transport".**

The Commission requested the five Member States to nominate a representative in order to allow any further exchange of information including on the organisation of the first meeting of this Expert Group.

**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 Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special control measures for ASF to propose a revision of certain ASF restricted zones in certain Member States concerned.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Annexes to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases.**

The Commission briefly explained the draft, including last minute changes due to an outbreak in another Member State.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260 as regards the national measures which apply in Denmark concerning bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN).**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision that proposes to amend Annexes I and II to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/260, concerning the change in status of several compartments in Denmark, concerning the aquatic diseases bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN).

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.**

Following the start of autumn migration of wild birds the HPAI virus is reintroduced on the territory of EU and certain Member States confirmed outbreaks in poultry. Consequently, the EU regionalization had to be established to take into account the current epidemiological situation.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards requirements for placing on the market, and imports of animal by-products and derived products.**

This point was withdrawn from this agenda and postponed to a forthcoming Committee meeting.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annex VII of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards reporting requirements for Member States on national breeding programmes to select for resistance to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.**

The Commission explained the context and content of its draft Commission Regulation and the objective it pursues before presenting it to the Committee for vote.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 as regards model animal health certificates and model animal health/official certificates for the movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof.**

The Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 as regards model animal health certificates and model animal health/official certificates for the movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof which intends to amend model certificates for movements between Member States of consignments of animals and certain types of germinal products in order to, i.e.: reflect new animal health requirements introduced to Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/686 and (EU) 2020/688 by respectively Delegated Regulations (EU) 2023/647 and (EU) 2023/2515, and to clarify and make consistent the wording of certain requirements, notes and footnotes. Member States have until 3 November 2023 to provide their comments to the draft.

The Commission replied to a comment raised by one Member State as regards addition of a guidance note on clinical examination to the model certificates for the movements between Member States of consignments of certain ungulates.

### **M.01 Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) situation in France.**

France presented the development of infection with EHDV in the country and urged the Commission to convene a working group meeting to discuss several aspects related to this disease. The Commission announced a working group for 27 October. In connection with this point, the Commission reminded the Member States about the foreseen changes for intra-EU movement of ruminants for EHDV, by an amendment of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688. That amendment is in Council and Parliament and the period for tabling objections has already passed. That amendment introduces new rules, among them a possibility for a derogation for “no conditions” for EHDV, if the Member State of destination accepts those animals and informs the other Member States and the Commission about that, and if Member State of origin also agrees to apply the derogation. As due amendment of the relevant certificates in the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 is long months away, the Commission offered to Member States a small immediate change in the TRACES IT infrastructure to make the “no conditions” possible for those who wish to employ it sooner than the new certificates arrive. Member States asked a number of practical questions, all answered by the Commission. Finally it was concluded that there is no objection from Member States to make use of the pragmatic solution based on the changes in TRACES IT infrastructure, to help those Member States, that wish to benefit from this possibility as soon as possible.

### **M.02 Outbreaks of BTV in Belgium and Germany.**

Both Member States reported the first outbreaks of serotype 3 in their territory (Belgium on 9 October and Germany on 12 October) that led to the withdrawal of the BTV free status for the whole Belgium and to Nord Rhein Westphalia in Germany. The Commission highlighted the need for increased surveillance in adjacent areas.