



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 30 NOVEMBER 2017 - 01 DECEMBER 2017  
(Section *Animal Health and Welfare*)**

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

**A.01 General Information by Member States.**

**Information by the Commission on HPAI in the EU, zoonotic strains and an update of actions (CVO/CMO conference) was provided.**

The Commission further informed that missions of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team were carried out to Italy and Bulgaria in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza.

**A.02 Information from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia of the results of their 2016 EU funded classical swine fever eradication programmes.**

Member States with an approved classical swine fever programme presented the result of the 2016 programmes. The epidemiological trend in 2016 is favourable.

The Commission highlighted two facts:

- The programmes are gradually being focused on the areas that are at risk of infection;
- The opportunity to combine African swine fever early detection efforts with the classical swine fever surveillance schemes in the next years.

**A.03 Evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2018 and following years: list of the programmes technically approved and preliminary amount allocated to each programme.**

The outcome of the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by the Member States for EU co-financing in 2018 was presented for information, with the list of the programmes technically approved and the preliminary amount allocated for each programme.

**A.04 Update from Bulgaria and Italy on the situation as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

**Italy** reported one new outbreak in broilers in Brescia province as a continuation of the cluster of outbreaks in that area and an outbreak in a rural flock in Veneto province and the disease control measures taken including preventive culling. The total of outbreaks in poultry since January are 81 with 65 outbreaks in the second wave as of July 2017.

**Bulgaria** informed the Committee about its fifth outbreak during the second epidemic wave that started in mid-October. It concerns a duck holding in Stara Zagora. In relation to the previous outbreak in Yambol, preventive culling was applied on three farms.

**A.05 Information from the Commission on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza and the provisions for the establishment of further restricted zones.**

The Commission explained again the general nature of Commission Decision (EU) 2017/1841 for the establishment of further restricted zones in Member States affected by HPAI outbreaks in case the specific disease situation requires additional zoning.

**A.06 Information from the Commission on surveillance for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds.**

The Commission presented the guidance document on the reporting of surveillance results for avian influenza carried out during 2017 and a second document with a preliminary list of target species of wild birds for passive surveillance.

**A.07 Information from Denmark on poultry establishments and hatcheries.**

Denmark presented a new poultry production system. Hatching eggs are incubated and moved to a stable where they hatch and then kept until slaughter. This is more animal welfare friendly and saves losses. The current definition for hatcheries does not allow dispatch of eggs from a hatchery for intra-Union trade i.e. at present such eggs may not be dispatched to other Member States. The Animal Health Law will provide for a broader definition allowing such practice.

**A.08 Information concerning four declarations from France on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemopoetic necrosis (IHN) of: the dependent compartment l'Écloserie Marine de Gravelines Ichthus extended to include the site of the hatchery AQUANORD Ichthus, the independent compartments of Burelles and of PrévotEAU and the zone of upstream of the river Ancre, respectively.**

The Commission explained that the declarations will be made available to the delegates via the CIRCABC site of this Committee, given some temporary problems to access the French site on which the authorities are already working to solve, which France confirmed. The Commission advised the delegates of the Member States to exercise the necessary due care when scrutinising the declarations as those may contain personal or business data, protected by law. As regards the substance of the declarations the Commission briefly explained their main elements, their surveillance basis (e.g. two years of targeted surveillance without any detection of the pathogens

of concern or absence of susceptible species) and that they comply with the format and data requirements of the relevant EU Decisions 2009/177/EC and (EU) 2015/1554, respectively. The Commission explained that more details are available on the referred CIRCABC site. The Commission reminded the delegates to the procedural aspects i.e. the declarations will automatically take effect in 60 days from the date of meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing by the Member States.

Link to the presented declarations will be placed on the following SANTE web page: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live\\_animals/aquaculture/declarations\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm)

#### **A.09 Second meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.**

The Commission presented the latest developments on the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. In particular, Member States were informed about the outcomes of the second meeting on 10th November. During that meeting the sub-group on animal transport was established. It will start its work in the first semester of 2018. The third meeting of the Platform will take place on 21 June 2018.

#### **A.10 Educational materials on tail docking.**

The Commission presented recently elaborated educational materials on preventing the need for tail-docking in pigs. The material aims to help farmers and other professionals to become familiar with the requirements of Council Directive 2008/120 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. Seven thematic leaflets and two video testimonials explain how to tackle and solve the multi-factorial problem of tail baiting. All material, is available (in 8 languages) on the DG SANTE website: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs/tail-docking\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs/tail-docking_en).

#### **A.11 Report on EU Veterinary Emergency Team established by Commission Decision 2007/142/EC.**

The Commission summarised the activities of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team for 2017 and invited the Member States to critically review the current list of experts to ensure optimal operability of this tool. Request of changes to the list of experts should be submitted to the Commission.

#### **A.12 EFSA report on the epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the Baltic States and Poland.**

EFSA presented the new report issued in November 2017 on the epidemiological analyses of African swine fever in the Baltic States and Poland. The need to update the EU ASF strategy to be in line with the latest scientific findings was noted as well the plan to continue the cooperation with EFSA on this issue.

#### **A.13 Update on the epidemiological situation for African swine fever.**

Latvia and Poland presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The Committee noted the evolution of the situation and emphasized the need to review the measures for African swine fever in order to match the changes in the epidemiological scenario. Further information would be exchanged at the next Committee.

**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.**

**Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States**

Protective measures in relation to regionalisation following outbreaks of HPAI in Italy and Bulgaria were updated.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decisions 2006/415/EC, 2007/25/EC and Implementing Decision 2013/657/EU concerning protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

The period of application was prolonged until 31/12/2018 for

- a) Decision 2015/415/EC (zoning for HPAI H5N1 in poultry)
- b) Decision 2013/657/EU (equivalency of control measures and zoning for HPAI H5N1) and
- c) 2007/25/EC for the introduction of pet birds into the EU. For the latter a new provision of prohibiting pet birds entering gatherings of birds for 30 days was introduced.

There was some concern raised about the limitations in implementation.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on certain animal health protection measures for intra-Union trade in salamanders and the introduction into the Union of such animals in relation to the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.**

The Commission explained the changes to the draft applied since September and some of the comments it received. One Member State considered that implementation could be burdensome and will foster illegal trade. Another Member State considered that the provisions do not protect sufficiently the salamanders. Several other Member States commented on other details, the majority remained silent. Commission clarified all questions and comments and indicated that it sees little room to improve the proposal. Nevertheless, the Commission considered that suggestions still could be sent in writing before the end of the year, preferably before Christmas for a next revision.

**Vote Postponed**

**B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme and the financing for the year 2018 of activities in the food and feed area to ensure the application of the food and feed legislation.**

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning the adoption of the work programme and the financing for the year 2018 of activities in the food and feed area to ensure the application of the food and feed legislation. This Commission Implementing Decision adopts the actions and activities planned for 2018 to ensure the application of the food and feed legislation and ensures their financing. Austria requested clarification from the Commission on the provisional budget for the purchase of vaccines and was satisfied with the Commission's response.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision repealing Commission Decision 92/176/EEC of 2 March 1992 concerning maps to be provided for use for the Animo network.**

The Draft Commission Decision presented repeals the remaining Decision of the Animo network adopted in 1992, which specified the provision of cartographic maps to the Commission from Member States. Since 2003 the Animo network has been replaced by TRACES through Decisions 2003/24/EC, 2003/623/EC and 2004/292/EC. This repeal was also foreseen by the Commission Working Programme for 2017.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the recognition of the Autonomous Communities of Aragon and Catalonia as officially brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)-free regions of Spain.**

After Spain presented the history of the eradication, the epidemiological situation and the measures intended to be taken in the future for the maintenance of the free status of the two Communities, the Commission presented to the Member States the draft Implementing Decision. The Member States had no questions nor comments, and the draft was voted on.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision designating the European Union reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease and amending Council Directive 92/119/EEC as regards the European Union reference laboratory for swine vesicular disease.**

The draft text nominates a new EU reference laboratory (EURL) for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) as from 1 January 2019 since the current EURL for FMD, the Pirbright Institute, is located in the UK and thus cannot be maintained due to the Brexit. The Pirbright Institute in the UK is at the same time the EURL for swine vesicular disease (SVD), but has not received EU financial support for this function for the last two years and therefore not carried out a specific work programme. In addition, SVD is no longer listed by the OIE, the epidemiological situation of SVD is

improved in the EU and differential diagnosis of SVD and other vesicular diseases with FMD is included in the tasks of EURL for FMD. Consequently, the objective of this Decision is also to delete the name of the EU reference laboratory for SVD from Annex II to Directive 92/119/EEC. There were no comments/questions from Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation laying down additional responsibilities and tasks for the European Union reference laboratory for African horse sickness and amending Annex II to Council Directive 92/35/EEC, Annex II to Council Directive 2000/75/EC and Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.**

The objective of this Draft Regulation is to extend the area of responsibility of Laboratorio Central de Veterinaria-Área de Sanidad Animal in Spain, which is the EURL for African horse sickness (AHS), by taking over the activities of the EURL for bluetongue. The AFRC Institute for Animal Health, the Pirbright Laboratory, which is the EURL for bluetongue, is located in the UK and thus cannot be maintained due to the Brexit. The EURL for African horse sickness and bluetongue should start functioning as of 1 January 2019. There were no comments/questions raised by Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision extending the tasks of the European Union reference laboratory for fish diseases and amending Annex VII to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list and names of EU reference laboratories.**

The draft text extends the tasks and responsibilities of the EURL for fish diseases in order to include the tasks and responsibilities of the EURL for crustacean diseases as from 1 July 2018, since the current EURL for crustacean diseases (CEFAS), is located in the UK and thus cannot be confirmed due to the Brexit. There were no comments/questions raised by Member States.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**B.10 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.**

The Commission presented for vote the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex to Implementing Decision 2014/709/EU concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States. The Commission explained how these measures took on board the latest development on the epidemiological situation of African swine fever in the Union.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards microbiological standards for raw petfood, requirements concerning approved establishments, technical parameter applicable to the alternative methods Brookes gasification process and hydrolysis of rendered fats, transport condition for certain Category 3 materials and scientific collection, import of processed manure, horns, horn products, gelatine and flavouring innards, and export of certain blood, blood products and intermediate products.**

The objective of the draft text is to amend the animal by-product legislation. The draft text clarifies certain provisions of the ABP legislation on placing on the market, transport, import from third countries and export.

Member States asked for some clarifications and will provide their comments in writing. Further discussion is planned to take place in the forthcoming Working Group meeting on ABP in 2018.

**C.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards harmonisation of the lists of approved or registered plants and of traceability of certain animal by-products and derived products.**

Member States appreciated the amendments introduced after consultation with national experts and asked for additional discussion in the forthcoming Working Group meeting on ABP in 2018 to clarify the obligation of operators responsible for the consignment and some technical details of the DOCOM and form for notification.

**M.01 Update of working document SANTE/2017/10186 "Guidelines for the Union co-funded programmes of eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses for the years 2018-2020".**

The working document SANTE/2017/10186 had been presented to Member States at the PAFF of 2-3 March 2017.

This update is mainly related to:

- African and classical swine fever eradication programmes: excluding the funding of ASF or CSF outbreaks within the EU-funded programmes from 2018 onwards. Outbreaks related costs will be dealt with by means of emergency measures;
- Member States where ASF programmes may be considered as eligible: from 2018 onwards, programmes submitted by Member States infected or bordering already infected countries (Member States and/or non-EU countries) may qualify for Union co-financing.

**M.02 Newcastle disease in Sweden and Bulgaria.**

**Sweden** informed about its third outbreak in 2017 of Newcastle disease in a laying hen holding in the province of Skane. The holding had been infected already previously. Disease control measures were taken.

**Bulgaria** informed about a seventh outbreak in a hobby flock in the centre of Sofia. Disease control measures including vaccination are applied.

**M.03 Low pathogenic avian influenza in Germany.**

Germany reported on an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza in the Land Lower Saxony keeping domestic waterfowl. The birds showed no clinical signs and following segregation and risk assessment were sent to slaughter.

**M.04 Report on the EU Emergency Team (CVET) to Italy on highly pathogenic avian influenza.**

The main recommendations by the CVET concerned further development of the national and regional rendering capability. Further recommendations mainly included the separation of culling activities from cleaning and disinfection, the improvement of knowledge of critical risk pathways to apply stronger control points (i.e. disinfection of feed delivery vehicles) and further develop and apply standard codes of good practice for biosecurity in close cooperation with industry and a structured programme for passive surveillance in wild birds.