

**Minutes of the meeting of the expert group to discuss a draft delegated act on entry into the Union of live animals, germinal products and products of animal origin under Regulation (EU) 2016/429**

**3 July 2018, Brussels**

**1. Approval of the agenda**

A preliminary agenda was circulated prior to the meeting and approved at the beginning of the meeting.

**2. Nature of the meeting**

The meeting was non-public. The Member States' and EEA countries representatives from the competent veterinary authorities were participating in the meeting. The Chair noted the absence of the European Council and the European Parliament.

**3. List of points discussed**

**3.1. Introduction**

The Commission informed Member States that the working documents distributed for this meeting include all animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin, with the exception of aquatic animals and their products. The latter will be presented and discussed in a dedicated expert group after the summer break and will be included in the documents for the meeting of this expert group in October.

**3.2. Presentation and discussion on the animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of live animals, germinal products and products of animal origin**

**General rules**

In relation to definitions, one Member State indicated that the inclusion of blood in the definition of meat products was not consistent with the prohibition for entry into the Union of blood from ungulates provided for later in the document and suggested to exclude blood of ungulates from the definition of meat products. The Commission indicated that the intention of this provision is to maintain the status quo, but will review the text carefully to make sure this is achieved.

The Commission clarified that compartments will only be considered for aquaculture. One Member State queried about poultry compartments. The Commission explained that their use is minimal at the moment, with a maximum of two Member States having poultry compartments, at the moment only those for aquaculture will be considered in this draft Delegated Act.

**Animal health requirements for the entry into the Union of terrestrial animals**

A Member State suggested creating a category of *equidae* with a higher health status. The Commission explained that this has also been discussed in the expert group for the intra-EU movement of *equidae* and, based on the conclusion of that discussion, a definition of 'registered *equidae*' will also be included for the entry into the Union.

Inspection prior to shipment to the Union and the need that they are carried out by or under the control of the Competent Authority was discussed. Member States were in favour of maintaining the status quo and require that inspection is carried out by the Competent Authority.

A Member State suggested that, in case of transfer of animals from one mean of transport to another in a non-listed Third Country, no feed, water or bedding is added. The Commission will consider this suggestion.

#### **Animal health requirements for ungulates**

A Member State suggested to limit the number of assembly operations in the third countries for consignments intended for entry into the Union, as is the case under the Animal Health Law for movements between Member States. In relation to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex*, a Member State suggested that in the case of camelidae and cervidae, all animals in the herd should test negative to the disease, not only the animals that are intended for entry into the Union.

The Commission asked Member States to provide feedback about the requirement for marking ungulates intended for direct slaughter and indicated that the current requirement for identification seem to be based on old requirements that are no longer adequate or needed, with possible different alternatives available.

There was a suggestion that requirements for vector protection may need to be flexible considering different latitudes and associated risks. The Commission clarified that the consideration is not just geographical but also considering the different species.

#### **Animal health requirements for honey bees and bumble bees**

Commission informed that provisions for varroa will be included in a revised version of this document once discussions for intra EU take place. In relation to honey bees and bumble bees, Member States requested to have detailed responsibilities of consignors to ensure that if conditions are not met those can be addressed correctly. The Commission replied that there are clear responsibilities for competent authorities, operators, etc. and that those articles will be reviewed to ensure this. One Member State wanted to allow other officials, not just OVs, to certify consignments of honey bees and bumble bees, however, the Commission explained that under the AHL, this is only permitted for aquatic animals.

Clarification on the need for insect proof buildings was requested, asking if those requirements apply only to production areas or also to other areas such as offices. The Commission informed participants that this is being discussed in the expert group for intra EU movements.

#### **Animal health requirements for germinal products**

On the germinal products section, a Member State questioned if it was sufficient that the donor animals of the germinal products show no clinical signs of IBR/IPV. The Commission confirmed that these are the current requirements.

### **Animal health requirements for products of animal origin**

In relation to the risk mitigating treatments for meat products, a Member State expressed their preference to see the treatments in an annex in this document, rather than having a reference to a different document.

Member States queried the absence of requirements in relation to bovine tuberculosis for milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum-based products. The Commission explained that such provisions are included for live animals, but in relation to products of animal origin the disease is relevant for public health and requirements are set in that context.

### **Transit and re-entry**

In relation to the requirements for re-entry into the Union of consignments originating in the Union and rejected in third countries, the Commission informed Member States that such procedures are being discussed in expert groups under the Official Controls Regulation, however, specific requirements will also be set under the AHL.

### **4. Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

The Commission thanked Member States for their input and comments during the meeting and encouraged them to reflect on the issues discussed and provide written feedback not later than 31 July 2018.

### **5. Next steps**

The outcome of the discussions and opinions provided by participants during this expert group meeting will be used by the Commission during future work towards the preparation of possible future delegated acts under the Animal Health Law.

### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting has been scheduled for September 2018.