



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Section *Animal Health and Welfare*

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

Newcastle disease - Sweden.

Sweden presented the situation with Newcastle disease and the measures taken following confirmation of an outbreak in a poultry establishment on their territory.

A.02 EU funding of veterinary programmes for 2021-2022 : outcome of the evaluation procedure and next steps.

HADEA has presented the outcome of the evaluation procedure of the veterinary programmes for 2021-2022 and the next steps for the grant agreements. The budget amounts proposed to be allocated to the veterinary programmes for the years 2021 and 2022 were detailed and explained. Explanations were also provided as regards the use of lump sums in the field of veterinary programmes. The timeline of signature of the grant agreements was also presented and the fact that the grants agreements will have to be co-signed by the Member State and by HADEA.

A.03 Information from the Member States on African swine fever.

Member States provided an update on the ASF epidemiological situation in domestic pigs and wild boar (Germany, Poland, Latvia, Slovakia and Bulgaria). Several Member States presented their activities in relation to ASF prevention and preparedness (Czechia, the Netherlands and France).

A.04 Launch of call for the selection and designation of one European Union Reference Laboratory for Rift Valley Fever.

At this point an explanation was given to Member States on the status of the procedure to designate a EURL for RFV. They were informed that they would receive a letter with instructions for the call for selection. There were no questions raised by Member States.

A.05 Presentation of and discussion on the agreement between Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden based on a derogation referred to in Article 69 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688.

Postponed to a later Committee meeting.

A.06 Update on IHN in Denmark.

Updates were presented by Denmark, Finland and Germany concerning the aquatic disease IHN. 29 cases of IHN have been reported in Germany since September, 2 of these were in previously free zones. There is regular contact between the competent authorities in Germany and Denmark concerning the IHN situation and it was reported that information exchange is working well. Finland reported that their index case was associated with movements from Denmark but that subsequent cases were associated with movements of live animals by well-boat, within Finland. The Commission reminded Member States that Regulation (EU) 2020/990 has applied since 21 April this year and this sets out requirements concerning water exchanges by well-boats. Denmark reported they have had no further outbreaks and that they are proceeding with the self-declaration of IHN free compartments. The suspension which has been previously advised to Member States, will remain in place until early December. The Commission reminded Member States where to find the disease free declarations and that they have a 60 day period within which to seek any additional information they require from Denmark, concerning them.

A.07 Commission update on reports received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs.

The Commission provided an update on reporting received on infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae and in raccoon dogs based on Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788 of 12 May 2021. Since the previous PAFF Committee, no new outbreaks were reported by Member States. Finland informed the Committee on the plan to implement vaccination in mink farms (only for breeding animals). The Commission informed the Committee that the procedure for extending the validity of Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/788 had been initiated and that a draft amendment to this Decision would be submitted to this Committee in due time.

A.08 Information from Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Several Member States affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in poultry or captive birds informed on the epidemiological situation with the disease on their territory and the measures taken. The Commission highlighted that reoccurrence of clusters of affected establishments in high density areas with certain type of poultry production clearly indicates lateral spread, most probable as a consequence of practices non-compliant with the biosecurity measures that should be in place in such high risk areas. Member States were urged to take strict measures from the beginning when HPAI virus is detected in poultry establishments in areas with high density of poultry population so the disease could be contained and quickly eradicated.

A.09 Information from Spain on Anthrax outbreaks.

Spain gave a presentation on recent outbreaks of anthrax in its territory and the measures taken in this respect. There were no questions from Member States.

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 Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 laying down special control measures for African swine fever.

The Commission presented the draft of the document and referred to an ongoing written consultation.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/934 laying down special control measures for classical swine fever.

Taking into account the effectiveness of the surveillance and control measures undertaken in Bulgaria in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/934, and in view of the favourable epidemiological situation of classical swine fever in that Member State, the whole territory of Bulgaria currently listed as a restricted zone in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/934 should now be deleted from that Annex. Bulgaria presented their activities concerning an ongoing surveillance, awareness, etc. The Commission informed Member States about its intention to launch a written consultation in due time.

Outcome of the vote by written consultation: Favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down uniform minimum frequencies of certain official controls to verify compliance with Union animal health requirements in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1082/2003 and (EC) No 1505/2006.

The Commission explained the main elements of the proposed Regulation with emphasis on recent changes. Some Member States sought clarification on certain elements (all were given). Some Member States in relation to inspections to check Union identification and registration requirements in establishments with bovine, ovine or caprine animals considered that it is too burdensome to check 3% of establishments annually and asked for lower threshold (1%).

M.01 Reminder from the Commission concerning the submission of additional information for the approval of disease free statuses and eradication programmes.

The Commission briefly summarised the main elements of an ongoing exercise to approve a large number of eradication programmes and applications for diseases-free statuses from Member States under the Animal Health Law. That will result in an amendment of the relevant Annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620. The Commission emphasised that, all Member States who still need to send data to the Commission, should do so by 20 November 2021. On the basis of the data received by that time, a draft amending Regulation for discussion and possible opinion is planned to be shared with Member States prior to the meeting of the Committee in December.