



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 2016
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)**

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

A.01 General Information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information by Member States on bluetongue: virus circulation in 2016 and vaccination.

The Commission presented a consolidated overview of the bluetongue vaccination policies implemented in the EU as reported by the Member States. The Commission presented as well a summary of the disease situation and regionalization in place and indicated that delays on updating regionalization in relation to certain outbreaks were noted during the last disease season.

A.03 Information concerning a declaration from Denmark on disease free status for *Marteilia refringens* in Nissum Bredning in the western part of Limfjorden.

Denmark informed about a declaration concerning disease free status for *Marteilia refringens* for the zone Nissan Breeding, which is situated in the most westerly part of Limfjorden in Jutland of Denmark. The zone includes natural beds of flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), natural beds of blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) and two flat oyster farming establishments. The declaration is based on targeted surveillance since 2005 without detection of the actual parasite. This zone is now the only area in Denmark with a disease free status as regards *Marteilia refringens*.

A.04 Information concerning a declaration from France on disease free status for infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) of the zone "l'Araines" in the department of la Somme.

The Commission informed about a declaration from France on disease free status for IHN and VHS for the zone "L'Araine", which includes two fish farms and a part of the river l'Araine between two artificial barriers. One of these farms has been

recognised as free of IHN and VHS since 2009 and since then been subject to necessary surveillance for maintenance of its status. The other farm has also now been subject to targeted surveillance in accordance with Decision 2015/1554/EU without any detection of the pathogens of concern.

Links to both declarations presented under A.03 and A.04 will be found on the SANTE WEB page under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.htm

A.05 Presentation by France on the outcome of the investigations carried out following alleged frauds on movements of dogs and cats into France for trade purposes.

France presented the outcome of criminal investigations carried out for the past years in the context of intra-Union movements of dogs and cats. Different fraudulent activities involving various actors were described and methods and clues for their detection were shared with Member States.

France also informed about the types of infringements committed, such as deception on quality and/or origin of animals, introduction of animals not in compliance with EU animal health or welfare rules and frauds, and about the categories of penalties prescribed, from seizure of animals to prison sentence.

A.06 Outcome of the evaluation procedure of eradication, control and surveillance programmes submitted by Member States for Union financial contribution for 2017 and following years: list of the programmes technically approved and preliminary amount allocated to each programme.

Preliminary information as by article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 was provided to the Member States on the list of national programmes technically approved and proposed for EU co-financing for 2017 and following years, including provisional amount allocated to each programme (SANTE/11726/2016 - working document). It was indicated that details on calculations are available on request. Initial comments from Member States were received; it was also indicated that further comments should be sent before 12/12/2016 by email.

A.07 Information from Poland on pigs' movements from holdings located around the outbreaks of ASF in pigs in 2016.

Poland provided information on movements of pigs from holdings located in the protection and surveillance zones, established around the outbreaks of African swine fever in pigs, which have occurred in Poland in 2016. It was clarified that no live wild boar could be transported out of the areas under restriction as per the current regionalization legislation.

A.08 Review of ASF regionalization policy.

The Commission informed on the ongoing review of the African swine fever regionalisation measures. This would affect the current ASF strategy, the regionalization principles and the Commission Implementing Decision of 9 October 2014 (Decision (EU) 2014/709). The Commission also informed on the recent OIE/FAO GFTADs (Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) meeting that allows for an open dialogue with neighbouring Eastern non-EU countries.

A.09 Information from Hungary, Germany and Austria on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

Denmark, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria and Sweden presented the epidemiological situation in their countries and the protection measures in place for highly pathogenic avian influenza HPAI of subtype H5N8 in poultry and captive birds (such as zoos). France reported on its first virus detection in decoy birds (used for wild waterfowl hunting) in the north of its territory. The situation in affected Member States was reviewed by the Committee. Primary virus introduction in poultry farms through direct and indirect contacts with wild birds was seen as the most probable cause of the outbreaks. In all affected Member States the HPAI H5N8 virus was detected in wild migratory birds before the disease occurred in poultry farms. The Committee in particular noted the recent evolution in the epidemiological situation for this disease in Hungary in duck and geese farms.

A.10 Information from Hungary, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Poland, Croatia, the Netherlands and Switzerland on highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds.

Denmark, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland and Romania, presented the epidemiological situation, data on surveillance and positive findings for highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in wild birds. Tufted ducks and other species of the order Anseriformes, mainly found dead, are the most affected species. Virus presence in wild birds poses a threat for direct and indirect virus introduction into poultry farms and are the most likely source for virus introduction in the present situation. The Commission showed an overview of affected species collated by the Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and requested Member States to provide for species identification when notifying new cases.

The Commission highlighted upon the importance of proper biosecurity measures on poultry farms to prevent virus introduction from wild birds.

A.11 Information from Sweden on Newcastle disease in poultry.

Sweden reported on an outbreak of Newcastle disease confirmed on 11 November 2016 in a laying hen farm in the municipality of Vellinge in the County of Skåne. A protection zone (3 km) and a surveillance zone (10 km) were been put in place around the infected farm and control measures according to Directive 92/66/EEC are applied including the culling of birds on the infected holding. The source of infection is under investigation. It must be noted that Sweden does not vaccinate against Newcastle disease and experiences every two to three years a few outbreaks of the disease.

A.12 Update from the Commission on EU animal welfare activities.

The Commission gave an update on the animal welfare international activities, in particular on its support to the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, established in 2013, which aims at facilitating the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards. So far, the OIE Platform has focused on three priority areas, namely transport and slaughter of livestock, and stray dog population control. The Commission will continue to support the work of the OIE Platform, in synergies with Commission's initiatives.

The Commission also informed Member States of the reports received from main animal welfare organisations, pointing at animal welfare concerns in the production of the Pregnant Mare's Serum Gonadotropin (PMSG) in some South American countries. The Commission has limited competence in non-EU countries and is collecting further information on this issue. Member States were invited to share further information with the Commission, if available to them.

Finally, the Commission informed Member States that the *Staff Working document on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs* will be available in all EU languages on the DG SANTE's website soon (by following this link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs_en). Furthermore, the Commission reminded Member States of the specific actions and audits that the Commission will carry out on the application of Directive 2008/120/EC *laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs* as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking.

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 Decision amending Decision of 24.07.2015 on the adoption of the work programmes of the Commission for the years 2015 and 2016 and on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference laboratories.

Two new EU reference laboratories (EURLs), one for lumpy skin disease and another one for the peste des petits ruminants, are being designated. In parallel an amendment to the 2016-2017 financing decision regarding the current EURLs' network has been established and presented to the Member States for an opinion in order to include the new two EURLs in the list of EURLs so that they can be financed in 2017 once designated.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.03 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 2017 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 2017 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 2017 to ensure the application of the food and feed legislation and ensures their financing. The Member States had no questions on the substance of the Decision.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards an alternative method for processing certain rendered fats and microbiological standards for raw petfood.

The Commission presented the draft Commission Regulation on amendment of the implementing Regulation to authorize an alternative method for processing certain rendered fats and to supplement microbiological standards for raw petfood by provisions on compliance with process hygiene criteria based on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs. Member States propose further discussion on microbiological standards for raw petfood, only the part on the new alternative method for processing certain rendered fats for production of biofuel has been proposed for discussion and vote.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

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

Following the review of the disease evolution in the Union the Commission presented a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in certain Member States for a vote and obtained a favourable opinion of the Committee. The Committee endorsed the consolidation of the previously adopted decisions in relation to outbreaks in Denmark, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria and Sweden for the areas that the authorities of these Member States have established protection and surveillance zones around the infected holdings where control measures and restrictions on movements apply according to Directive 2005/94/EC.

Vote taken: favourable opinion.

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards the definitions of fishmeal and fish oil.

The amendment aims to achieve legal certainty for the stakeholders in fishery and feed industry as regards the use of starfish caught as by-products on the mollusc farming areas and the use of certain farmed invertebrates in the fish diets.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes I and IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Annexes X and XV to Commission Regulation (EC) No 142/2011 as regards processed animal protein.

The objectives of the draft text are to authorize the use of insect processed animal protein in feed for fish, subject to certain conditions, and to revise the existing ban on ruminant processed animal protein, subject to certain conditions.