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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
Section *Animal Health and Welfare*
17 October 2018

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

SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information from Slovenia - declaration of freedom from VHS and IHN for an independent compartment comprising the spring "Mitovšek" and fish farm "Trbovlje".

The declaration demonstrates that the conducted surveillance programme and other relevant information are apparently in compliance with current legislation. The declaration is placed on the website of the Slovenian Competent Authority. http://www.uvhvvr.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/zdravje_zivali/akvakultura/proglasitve/.

A.03 Information from Italy - Declaration of freedom from IHN, VHS and KHV in an independent compartment comprising the fish farm "Impresa Agricola Salvatore Algozino".

The information given in the Italian declaration is apparently in compliance with current legislation. The declaration is placed on the website of the Italian Competent Authority http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/p2_6.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=1845&area=sanita_Animale&menu=acqua.

A.04 Information from France - declaration of freedom from VHS and IHN in the zone "Ruisseau des Evoissons".

The declaration demonstrates that the conducted surveillance programme and other relevant information are apparently in compliance with current legislation. The declaration is placed on the website of the French Competent Authority, <http://agriculture.gouv.fr/maladies-des-animaux-aquatiques>.

A.05 Information on African swine fever in Member States.

Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania presented the epidemiological situation, data on the surveillance carried out and the measures in place for African swine fever. The Committee took note of these and the required changes in order to match the changes in the epidemiological scenario. Further information would be exchanged at the next Committee.

A.06 Work plan of the first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare.

The Commission representative presented the background and content of the first work programme of the EU reference centre for animal welfare. He underlined that this first work programme being relatively short (October-December 2018), it will focus on establishing a state of play of the ongoing work of similar national bodies in order to identify future needs. The Commission representative also insisted on the interest for the Member States to closely cooperate with the centre in expressing their needs for the future activities.

One Member State asked clarification regarding the relationship between the work of the EU animal welfare platform and the activities of the centre. The Commission representative explained that, while the centre will regularly report to the Platform on its activities, the two entities work on different objectives. The legal base of the centre being the Official Control Regulation, its main objective is to provide scientific and technical support to the competent authorities in implementing the EU legislation on animal welfare. The Platform on the other hand remains an Expert Group intended to stimulate exchange of information and commitments of stakeholders themselves.

A.07 Information from Bulgaria on highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

Bulgaria presented information on a new outbreak in a small rural farm in the poultry dense region of Plovdiv. Infection had been confirmed on 03/10/2018. Bulgaria is applying the EU measures to control this new outbreak including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones. The affected poultry farm is located in the surveillance zone already established around the previous outbreak in that region. For that reason no urgent Decision on EU protective measures was adopted in relation to this outbreak.

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 Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States and Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2009 approving the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease submitted by the Member States.

Update on state of play and future steps (exit strategy).

Vote Postponed

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference laboratories and the European Union reference centres for 2019 and 2020.

The draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference laboratories (EURLs) and the European Union reference centres (EURCs) for 2019 and 2020 was presented and submitted to the Member States for an opinion.

One Member State requested some clarification regarding the EURLs for plant health to be financed as of 2019. The Commission answered that an additional amount of EUR 1,750,000 was added and included in the submitted budget.

One Member State wanted to know whether the national reference laboratories (NRLs) are reimbursed in case of proficiency tests. Following the rules on expenditure eligibility regarding EURLs the shipment of samples by NRLs of the Union can be reimbursed.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.04 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 certain amendments of an Annex to the Decision on African swine fever for vote (new ASF regionalisation measures for Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Belgium).

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases.

The draft was presented for the exchange of views and possible opinion after having been previously discussed and reached a compromise on the draft. Due to procedural questions the Commission asked for a technical vote which will be followed by the written procedure.

Vote Postponed

M.01 Update by the Commission on the EU Veterinary Emergency Team.

The Commission summarised the activities of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team for 2018 and invited the Member States to review the list of experts to ensure optimal operability of this tool. Request of changes to the list of experts should be submitted to the Commission.

M.02 EU funding related to African swine fever.

The eligibility of certain costs (awareness campaigns, passive surveillance in wild boars) depending on the epidemiological and geographical situation in Member States was discussed.

M.03 Information from Ireland on an outbreak of Ostreid herpesvirus 1.

Ireland informed on an outbreak of Ostreid herpesvirus 1 in a compartment in Poulnaharry (LK). The Irish representative gave a brief presentation of the outbreak. The Commission will execute a Implementing Decision on amending Annex I to Decision 2010/221/EU as regards the list of areas in Ireland free of Ostreid herpesvirus 1 μ var (OsHV-1 μ Var). Decision 2010/221/EU lists Member States, their areas or compartments, which are considered free from certain diseases not listed by Directive 2006/88/EC but which diseases constitute a significant risk to the animal health situation in aquaculture. In those areas the Member States are allowed to take national measures to prevent the introduction of or to control those diseases. Such measures may effect trade between Member States.

The initiative is based on information received from Ireland and is done in agreement with the competent authority and follows their request in applying Directive 2006/88/EC. The affected compartment loses its higher status with some consequences for trade, e.g. trade with other free areas can no longer take place.

M.04 Information from Germany on an outbreak of IHN.

Germany informed on an outbreak of IHN in a compartment (fish holding in Alzgern, local district Altötting). The German delegation gave a brief report regarding the outbreak. The compartment is previously declared free from VHS&IHN. The competent authority will handle the outbreak in accordance with Dec. 2006/88/EC and the relevant website will be updated.