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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*

14 - 15 December 2020

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SUMMARY REPORT

A.01 General information by Member States.

No item raised.

A.02 Information on activities related to the implementation and date of application of the Animal Health Law.

The Commission presented an overview of the adopted and forthcoming legislation under the Animal Health Law, informed about the BTSF trainings which will start in the beginning of 2021 and the communication activities organised with a view to support Member States in the implementation of the Animal Health Law.

A.03 Information from the Member States on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Information has been provided by Member States (Belgium/Denmark/France/Germany/Ireland/the Netherlands/Poland/Croatia) and Norway, affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in relation to the epidemiological situation with the disease, the measures taken to control and eradicate the disease and the preventive measures taken to mitigate the risk of transmission of the highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses from wild birds to poultry.

A.04 Educational materials on alternatives to surgical castration of piglets.

The Commission explained the background of the report and introduced briefly the main results. Crucial for a successful marketing of meat from uncastrated or immunocastrated pigs is good communication between those involved in the production chain. The developed educational materials therefore target the different players in that chain, while highlighting their interconnection. Of the twelve developed factsheets, one gives a general overview, four are addressed to farmers, three to slaughterhouses, one to food processors and three to retailers and food service operators. All factsheets are translated into the official languages of the EU, complemented by Russian and Chinese. Also, a video (translated with subtitles), info-graphics and info-sheets were developed. The Commission thanked the Member States for their quality check of the translations and thanks the Netherlands for the support in the video production. The materials will be available on the animal welfare website of DG SANTE and they will be physically

disseminated as paper prints and on USB sticks to national and European organisations as well as to central competent authorities of the Member States.

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

Austria was the first, non ASF-affected, country to present to the Committee the plan for the long term management as foreseen by the EU Strategic approach for ASF management. Czechia presented the activities of surveillance in the whole country and in particular at the border with currently affected Member States. Italy, Germany, Poland, Romania and Slovakia presented the current ASF epidemiological situation. Romania also provided information on the Romanian State granting derogation to pigs movement in Protection and Surveillance zones, according to Directive 2002/60/EC.

A.06 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Unstrut until the barrier at Beyrode.

Standard declaration.

For all the declarations the Commission explained that their format is in accordance with the relevant Annexes to Decision 2009/177/EC and briefly mentioned some of their individual characteristics. In summary the Commission stated that all declarations presented are submitted in accordance with either Article 44 (surveillance) or Article 50 (for freedom) of Directive 2006/88/EC and will automatically take effect 60 days from the day of the meeting unless significant objective concerns are raised in writing from the Member States. The Commission also indicated that a link will be placed to DG SANTE aquaculture site as usual, leading to the national sites where the declarations can be accessed and their further details studied: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/aquaculture/declarations_en.

A.07 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Nieplitz.

Standard declaration.

A.08 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Plane.

Standard declaration.

A.09 Information concerning a declaration from Germany on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Nuthe and Hammerfließ.

Standard declaration.

A.10 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone du Ried du Rhin.

Standard declaration.

- A.11 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment of upstream of the Touques.**

Standard declaration.

- A.12 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of upstream of the Jougna.**

Standard declaration.

- A.13 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of the Thur.**

Standard declaration.

- A.14 Information concerning a declaration from France on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): zone of upstream of the Valouson.**

Standard declaration.

- A.15 Information concerning a declaration from Italy on disease free status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN): dependent compartment Acquacoltura Molin di Bucchio.**

Standard declaration.

- A.16 Information concerning a declaration from Denmark on a surveillance programme for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS): the marine waters of Denmark.**

Standard declaration.

- 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 the Annex to Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States.**

Following further outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1809 has been amended to adapt the regionalization at Union level to the epidemiological situation of the disease.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.03 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.

Annex to 2014/709/EU was amended to take into account the evolution of the ASF epidemiological situation in wild boar in Poland, Slovakia and Germany.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving national measures to limit the impact of certain diseases of aquatic animals in accordance with Article 226(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Subject postponed pending completion of internal consultations.

Vote Postponed

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on certain animal health protection measures for the movement between Member States and the entry into the Union of salamanders in relation to infection with *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*.

Subject postponed pending agreement of internal consultations.

Vote Postponed

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2003/467/EC as regards the officially tuberculosis and brucellosis-free status, Annexes I and II to Decision 2008/185/EC as regards the free status and the approval of the eradication programmes for Aujeszky's disease and Annex II to Decision 93/52/EEC as regards the officially brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)-free status for certain regions.

The Commission presented the draft Decision. No comments received from Member States.

Vote Postponed: Written consultation

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing Category 2 materials.

Several Member States indicated their reluctance to support the draft due to burdens caused by channelling and controls at exit border control post. Member States supported exports of fertilisers mixed with a harmonised component that prevent the feed use of fertilisers. Issue remains under evaluation and discussion.

Vote Postponed

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards conditions for exports of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel for combustion.

The Commission presented a draft as regards conditions for exports of meat-and-bone meal as a fuel for combustion from Ireland to the UK. Until 31 December 2023, Ireland should have built its own capacity for disposal of meat-and-bone meal.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to reporting infection with SARS-CoV-2 in minks and other animals of the family *Mustelidae*.

The Commission presented the new draft Decision setting up reporting measures for Member States for SARS-Cov-2 in minks and other animals of the family Mustelidae. The urgency of the measures was related to the zoonotic implications of SARS-Cov-2 with an intention to enhance risk communication. The Committee welcomed the initiative and supported it while providing suggestions to enlarge the scope, making reference to data protection issues and reporting frequency. The Commission clarified the timeframe provided by the current legal basis.

Vote Postponed: Written Consultation

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to traceability of certain kept terrestrial animal.

The Commission presented the main changes to the draft since the Working Group meeting in October. The intension is to present the document for vote in January. Two Member States asked for the final documents to be sent out in due time before a vote. Several Member States reiterated their comments on the derogation regarding the maximum deadline for application of the means of identification to cervid animals, and the Commission took note of these comments.

C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 as regards procedures for the establishment and use of ADIS and EUROPHYT, the issuance of electronic official certificates, animal health certificates and animal health/official certificates, the use of electronic signatures and the functioning of TRACES.

The draft amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 ('the IMSOC Regulation') was presented for the second time by the Commission for an exchange of views of the Committee. The Commission went through the changes made to the draft following Member States' comments.

A few Member States asked clarifications on how to implement in practice certain provisions of the draft relating to the reference data and electronic certification in TRACES and non-compliance notifications in iRASFF. The Commission explained its intention to also present the draft for an exchange of views of the section "Plant Health" of the Committee in December 2020.

M.01 EUVET REPORT – ASF Germany.

The Commission presented the conclusions and recommendations of the EUVET field visit on African swine fever which took place in Germany on 26-27 November 2020. This was a virtual visit due to current restrictions related to COVID-19. The focus of the visit was on wild boar management and surveillance in Saxony. The main recommendations included strengthening of the passive surveillance as well as strengthening of cross border coordination. The Committee noted the recommendation addressed a military areas with certain specificities related to its management. Clarifications were provided on the use of “culling” wild boar opposed to hunting practices.

M.02 Illegal movement of pets - perspective of the EU Food Fraud Network.

The objective of the presentation on illegal trade of cats and dogs from the EU Food Fraud Network perspective is to share findings on cases of non-compliance and suspicions of fraud notified by Member States in the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation - Food Fraud system (AAC-FF), which scope was extended to Animal Health after the enter into force of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

Between January and November 2020, more than 300 requests for investigation or for information were created in the system by Member States. More than 50 reports concerned non-food categories, including illegal movement of cats and dogs (30). The most frequent irregularities encountered by Member States concerned forged documents and falsified certificates (health, vaccination).

The Commission is aware of the scale of this fraud, which may have an important impact on animal health, welfare and public health (rabies) as well as a financial impact.

The Commission is making efforts to raise awareness on this topic as well as promoting better communication and exchanges between the Member States. Improvement of controls, together with setting up adequate sanctions, seem to be of big relevance in addressing this challenge. To achieve a better cooperation between Member States, the Commission foresees a coordinated action on this matter.

M.03 Movement of reindeer from Russia to Germany.

Concerning the information of the Commission and Member States according to Article 3a of Regulation 206/2010 the Ministry of Hessen (Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz Referat V6 "Lebensmittel- und Veterinärangelegenheiten beim grenzüberschreitenden Handelsverkehr, Tierarzneimittel, Tierärztliche Berufsangelegenheiten") authorised the import of four breded reindeer "Rangifer tarandus fennicus" from Zoo Moscow (Bolshaya Gruzinskaya St. 1, Moscow, 123242) via BCP Frankfurt am Main – airport – to Zoologischer Garten der Stadt Wuppertal (Hubertusallee 30, 42117 Wuppertal – approval number AFF017-EWG). The competent authority of the Zoologischer Garten der Stadt Wuppertal is Bergisches Veterinär- und Lebensmittelüberwachungsamt (Dorper Str. 26, 42651 Solingen).

Zoo Moscow is already listed in Germany for the permission to import "Sichuan-Takin".

The requirements of Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 Article 3a are included and have to be fulfilled in order to import these reindeer, especially Article 3a d)-g).

This permit is valid until 20 April 2021.