



Brussels, 26/07/2018

Minutes

Meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee, the sub-group of the Advisory group on the food chain and animal and plant health held in Brussels on July 2nd, 2018.

Approval of the agenda of 1st Meeting of 2018 of the Animal Health Advisory Committee

List of points discussed

Introduction, opening: Head of Unit G2 Animal health and welfare - DG SANTE

The Commission explained briefly the purpose of the meeting and with no points raised under AOB, the Commission proceeded with the agenda.

1. Animal Welfare – Update on animal welfare issues (SANTE G2)

The Commission gave an update on the 3rd Meeting of the Animal Welfare Platform and other animal welfare issues that have arisen since the last meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee on December 18, 2017. The presentation evoked the full completion of the EU animal welfare strategy with the adoption of three Commission reports (March 2018), the designation of the first EU reference centre for animal welfare (March 2018) and the last EU animal welfare Platform meeting (June 2018). It also mentioned the adoption of an amendment of the legislation authorizing a new stunning method for poultry as well as the production of educational materials for small slaughterhouses and on-farm killing.

Following the presentation of the Commission on the update on animal welfare issues, various representatives took the floor.

EPO/OFI expressed its concerns related to the activities of the Platform related to dogs and cats and in particular asked how they could be part of the voluntary initiative on this issue.

Dog & Cat Alliance questioned the Commission on the future delegated acts of the Animal Health Law related to the registration of dogs and cats.

AVEC congratulated the Commission on the educational materials but found that they were not enough publicised.

The Commission replied to EPO/OFI that the welfare of dogs and cats was never excluded by principle from the activities of the Platform but were not a Commission priority since there was no EU legislation in this area. The Commission also explained that voluntary initiatives from Platform members were not managed by the Commission and invited EPO/OFI to contact the Netherlands to be possibly part of this voluntary initiative. The question on the Animal Health Law would be treated later in the meeting. The Commission took note of the comment of AVEC.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-00.pdf

2. Information on the state of play and follow-up after adoption of the EU Animal Health Law (SANTE G2/G3)

- General presentation of the state of play of development of the delegated and implementing acts under the Animal Health Law (AHL).

In the discussion following the presentation given by the Commission on the general state of play of development of delegated (DA) and implementing acts (IA) a number of delegations (FESSAS, FVE, Vier Pfotten, AnimalHealthEurope) asked about the timing of consultation for the acts under development. They were asking the Commission for the access to the draft acts at early stages (AVEC, FVE, EFFAB) and to be involved more actively in discussions to influence the final text, also by providing expertise for some specific chapters.

Furthermore, AnimalHealthEurope asked for the state of play of Regulation on veterinary medicinal products (VMP) and asked that the discussion on the VMP regulation and its link to AHL was also put onto the agenda of one of the future meetings of this Committee.

EAZA asked how much the future UK rules after Brexit would include rules under the AHL. FESASS and AnimalHealthEurope asked about the number of the DA and IA finally produced by the COM and which rules would finally be put in place before 21 April 2021 (i.e. by the date of application of the AHL).

The Commission in its reaction explained that any stakeholder consultation, in addition to the availability of drafts for public feedback, should take place in the framework of this AHAC Committee. If necessary, more meetings can be organised to discuss specific topics. The Commission also noted the request for VMP-related discussion and would consider having this topic discussed at the next Animal Health Advisory Committee meeting.. The Commission welcomed any specific input and explained that draft DA and IA that are discussed at the expert level can't be shared publicly for procedural reasons. It also explained that the presentations given at this meeting focused on the drafts that were treated as an immediate priority to be dealt with before April 2019 and it didn't include some other acts, as presented at the previous AHAC, which are not of an immediate priority to be developed with the former deadline.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-02c.pdf

The Commission then gave a detailed state of play on all aspects of the delegated and implementing acts with regard to the Animal Health Law

- **Part I AHL:**

- ***Draft delegated act on the list of animal diseases: Commission's feedback to the comments obtained through the stakeholder's consultation***

- ***Presentation of the state of play of the implementing act on the categorisation of animal diseases and the list of animal species***

In respect of the DA on the list of animal diseases the Commission presented its feedback to the questions raised by stakeholders through the public feedback (presentation available in a separate document).

AVEC asked about the animal species to which rules for avian mycoplasmosis and salmonellosis would apply.

FESASS enquired into the availability of the EU funding for all diseases subject to the future surveillance rules. They also asked if the list of diseases could be amended in the future and what procedure should be followed.

Dog & Cat Alliance asked for some dog and cat diseases to be put onto the list of diseases under the AHL.

The Commission explained that the list could be amended in the future following a complete assessment of diseases identified as candidates for listing, with the support and after the assessment by EFSA. The Commission also explained that no financial rules or grants are provided for under the AHL.

In relation to the categorisation of animal diseases and the list of animal species, the Commission presented the table document as discussed at the time of meeting, in the framework of the PAFF Committee. The text is not yet available for public feedback, as internal Commission procedures are not yet completed, but it is expected to be available very soon – possibly in early autumn 2018.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-01.pdf

- ***Part II AHL: Presentation of the state of play of the delegated act on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease freedom including aquatic***

Two presentations were given by the Commission of the state of play of the DA on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease freedom – one concerning the rules for terrestrial animals and one concerning the rules for aquatic animals

FESASS and COPA COGECA enquired as to why the rule for the 6 years period for the application of the eradication programmes was introduced. They also expressed the wish to be more actively involved in the discussion on this draft and provide expertise for certain animal diseases, such as BVD, IBR/IPV or Q fever.

EFFAB asked if provisions for aquatic animals will be in a separate DA or if they will be included in the same DA which will also cover terrestrial animals.

FEAP also expressed the wish to be actively involved and offered their assistance on specific chapters.

The Commission clarified that the 6 years period for the eradication programme was introduced because it was necessary to introduce a timeframe to prove the seriousness of the programme, since the conditions for movements of animals (i.e additional guarantees requested) and products thereof linked to such programmes interfere with the internal market and affect other MSs. This deadline can be prolonged if there are good and justified reasons.

Furthermore, the Commission responded and stated that the DA which deals with Part IV of the AHL in relation to registration and approval of establishments and traceability of movements, covers aquatic animals only. All other DAs for Parts I, II, III and V of the AHL will outline measures for both aquatic animals and terrestrial animals.

Link to Presentations

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-02a.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-02b.pdf

- ***Part III AHL: Presentation of the state of play of the delegated act on disease awareness, preparedness and control***

Following the presentation of the Commission on the DA on disease control (presentation is available in a separate document), with special emphasis on the chapters laying down measures for category A diseases in terrestrial animals a discussion followed.

EAZA asked if wild animals involve both free leaving and those kept in captivity.

AnimalHealthEurope asked for the clarification if this DA would include rules for the use of VMPs and vaccination.

FESASS raised some very specific questions on the draft and concerning the involvement of stakeholders in the emergency preparedness, the compensation to the farmers for the losses. They also asked about the reactions of MSs delegations to some of the proposed preliminary disease control measures.

In its response the Commission explained that it couldn't comment or explain any of the MSs positions given in the expert groups and that the draft DA was under development and reconstruction. The Commission also explained again that no financial rules or grants were provided for under the AHL and that specific rules for the use of vaccination in the framework of disease control measures would be laid down in the DA.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-03.pdf

- ***Part IV AHL: Presentation of the state of play of the delegated acts:***
 - ***Registration and approval of establishments, identification and registration of terrestrial animals***
 - ***Movements in the EU of certain terrestrial animals (e.g. ungulates, poultry)***
- The Commission first presented the DA on establishments and identification and registration of animals.***

AVEC asked if it would be possible to have a copy of the DA and to share it with their member associations and also asked for the possibility then to send comments on it to the Commission.

UECBV enquired about the assembly operation independent of the establishments.

FESASS asked clarification if the results of the veterinary visits should be a part of the record keeping obligation for the operators of establishments.

FVE asked for animal shelters to be provided also for other animal species, not only dogs, cats and ferrets.

IPATA asked about the definition of the CA (depending of the organisational structure of the MS).

EU Dog&Cat Alliance asked for the definition of shelters and clarification as regards establishments for dogs and cats.

Vier Pfoeten asked clarification on the difference between a register and a database.

With regard to the question from AVEC, the Commission explained that it was not possible to provide it with a copy of the DA and that all such requests should be made to the competent authorities in the Member States and that the Member States competent authorities would then provide the Commission with comments/input on the Delegated Acts.

With regard to the assembly operations independent of the establishments raised by UECEBV, the Commission explained the approach for dealers.

On the issue of shelters and the differences between a register and a database, raised by Vier Proten, the Commission clarified the definition of the shelters and explained that a register kept by the competent authorities contains the information on establishments where animals are kept, whereas a database kept by the competent authorities contains the information on each identified animal.

The Commission then presented the DA on the movement of terrestrial animals.

FESASS asked for clarification of animal categories and had some practical question related to prevention measures in transport. They enquired as to whether or not the approach for Category C diseases (i.e. additional guarantees) can work for a vector borne disease such as BTV.

The Commission replied that, in accordance with a new proposal, which is under discussion with experts, and due to the separation of animal health requirements and residency period to be applied before movement, there are two categories of animals: intended for slaughter and not-intended for slaughter. In response to the question concerning transport, the Commission explained that animals are examined by official veterinarian prior to transport. In relation to the approach for Category C diseases/vector-borne disease (eg. BTV), the Commission explained that it is currently under discussion with experts as to whether the BTV freedom could be applied on the country or on the serotype level.

Link to Presentations

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-04c.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-04a.pdf

- ***Part IV AHL: Presentation of the state of play of the delegated and implementing acts on germinal products***
- Registration and approval of establishments, traceability and movements of germinal products

The Commission gave a presentation on the Delegated and Implementing Acts laying down rules for germinal products.

EFFAB commented that a limited number of characteristics can be printed on a straw.

EAZA requested clarification as to whether a confined establishment would have to be additionally approved as a germinal product establishment in order to exchange germinal products with other confined establishments.

FESASS indicated that a difficulty could arise for germinal product storage centres storing germinal products of more than one species, in the event of an outbreak of a disease of a particular species and asked for clarification if, in that case, movement of germinal products of species not concerned by the disease, would be prohibited as well.

With regard to the statement of EFFAB on straws, the Commission replied that in case more information is needed to ensure the traceability of germinal products, the information printed on the straw can be in a form of a code and specification of that code should be attached to the consignment of those germinal products.

On the issue of germinal product establishment raised by EAZA, the Commission replied that approval as a confined establishment would be enough and there would not be any additional requirements to be fulfilled beyond those to be approved as a confined establishment.

With regard to prohibition of movement of germinal products raised by FESASS, the Commission replied that the competent authority approving germinal product storage centre for storing of germinal products of more than one species should have procedures in place in case of such situation but in the opinion of the Commission the whole germinal product storage centre will be blocked.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-04b.pdf

- *Part V AHL: Presentation of the state of play of the delegated act on entry into the Union of animals and products thereof*

The Commission presented the state of play of the development of the DA on the rules for entry into the EU of animals, germinal products and products thereof.

AVEC asked whether the provisions for testing turkeys for particular serotypes of *Mycoplasma* and *Salmonella* will change in the future. The Commission confirmed that the intention is to keep the same rules as in the current legislation.

Link to Presentation

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/comm_ahac_20180702_pres-05.pdf

3. Any other business

No issues raised under this point.

4. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting has not yet been finalised due to the heavy workload envisaged in the second semester of 2018. Members of the Advisory Committee will be informed as soon as possible on the proposed dates for this meeting.

5. List of participants

<i>Stakeholder Organisation</i>
AEPM/EMPA Association européenne de producteurs de mollusques
ANIMALHEALTHEUROPE
AVEC Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU
CEFIC European Chemical Industry Council
CELCAA European Liaison Committee for the Agricultural and Agri-food Trade
COPA European farmers COGECA European agri-cooperatives

DIAGNOSTICS FOR ANIMALS
EAZA European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
EFFAB European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders
EPO European Pet Organization OFI Ornamental Fish International
EU DOG and CAT Alliance
EUCOLAIT _ EDA
FEAP Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
FESASS Fédération européenne pour la santé animale et la sécurité sanitaire
FVE Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
IFHA International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
IPATA International Pet and Animal Transportation Association
UECBV European Livestock And Meat Trading Union
VIER PFOTEN

TROIKA – Bulgaria, Austria and Romania