SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD CHAIN AND ANIMAL HEALTH
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 07 NOVEMBER 2013 - 08 NOVEMBER 2013
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)

27 Member States were present. Malta was absent and not represented.

A.01 Information from Bulgaria, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia on the implementation of their co-financed programmes for the control and monitoring Classical Swine Fever in 2012.

Bulgaria implemented surveillance in domestic pigs and wild boar with negative results for CSF virus. In addition, oral vaccination of wild boar was carried out along the northern and western borders of the country. The last CSF positive case in Bulgaria was detected in autumn 2009.

Germany: The last CSF cases in wild boar in Germany occurred in April 2009 in the Rhineland-Palatinate region and in July 2009 in the Hesse region. Reinforced surveillance was implemented in the formerly infected areas also following the lifting of the restrictions (May 2012), always with negative results.

France, following the lifting of the restrictions related to classical swine fever from certain north-western areas, maintains a reinforced observation zone in the previously infected areas. Since the discontinuation of oral vaccination there is a linear reduction of the seropositivity in wild boars observed while no virus positive animal was detected. In certain municipalities a higher seroprevalence in young wild boars was detected. A study of capturing, sampling, marking and recapturing wild piglets is planned aiming to clarify the reasons for these findings.

Luxembourg informed the committee on the negative results of the last EU co-financed surveillance activities for CSF in wild boar. Due to the favourable situation no programme was submitted by Luxembourg for EU co-financing for the years 2013 and 2014.

Hungary: Cases of CSF in wild boar were detected in Hungary (Pest and Nograd counties) between January 2007 and October 2009. In 2012 surveillance continued in the infected and in the surveillance areas with negative results. The restrictions for the Nograd county were lifted in November 2012 while for the Pest county in June 2013.

Romania continued surveillance activities in different categories of domestic pigs
Following discussions with the Commission, in 2014, Romania will further reinforce CSF surveillance in non-professional pig holdings (backyards) with particular focus to those keeping reproductive animals.

**Slovenia:** Surveillance in wild boar and in domestic pigs was implemented in 2012 confirming the absence of CSF from the country.

**Slovakia:** Surveillance was implemented in 2012 confirming the absence of the disease from the country. The last reported CSF cases in Slovakia was in 2008.

### A.02 Information from Latvia on the situation as regards classical swine fever in the wild boar.

The Latvian representative made a presentation on the classical swine fever (CSF) situation in Latvia, after the cases detected in the wild boar and three outbreaks in backyards holdings. The Latvian authorities informed on the control measures implemented in accordance to Council Directive 2001/89/EC and to Commission Decision 2002/106/EC. An infected area for CSF was defined in Latvia at the border with Russian Federation and Belarus and an eradication programme which includes wild boar vaccination is currently on-going in the affected area. The first vaccination campaign has been performed in May 2013, the second in August. Others cases in the wild boar have been detected in the last months, they were all located in the infected area. The Latvian representative updated also on the CSF eradication activities carried out in Belarus, at the border with Latvia where the first vaccination campaign was performed in September 2013. Results of the surveillance activities carried out in Belarus were not available.

### A.03 Request from Finland and Sweden for prolongation of national measures for disease prevention for parts of these Member States with approved eradication programmes as regards bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and infectious pancreas necrosis (IPN).

The Commission informed about the on-going programmes in Finland and Sweden in accordance with Article 43 of Directive 2006/88 which in time are limited to 31 December 2013. Finland and Sweden have now applied for prolongation of these programmes. An approval of these requests must be dealt with in accordance to Article 43 (2) of that directive as an amendment of Commission Decision 2010/221/EC.

### A.04 Application from Ireland of an amendment of the OsHV1-µvar surveillance programme approved by the Commission Implementing Decision 2012/786/EU.

The Commission informed the application from Ireland on amending on-going surveillance programme as regards Ostreid herpes virus (OsHV-1µvar) due to
A.05 Information from the Commission on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 on the identification of equidae in Member States based on the replies to the letter of 22 March 2013 no. SANCO/G2/AEF/531648.

The report on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 on the identification of equidae in Member States is based on the replies from Member States on the Commission letter of 22 March 2013 no. SANCO/G2/AEF/531648. It includes analysis of provided information referring to the system of identification and registration of equidae in the Union and supervision thereof.

The final report (paper version) was distributed during the SCFCAH meeting, as well as by e-mail on 6 November 2013. In the final report there were included comments and corrections provided by seven countries to the draft report previously distributed during the SCFCAH meeting on 11 September and by e-mail on 9 August and 3 September 2013 with a deadline for comments till 20 September 2013.

A.06 Information on declaration from Italy on a surveillance programme for obtaining disease free status for Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) in the farm Lago Zaganti in Rimini county.

The Commission informed about submitted declaration from Italy regarding disease free status for IHN and VHS in the farm Lago in the County of Rimini. This is a farm owned by the state which produces fry of trout and pike for releasing into the wild in the Mountain Rivers of the Province of Rimini. The declaration is submitted in accordance with Directive 2006/88/EC, Article 50.

A.07 Information from Italy on low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry.

The Italian representative gave a presentation on the situation as regards low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry in Italy. Following a first LPAI outbreak in a small poultry holding in Modena province in mid-February, two further outbreaks were detected between April and October 2013 in the Region of Lombardy (H5N3 subtype) and in the region of Campania (H5N2). Poultry on all outbreak sites have been killed and cleaning and disinfection was carried out.

A.08 Information from the EU Reference laboratory for avian influenza on the results of the EU project ESNIP 3 on swine influenza.

The Director of the EU reference laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle
disease (AHVLA, UK) which is also an OIE reference laboratory for swine influenza gave a presentation on the outcome of the EU funded research project (ESNIP 3). It was demonstrated that the project met its objectives in providing for harmonised diagnostic and surveillance approaches, identification, characterisation and antigenic mapping of swine influenza viruses and generation of genotypic data as well as laboratory networking. The purpose of this presentation was also to make Member States aware about these valuable studies that could instigate interest in carrying out or continuing these scientific studies under national schemes in case EU funding would no longer be provided.

A.09  Information from EFSA on the scientific opinion on the risks posed by influenza A(H3N2v) for animal health and its potential spread and implications for animal and human health and on the FLURISK project for the development of a risk assessment methodological framework for potentially pandemic influenza strains.

1) The EFSA representative gave a presentation on EFSA’s scientific opinion in co-operation with ECDC and EMA) on risks posed by influenza A(H3N2v) to animals and possible implications for human health. The overall likelihood of a pig holding in the EU becoming infected by exposure to A(H3N2v) virus through either imported infectious pigs or humans coming from the United States where infections of humans by that virus have been reported since 2011 was estimated to be low. Currently, applied virological diagnostic methods (RT-PCRs) can detect all swine influenza A viruses and, combined with gene sequencing, would identify the emergence of H3N2v virus, if sequencing is would be done on a routine basis in EU. Experimental studies in pigs show that the clinical course of infection is similar to that of the endemic swine influenza viruses. Vaccination with European vaccines may provide some cross-protection against infection with A(H3N2v) virus while vaccines based on US swine H3N2 virus strains would offer superior protection. It is not possible to predict which changes within the H3N2v virus might induce developing pandemic properties. Hence, it is not possible at present to set up a specific system to monitor such a risk. Nevertheless, it is recommended to reinforce the monitoring of influenza strains circulating in pigs in the EU.

2) The EFSA representative also reported on the outcome of the Flurisk project which aims at providing for an influenza risk assessment framework (IRAF) for categorisation of animal influenza viruses in order to have a risk-based tool that could be used to evaluate monitoring results for influenza viruses in animals. Animal influenza viruses shall be ranked in their potential to cross the species barrier and cause human infection.

A.10  Information from Bulgaria and Greece on the sheep and goat pox situation.

Greece and Bulgaria have both presented the updated situation as regards sheep pox. Greece has notified 35 outbreaks between 13 August and 5 November 2013, in the regions of Evros, Xanthi, Thessaloniki, and Lesvos. Concerning Bulgaria, 3 outbreaks have been notified since September 2013. Greece and Bulgaria have taken measures in the framework of Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17
December 1992. The Commission is following the situation very closely in order to assess the necessity or not of complementary measures.

A.11 Information from the Netherlands on two rabies case in a puppy introduced from Bulgaria.

The Netherlands have reported two puppies introduced from Bulgaria were euthanised on 19 and 20 October 2013 and tested positive for rabies.

According to the report, those puppies were collected and homed until departure by a private person in Silistra, a river port city at the southern bank of the lower Danube with a land border to the Province of Constanza in Romania.

Epidemiological investigations indicated the puppies had been brought into the Netherlands illegally, i.e. not in compliance with the trade rules.

A total of 48 human contacts have been identified in Rotterdam and Zaandam and are undergoing post exposure prophylaxis for rabies.

Three in-contact pets have been vaccinated or put in quarantine.

Bilateral contact was established with the Bulgarian authorities in order to facilitate further investigations.

Further laboratory tests are ongoing.

A.12 Information from the Commission and exchange of views on the risk posed by the movements of former stray dogs of unknown health history.

The Commission representative reminded Member States of the legislation that applies to the movement between Member States of dogs which are not accompanying their owner, i.e. Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

The Commission representative also confirmed that the cross-border movement of the puppies from the Netherlands to Bulgaria (see point A.11) was not carried out in accordance with EU legislation, in particular because the animals were not accompanied by a health certificate issued by an official veterinarian certifying inter alia that those dogs originated from a holding registered by the competent authority in Bulgaria.

The Commission representative acknowledged that EU rules may not be sufficient to address the special rabies risk that movements of former stray dogs may pose in areas where there is still virus circulation in wildlife.

Therefore, the Commission representative suggested to seriously reflect on possible additional measures as regards movements of former stray dogs, i.e. dogs that cannot be shown to have been born in the holding of origin and kept in captivity since birth, when they are intended for dispatch from Member States.
An observation period defined as the time spent between vaccination and movement could be considered as an effective measure in order to mitigate the risk of rabies introduction due to an animal incubating the disease at the time of vaccination.

A.13 **Information from Spain and Portugal on the bluetongue situation.**

The Portuguese and the Spanish delegate made presentations on the recent circulation of bluetongue virus serotype 4 in the South of Portugal and Southwest of Spain and serotype 1 in a limited area in the centre of Spain. They both presented briefly their strategies for surveillance and vaccination.

A.14 **Information to Member States on New Zealand and Canada Equivalence to Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.**

The Commission informed Member States that it has been working with some third countries to determine equivalence as regards Article 12 of the Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The provision in Article 12 requires third countries to meet requirements at least equivalent to those laid down in the Regulation.

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 and in third countries.**

No item raised.

B.02 **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending the model health certificates I, II and III for intra-Union trade in ovine and caprine animals for slaughter, fattening and breeding set out in Annex E to Council Directive 91/68/EEC.**

The purpose of this draft Commission Implementing Decision is to amend the model health certificates I, II and III (intra-Union trade in ovine and caprine animals for slaughter, fattening and breeding) set out in Annex E to Directive 91/68/EEC to reflect requirements laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 630/2013 in relation to scrapie.

These model health certificates were most recently amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/445/EU. In the process of this amendment, the possibility to move under certain conditions breeding sheep and goats to Member States with an approved control programme for classical scrapie was erroneously omitted. Furthermore, certain references to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 needed to be reviewed to remove any ambiguity. Additionally, there was a need to ensure consistency of terminology in all model health certificates, set out in Annex E to Directive 91/68/EEC. Therefore, the whole Annex E to Directive 91/68/EEC should be amended.
Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (349 in favour, 3 absent).

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat Newcastle in Cyprus in 2013.

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Cyprus towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat Newcastle disease in 2013.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (349 in favour, 3 absent).

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands in 2012 and 2013 and in Denmark and Spain in 2013.

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Germany, Italy and in The Netherlands towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2012 and in 2013 and to Denmark and Spain towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2013.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (349 in favour, 3 absent).

B.05 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Annex I to Decision 2009/177/EC as regards disease-free status for the whole continental territory of Denmark for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia and disease-free status for the whole territory of Ireland and Northern Ireland territory of United Kingdom for Koi herpes virus disease>

The Commission informed that this proposal has been presented for discussion at SCFCAH 7 October. The only comment received on the proposal was from UK, stating that also the territory of Northern Ireland should be included as regards disease-free status of Koi herpes virus (KHV) and that the draft proposal was amended accordingly.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (349 in favour, 3 absent).

B.06 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation implementing Council Directives 90/427/EEC, 94/28/EC and 2009/156/EC as regards methods for the identification of equidae (Equine Passport Regulation) and repealing

The Commission’s representative informed about the outcome of the Expert Group on Horse Identification which took place on 31 November 2013 and thanked all participants for contribution to the meeting. As far articles from 1 to 18 of the draft Commission Implementing Regulation were discussed with Member States.

Following the discussion with Member States, it was decided to postpone voting of this version of the document and to organise one more Expert Group meeting on Horse Identification to be able to discuss the remaining articles of draft Implementing Regulation. The meeting of the group in question will take place in December 2013.

Vote postponed

B.07 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision establishing the financial contribution by the Union to the expenditure incurred in the context of the emergency measures taken to combat avian influenza in Germany in 2011.

The purpose of this Decision is to fix the amount of the financial contribution from the Union to Germany towards the expenditure that was incurred for compensation and operational costs in taking emergency measures to combat avian influenza in 2011.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (349 in favour, 3 absent.

B.08 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to classical swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission representative presented the draft Commission implementing Decision explaining the aim of the Decision and the revision made after the comments of the Member States.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (339 in favour, 10 abstention, 3 absent.

B.09 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving annual and multi-annual programmes and the financial contribution from the Union for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2014 and the following years.

The purpose of this Decision is to approve annual and multi-annual programmes and the financial contribution from the Union for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2014 and the following years.
Vote postponed

B.10 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision approving certain amended programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses for the year 2013 and amending Implementing Decision 2012/761/EU as regards the financial contribution by the Union for certain programmes approved by that Decision.

The purpose of this Decision is to approve amended programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses for the year 2013 and amending Commission Decision 2008/897/EC.

Vote taken: favourable opinion by qualified majority (339 in favour, 10 abstentions, 3 absent).

C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a Union financial aid for the year 2014 to European Union reference laboratories.

The purpose of the draft Implementing financing Decision is to provide Union financial aid to enable certain designated European Union reference laboratories (EURLs) in the feed and food control area and in the field of animal health and live animals to carry out their functions and duties for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.

The document was presented for discussion.


The commission presented at draft proposal on a Commission Implementing Directive amending part II of Annex IV of Directive 2006/88/EC as regards Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA). The proposal is a following up on the discussion on the same issue at SCFCAH meeting 7 October 2013 were the Commission announced that only infections with Infectious salmon anaemia virus genotype HPR-deleted should be listed in the Annex of that Directive. Consequently, in the proposal the insertion for ISA in the list in Part II of Annex IV is changed from "Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA)" to "Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA): infection with ISAV HPR-deleted".

The Commission invited the Member States to comment on the proposal. No opposition to the proposal was received at the meeting.

C.03 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Decision 2010/221/EU as regards national measures for
preventing the introduction of certain aquatic diseases into parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The Commission presented a draft proposal SANCO/7131/2013 for amending Decision 2010/221/EU as regards national measures for preventing the introduction of certain diseases into parts of Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The proposal is a following up on the requests from Finland, Ireland and Sweden referred to under Item A.3 and A.4 on the agenda.

In addition the United Kingdom has notified to the Commission a declaration of disease freedom of Ostreid herpes virus (OsHV-1µvar) for major parts of the coast of the UK included Guernsey. Larne Lough of Northern Ireland was also included in the declaration. The effect of this declaration will also be included in the proposal.

The Commission invited the Members States for comments on the proposal with in a time limit of 10 days from end of the meeting.

C.04 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards the processing, use and disposal methods of certain rendered fats and the conditions for the introduction of such rendered fats into the Union.

The Commission's representative presented revision 9 of the draft Regulation and explained the changes introduced into the document in comparison to the previous version. The Commission postponed the vote, because during the debate several Member States showed not to be able to support the draft Regulation.

M.01 Information from France on a rabies case in a kitten introduced from Morocco.

France has reported the death of a kitten aged of around 2 months on 28 October 2013 in Argenteuil which proved to be positive for rabies.

According to the report, the kitten was collected by a private person on 12 October 2013 on Aïn Diab's beach in Casablanca (Morocco) and before returning to France (via Orly aiport) went to a veterinarian who vaccinated the animal, except against rabies, and issued an "international health certificate" certifying absence of clinical signs of contagious diseases, including rabies.

The animal was not presented for checks at the travellers' point of entry of Orly airport.

A total of 20 contacts have been identified and 15 of those with high risk contact are undergoing post exposure prophylaxis for rabies. Seven in-contact pets have been euthanised or placed under surveillance.
The Cypriot representative informed about the confirmation of a further outbreak (16th) of Newcastle disease in a backyard poultry flock on its territory located near Larnaca and that all the required disease control measures were implemented. The Commission informed that mission by TAIEX (technical assistance information and exchange system of the Directorate General for EU Enlargement) would be carried out in ten days' time together with the Director of the EU Reference laboratory for Newcastle disease and a Commission expert to the in the non-government controlled areas of Republic of Cyprus to gather information about the epidemiological situation as concerns Newcastle disease and possible means of technical support.

The Austrian delegate give a final report on the finding on 6 June 2013 of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the H5N1 subtype in smuggled exotic birds that were intercepted at Vienna’s airport Schwechat. Customs tracker dogs had given rise to suspicion. Two Czech citizens travelling from Bali via Doha/Katar tried to enter the EU without declaration. A total of 60 birds were found, of which 37 had already died. The birds that were still alive were placed into quarantine. Following the positive finding in the dead birds the remaining birds were euthanized. The virus was identified in five of the birds. All birds were destroyed and safely disposed of and cleaning and disinfection carried out. Contact persons were traced and the Czech authorities were informed about the incident.