SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 MARCH 2014
(Section Animal Health & Welfare)

CIRCABC Link:

A.01 African Swine Fever situation in the wild boar in Lithuania and Poland.

Poland made a presentation on the results of the surveillance activities carried out in Poland after the confirmation of two cases of Africa swine fever (ASF) in the wild boar population at the border with Belarus. The two cases were reported in February and after that no further cases have been detected in Poland. The results of the surveillance activities carried out in the infected area bordering Belarus have been reported, as the ones performed in the rest of Poland. The restrictive measures currently in place in Poland have been described as well. The AFS situation in Lithuania is reported under point M.03.

B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States.

The Commission representative presented revision 2 of Document SANCO/7035/2014, draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning animal health control measures relating to African swine fever in certain Member States. This text provides for coherent comprehensive set of rules as regards the restrictions applicable upon occurrence of African swine fever and describes the regionalization for that disease. A constructive discussion took place and the Member States representatives asked for clarifications and suggested improvements and amendments to the texts that were incorporated to revisions 3 and 4 of the documents that were produced during the Committee.

Vote taken: Favourable opinion.
B.02 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on Union financial contribution towards surveillance and other emergency measures implemented in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Belarus against African swine fever.

The draft Decision concerns the financial support for surveillance and other emergency measures against African swine fever (ASF) in Member States at risk of ASF introduction due to presence of the disease in bordering third countries. (ASF preventive/control action in PL, LT, LV and EE in 2014 for a total of around M€ 3.5.)

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

B.03 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision as regards the standard reporting requirements for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses co-financed by the Union and repealing Commission Decision 2008/940/EC.

The Decision concerns the update of the reporting requirements for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses co-financed by the Union and repeals Commission Decision 2008/940/EC. It was presented for discussion during the Plenary task Force meeting on 28 February and during the SCFCAH of 4th March. Several MSs sent question/comment to the Commission in previous days and the Commission replied to all of them. AT, BE, UK, FI requested further confirmation in relation to timing to send reports.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

B.04 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on a financial contribution by the Union towards emergency measures to combat sheep pox in Greece in 2013 and 2014 and in Bulgaria in 2013.

The Decision concerns a financial contribution to Greece and Bulgaria in support of control measures for sheep pox.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

M.01 EU preventive measures for African swine fever.

The Commission representative presented revision 1 of Document SANCO/7037/2014 "EU preventive measures for ASF". This text presents a summary of the measures in force in the EU to prevent introduction and spread of African swine fever (ASF). It is intended to provide assistance to the veterinary services of the Member States as regards the application of the measures to prevent and control ASF. This revision 1 was prepared taking in account comments received from Member States. Several new comments were presented by Member States, notably on the
The possibility to include aspects related to the document under point B.01 of the Agenda and the need to clarify which definitions were used in the text. A new revision of the document will be prepared.

**M.02 Presentation by EFSA of a latest scientific report on the evaluation of possible mitigation measures to prevent introduction and spread of African swine fever virus through wild boar.**

EFSA presented the report available at:

The main conclusions obtained on the evaluation of some measures to be put in place to mitigate the risk of African swine fever (ASF) spread from the infected area to non-infected area via wild boar, such as wild boar hunting and other limitation measures, were reported. Drastic hunting has not been considered a feasible mitigation measure to reduce the risk and introduction and spread of ASF. In fact, intensive hunting pressure on wild boar population leads to dispersal of groups and individuals increasing transmission and facilitating progressive geographical spread of the disease. Fencing can restrict wild boar movements but the practical feasibility of its implementation is not clear at the moment. Artificial feeding of wild boar might rather increase than reduce the risk of ASF spread. Population management strategies to avoid introduction and spread of ASF should be based on keeping the current wild boar population density and dynamic stable.

**M.03 Presentation on the findings of a CVET mission in Lithuania.**

The team leader made a presentation on the results of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) mission in Lithuania, which took place from 12 to 14 March 2014. The objective of the mission was to provide scientific, technical, managerial assistance to the Lithuanian authorities on the development of the most suitable control and eradication measures for African Swine Fever (ASF), in order to elaborate a proper eradication plan in the framework of the current legislation. Recommendations provided to the Lithuanian authorities were reported as well.

**M.04 LPAI outbreaks in NL and DE.**

NL and DE presented information on two very recent low pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks.