



Brussels, 20 JAN, 2009  
D(2009) 432

## Opinion

**Title**                      **Impact Assessment on: Review of regulation on non-commercial movement of pets (resubmission)**

**(revised draft version of 07 January 2009)**

**Lead DG**                      **DG SANCO**

### **1) Impact Assessment Board Opinion**

#### **(A) Context**

Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council lays down harmonised animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movements of pet animals within and into the Community. It allows for a transitional period of five years starting from the date of entry into force of the Regulation, i.e. until 3 July 2008, for the UK, Ireland, Malta, Sweden and Finland to make the entry of pet animals into their territory subject to compliance with certain additional requirements in order to prevent the risk of introduction of rabies, echinococcus and ticks, and provided for a legal obligation to review the Regulation by the end of this transitional period. The Commission adopted its report on 8 October 2007 and proposes a short prolongation of the transitional measures to the Council and the European Parliament, until 30 June 2010, to allow sufficient time to consider all elements and consult all interested parties on the possible options. The Commission is now evaluating the long-term options, including extending the general regime to those Member States that currently apply the transitional regime.

#### **(B) Positive aspects**

The IA report has improved in some of the aspects mentioned in the first Opinion. The new version of the Report provides more information on the rabies situation in the Baltic States and some clarification on the current procedure for pet movements between the United Kingdom and Ireland.

#### **(C) Main recommendations for improvements**

*The recommendations below are listed in order of descending importance. Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG and are expected to be incorporated in the final version of*

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: BERL 6/29. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2981898. Fax: (32-2) 2965960.

E-mail: [impact-assessment-board@ec.europa.eu](mailto:impact-assessment-board@ec.europa.eu)  
Website: [http://www.cc.cec/iab/i/index\\_en.cfm](http://www.cc.cec/iab/i/index_en.cfm)

*the impact assessment report.*

**General recommendation:** The recommendations of the first Opinion from the Board have not all been adequately implemented in this resubmitted IA Report. The Report still needs to distinguish the impacts per group of country (EU22, EU5, UK and Ireland) and present more clearly the implications of the options.

**(1) The Report should improve the content and presentation of the overview table comparing the options.** The recommendation to refine the overview table comparing the options (section 7) has not been adequately addressed in this revised report. As indicated in the previous opinion from the board, the assessment of impacts should differentiate between relevant groups—EU22, EU5, UK/IRL. Moreover, as regards the differences in the impacts over the scenarios, the text and the scores reported in the comparison table need to match more closely.

**(2) The resubmitted IA Report still needs to clarify and analyse the implications of the options for pet movements between the UK and Ireland.** The report should make clear whether option 4, which is now the baseline, assumes continuation of the free movement of pets between the UK and Ireland. In this context, the report should clarify the meaning of the statement that the latter regime "falls outside the scope of the Regulation", including by clarifying whether the last subparagraph of Article 6, paragraph 1 of Regulation 998/2003 should be considered a permanent or temporary legal basis for granting exemptions.

#### **(D) Procedure and presentation**

The resubmitted IA Report should better reflect the comments made in the original Opinion and describe more accurately the changes that have been made.

## **2) IAB scrutiny process**

Reference number	2008/SANCO/010 (Catalogue initiative)
Author DG	SANCO-D-1
External expertise used	No
Date of Board Meeting	Written procedure
Date of adoption of Opinion	<b>20 JAN, 2009</b> The present opinion concerns a resubmitted draft IA Report. The first opinion was issued on 19 March 2008