



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food chain: stakeholder and international relations
Multilateral international relations

Brussels, 02.05.2019
SANTE D2/BS/JM/tt (2019) 3305424

NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Summary Report of the Expert Group meeting on veterinary import controls
26 February 2019

Participants:

- Representatives from all Member States (MS) except Cyprus, Malta, France and Ireland.
- Representatives from Norway and Switzerland.
- European Commission (DG SANTE): B. Saimour (D2, chairman), J. Maciulyte (D2), A. El Khoury (G5), V. Vanheusden (E2), M. Klemencic (G2), G. Marechal (G5), J. Warnel (F4).

COM welcomed MS to the meeting, presented the agenda, as enclosed, and added some other points raised by MS for discussion in the relevant chapters.

1. OFFICIAL CONTROLS REGULATION (OCR)

a) Preparation of IMSOC

COM provided an update about the draft Implementing Regulation on the IMSOC and presented the operational activities planned in 2019 for the data migration from TRACES Classic to TRACES New Technology. It was explained that COM works in parallel on the project "EU Customs Single Window: Certificate exchange (CERTEX)" for the connection and possible exchange of data between national Customs system and IMSOC.

b) Residue official control programmes (Art. 19(3))

COM explained that Directive 96/23/EC laying down requirements on the monitoring of residues in animals and animal products will be repealed by OCR as from 14 December 2019. However, the Annexes to Directive will remain applicable until 14 December 2022. Therefore, COM started discussions in the Working group on residues of veterinary medicinal products in food of animal origin. It is planned that the new draft Implementing Regulation which sets requirements for MS' control programmes on residues of pharmacologically active substances will become applicable as from 14 December 2022, but it needs to be adopted in 2020 due to parallel references in another Delegated Act referring to import conditions from third countries on the basis of an approved residue control plan.

MS expressed concerns about a possible increase in the number of samples in the border inspection posts.

2. RE-IMPORT OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS (AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 142/2011)

COM outlined the main elements of the draft document. MS raised several questions regarding the rejection of consignments due to commercial reasons and the need to return the consignments to the establishment of origin. COM recalled that those questions were thoroughly discussed in several meetings dedicated to the empowerment of Art. 77(1)(h) OCR, which does not give any room of manoeuvre to cover such re-imports.

3. UPDATE ON RE-ENFORCED CHECKS

COM presented a summary of the ongoing re-enforced checks in TRACES and indicated that approximately 94% of RECs were launched by the MS, against 6% launched by COM in 2018. This is satisfactory, especially in the context of the draft Implementing Regulation on intensified controls under Art 65(6) OCR which gives more responsibility to the MS.

4. FOOD FRAUD POLICY

COM delivered a comprehensive presentation on the EU activities to combat violations of the EU agri-food chain legislation, reported about the EU food fraud network and informed about the Administrative Assistance and Cooperation (AAC) system. From now on, a specific point on fraud will be presented at every meeting of this expert group.



Import WG
02.2019.pdf

5. DIRECTORATE F AUDIT PROGRAMME ON IMPORT CONTROLS IN 2019

COM (DG SANTE F4) presented an overview of the audits in the area of import controls which are planned to be performed in 2019, with the summary of their objectives, methodology and outputs.

6. NATO BASES

MS complained that a large number of consignments in transit, destined to NATO and US military bases, are not properly registered or acknowledged in TRACES. COM answered that it is fully aware of the situation and is working on serious improvements in close cooperation with the US Military Command.

7. AOB

a) Import conditions of certain animal by-products

i) Import of glycerine of animal origin

COM explained that glycerine can be of plant and animal origin. Therefore, DG TAXUD was requested to set out a specific CN code for glycerine of animal origin. As soon as the CN code exists, Decision 2007/275/EC laying down the list of animals and products subject to BIP controls and the appropriate health certificate for fat derivatives set out in Regulation (EC) 142/2011 will be amended.

- ii) Import of processed animal protein (PAP) from farmed insects for aquaculture fish from China:

COM clarified that, in accordance with Decision 2002/994/EC, petfood is allowed to be imported from China into EU. However, processed animal proteins from China are not allowed.

b) Control of vessels involved in fish production chain

COM stated that imported fishery products shall be handled, at any stage of their production, in establishments, cold stores, factory vessels, freezer vessels or reefer vessels which are listed by the third countries to be authorised for export to the EU.

As regards fishing vessels, which are not factory vessels, freezer vessels or reefer vessels, they do not need to be listed, but they must comply with the hygiene requirements of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. In case of doubt concerning the vessels involved in the production chain of fishery products, the catch certificates may be verified.

c) Delayed checks of fresh fishery products due to laboratory testing

COM informed that the Indian competent authorities are repeatedly complaining about delayed results of laboratory testing in BIPs. They were answered that the situation is due to the application of the current safeguard measure on aquaculture products and to the high number of unfavourable border check results. COM is alongside evaluating the action plan provided by India after the latest audit of SANTE F.

d) Transfer of EU fish in the third countries

COM was informed by the competent authorities of Seychelles that they will no longer issue health certificates for fishery products when they are directly transhipped from an EU flag vessel to a reefer vessel without physical landing on their territory. This type of direct transhipment from board to board might happen in the cases where the vessels are either in high sea, or in the seaport waters, or even docked in the seaport.

Indeed, COM is supporting this interpretation of Regulation (EU) 2017/1973, given that the third countries cannot be required to certify operations which do not happen under their jurisdiction - fish is not landed and remains on board.

e) Update on BTSF training.

COM reminded that the new BTSF training course for the staff of BIPs has been announced for year 2019. For further details, the competent authorities should contact the national BTSF contact points.

(signed)
D2 – Import Sector

Encl.: Agenda

Cc: Experts in 28 MS, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Faroe Islands + ESA
M. Hudson, S. Juelicher, B. Van Goethem, P. Colombo, B. Gautrais, A. Gavinelli, K. Van Dyck, E.
Zamorra Escribano, E. Thevenard, P. Loopuyt, D. Lange, S. Goux, J. McEvoy.

EXPERT GROUP ON VETERINARY IMPORT CONTROLS LEGISLATION
“VETERINARY CHECKS”

26 February 2019

– AGENDA –

- 1) Official Controls Regulation (EU) No 2017/625:
 - IMSOC – presentation of the state of play (G5)
 - The rules applicable to the residue official control programmes (Article 19(3)) (E2)
- 2) Re-import of animal by-products (amendment of Regulation 142/2011) (G2).
- 3) Update on re-enforced checks (D2).
- 4) Food fraud policy (G5).
- 5) Directorate F audit programme on import controls in 2019 (F4).
- 6) NATO bases (D2).
- 7) AOB:
 - a. Import conditions of certain animal by-products;
 - b. Control of vessels involved in fish production chain;
 - c. Checks of consignments of fresh fishery products delaying for laboratory testing in BIPs;
 - d. Transfer of EU fish in third countries;
 - e. Update on BTSF trainings.