

MINUTES FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COPA-COGECA WORKING PARTY ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ON 12TH JUNE 2013

PRESENT: Olsen, Basto, Börger, Jones, Riedl, Bourke, Endrödi, McLaughlin,
Higuera, Melkild, Suojala, Hoermann, Auffret, Nielsen

SECRETARIAT: Di Rubbo

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

→ The agenda was adopted.

Item 2: Adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting of the working party

→ The minutes from the previous meeting of the working party were approved. [AHW\(13\)4153 \(rev.1\)](#)

Item 3: The New Animal Health Law – Discussion on the amendments to propose to the European Parliament and Council

→ [COM\(13\)3823 \(rev.1\)](#) (Impact Assessment [COM\(13\)3885 \(rev.1\)](#))

The discussion focused on the role of implementing/delegated acts, listing of diseases, including responsibility for animal health and biosecurity measures at farm level. Great concern was raised about the lack of responsibility given to Member States to implement biosecurity programmes across borders, and the need to ensure an approach to disease prevention which encompassed the whole food chain. The group also expressed its concerns about the legal provision related to animal health visits. The experts decided to delete this provision. The legal provision on basic knowledge of animal health was welcomed, but it the need to recognise farmers' expertise was stressed, as was the importance of not imposing further responsibilities on farms.

Experts were asked to send further comments and concerns to the Secretariat of Copa-Cogeca (Pasquale Di Rubbo). Based on the general orientation of the group, the Secretariat proposed a draft position of Copa-Cogeca to be adopted by the POCC/CCC in September 2013.

Item 4: Official Controls – Discussion on the amendments to propose to the European Parliament and Council with regard to the sections related to animal health and welfare

→ [COM\(13\)3822 \(rev.1\)](#) (Impact Assessment [COM\(13\)3824 \(rev.1\)](#))

Major concerns were raised about the legal provisions on animal welfare indicators and on the establishment of reference centres on animal welfare at Member State level. The group suggested that this part be deleted. Further concerns were raised about the mandatory scheme of costs recovery for official controls. The group welcomed the exception of microenterprises introduced by the Commission. Coop De France rejected this exception. The NFU informed those present that the UK was carrying out an impact assessment on micro-enterprises subject to the imposition of costs for official controls.

Experts were asked to send further comments and concerns on the Commission's proposal to the Secretariat of Copa-Cogeca (Pasquale Di Rubbo). Based on the general orientation of the group, the Secretariat proposed a draft position of Copa-Cogeca to be adopted by the POCC/CCC in September 2013.

Item 5: AOB

→ The group agreed to hold the next working party meeting in autumn 2013.