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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 10-11 July 2025

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### 1. Work program of the Danish Presidency

The Working Party on animals and veterinary questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) ('Working Party') took note of the presentation of the program of the Danish Presidency concerning its areas of activity (WK 9837/2025). The program has an overarching aim to favour continuity by building bridges on work carried out under previous Presidencies. As an overall priority in the veterinary area, the Presidency will aim to enhance animal health and welfare and as a specific priority, advance the work on the two ongoing legislative files (proposals for Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability and on the welfare of animals during transport and related operations). Other key areas will include animal health and biosecurity, cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, One Health and public-private partnership in areas such as biosecurity, animal welfare, prevention of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food safety.

## 2. General overview of WOAAH activities

### a) *State of play and work on WOAAH during the Danish Presidency*

The Working Party took note of the presentation by the Chair on the planned timeline for the Working Party to address issues related to the World Organisation on Animal Health (WOAH) during its term (WK 9867/2025). The Chair explained that the topic will be kept as a regular item at the Working Party in particular to ensure appropriate follow-up and preparation for the work of the WOAAH Governance Review Committee (GRC).

The Commission representative gave an overview of WOAAH's activities during the Danish Presidency (WK 9865/2025), including on standard setting, the work of the WOAAH observatory, the linking of the EU's and WOAAH's animal disease information systems (ADIS and WAHIS), the planned and recent activities of the Global Framework for the progressive control of transboundary animal diseases (GF-TADS), the upcoming WOAAH Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction and the upcoming WOAAH events at European and global levels related to animal welfare.

The Chair noted that the described developments were positive, especially regarding the link between ADIS and WAHIS. While commending the Commission services on the high quality of the substantial amount of their preparatory work to safeguard EU's interests in WOAAH's activities and thus also saving Member States a lot of work, she reminded delegations of the need for their active preparation and contributions and added that for this reason, WOAAH related topics would be included on the agenda of all meetings of the Working Party during the Danish Presidency.

### b) *WOAH Governance Review Committee*

The Working Party took note of the Presidency's intention to support the work of the WOAAH Governance Review Committee (GRC) with the aim of securing transparency and trust in the process. The Chair reminded that the 5th meeting of the GRC in mid July 2025 would address topics related to the institutional and regional governance of WOAAH, and invited delegations to share their views on those topics in order to provide input for the EU's representatives in that meeting.

The Austrian delegate, in his role as a member of the GRC, recalled that the GRC's working programme<sup>1</sup> concerning the review of WOAHA Basic Texts consisted of two phases. During the first phase, the GRC would not yet prepare decisions but was identifying, in cooperation with the WOAHA office in Paris, which elements of WOAHA's governance might require amendments. The second phase would start after WOAHA's general assembly in May 2026, and only then the GRC would start addressing specific questions in detail. He added that the GRC was unlikely to finalise the examination of the part on institutional governance in July but would continue the discussion in its following meeting in September. He invited delegations to provide written input and also suggested to have an informal discussion online in August between the interested delegations for further exchange of views.

In the discussion that followed, several delegations indicated a wide interest in GRC's work and expressed initial comments on some of the elements being discussed, including on the possible changes in the structure and responsibilities of WOAHA's Council and the correct balance between it and the General assembly, as well as on financial elements. Some of them highlighted the importance of keeping an eye on the broader picture to better understand the consequences of potential changes in WOAHA's basic texts resulting from the overall exercise before taking a position on such changes.

The Chair reiterated the invitation for delegations to provide input and supported the initiative of an informal virtual exchange of views in August, the outcomes of which would feed into the discussion scheduled for the next meeting of the Working Party in September.

### **3. Animal health and biosecurity**

The Working Party took note of the Presidency's intention to continue the work on biosecurity led by the Polish Presidency, giving a particular attention to cooperation between authorities and stakeholders and enhancing discussions on different approaches to the implementation and control of biosecurity measures.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [92gs-adm-06-en-report-of-the-woah-governance-review-committee.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> In this context, a reference was also made to the Council Conclusions on "biosecurity as an overall concept with a unitary approach for protecting animal health in the EU" prepared by the Working Party under the Romanian Presidency in 2019 (ST 10369/1/19 REV 1).

To set the context, the Chair invited the Commission representative to present the legal framework set out in the Animal Health Law and delegated acts (WK 9873/2025). The Commission representative explained that while many provisions of the Animal Health Law were supplemented by robust measures in delegated acts, the Commission was hesitant to use its implementing powers to adopt minimum requirements on uniform application unless such rules would benefit all. That was because situations varied in different regions and sectors, and therefore uniform rules could not cater for all situations and would risk to become too rigid. That being said, she reconfirmed the Commission's willingness to work together with and support the Member States in their local approaches. She concluded her presentation by stressing that in the situation where the EU is constantly exposed to animal health threats, biosecurity is the key tool to prevent and control those threats and reminded that it requires the awareness and cooperation of a very wide range of different actors along the chain.

On the Presidency's invitation, Belgium and Italy presented their national approaches to biosecurity (WK 9869/2025 and WK 9870/2025, respectively), followed by a presentation by the Presidency (WK 9868/2025) and exchange of comments and questions on the presentations. The Chair informed the Working Party that the topic would be further developed in discussions planned for its next meeting in September.

#### **4. Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles for terrestrial and aquatic animals**

The Working Party took note of the Presidency's intention to continue the discussions held under the Spanish Presidency regarding the cleaning and disinfecting animal transport vehicles due to its importance in ensuring the appropriate sanitary conditions of the livestock population within the EU.

To start with, the Presidency invited the Spanish delegation to present a summary of the discussions under its Presidency and on the Spanish national approach to the matter (WK 9879/2025) and the Greek delegation to present its national experiences in relation to the recent outbreaks of sheep and goat pox (WK 9876/2025). These were followed by a presentation by the Presidency on the way forward, describing five possible initiatives for consideration and for structuring the further discussions at the Working Party (WK 9875/2025 + COR 1).

## **5. The Vision for Agriculture and Food**

A Commission representative from DG AGRI was invited to present to the Working Party the Commission's initiative 'Vision for Agriculture and Food' (ST 6385/25), with the main focus on elements within the remit of the Chief Veterinary Officers (WK 9880/2025).

To start with, he recalled the objectives of the vision which were to increase the attractiveness, competitiveness, resilience, sustainability and fairness of the European agriculture systems. He explained that main actions of the vision included stronger alignment of production standards including on animal welfare and pesticides, and in this context it envisaged strengthening of import controls. Other areas of the vision which were of specific interest for veterinarians included the long-term strategy on livestock and the review of animal welfare legislation. The main package of CAP simplification initiatives foreseen in the vision was expected after the summer break. Highlighting that the vision was strongly based on dialogue and collaboration between different players and sector, he invited the Chief Veterinary Officers to engage in the collective effort to implement the vision and its objectives.

The Chair expressed thanks for the comprehensive and useful presentation, echoed by delegations who also commented on issues involve the veterinary area, in particular official controls, where they considered that further thinking and communication would be warranted.

## **6. State of play on the ongoing work regarding the EuFMD strategy**

Reminding the Working Party of the agreement of the 46th General Session of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD) in May 2025 to work on a proposal for a long term strategy and related budget, the Chair invited the French delegate in the role of the Chair of the EuFMD's executive committee, to inform the Working Party on the state of play of that work.

The French delegate explained that the next meeting of the executive committee was scheduled for mid-October in Bratislava. She further explained that the meeting would evaluate, among other, the lessons learned from the recent foot and mouth disease outbreaks, and highlighted that such discussion should be done during ‘peace time’, which was unfortunately limited due to outbreaks. In addition, the meeting would address the reactions to the outbreaks of lumpy skin disease (LSD), the work of the temporary working group to prioritise the EuFMD’s activities taking into account its limited budget, and training. Referring to the need to strengthen the human resources of EuFMD raised by its secretariat, she invited delegations to consider the possibility of sending temporary staff to the secretariat, reminding that the EuFMDs work was important and of benefit to all its members. Finally she invited delegations to contribute to the discussion, in particular regarding the EuFMDs future priorities.

Repeating that invitation, the Chair informed the Working Party on its intention to collect comments and to hold a discussion at an upcoming meeting of the Working Party, ultimately in order to prepare positions for the next session of the EuFMD where decisions on the strategy would be presented for approval.

**7. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the exercise of the power to adopt delegated acts conferred on the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (Animal Health Law)**

The Commission representative gave a presentation (WK 9881/25) on the report on the use of delegated powers under the Animal Health Law. The report (ST 10630/25) outlines the rules adopted so far and concludes that the powers should be tacitly extended in order to provide flexibility, simplification and clarification and adjustment to the latest scientific standards, as well as act in new areas where necessary. The Working Party took note of the presentation and did not express objections to the tacit extension of the powers.

## 8. Any other businesses

- a) *Procedures for coordination at EU-level of any issue related to the WOAH standard setting*

The Working Party took note of the reminder by the Commission services on the established mechanism for coordinating EU positions with regard to WOAH standards and of the importance to adhere to that mechanism.

- b) *Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) outbreaks in Italy and France – update on epidemiological situation*

The Working Party took note of information by the French and Italian delegations on the recent and ongoing LSD outbreaks in their territory (WK 9882/2025 and WK 9883/2025).

- c) *Arrangement on border procedures with Türkiye*

The Working Party took note of the information by the Commission on the state of play of the arrangement with the Turkish authorities to avoid unnecessary delays in transport of live animals by a prior checking of documents, including that the arrangement concerned only one specific border post and was expected to be applicable in autumn. The Commission representative recalled that in all cases it was of key importance that export certificates were correctly filled so that unnecessary delays at the border could be avoided.