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WK 1113/2026 INIT

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Potsdam Group)

Subject: Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Potsdam Group) on 29 January 2026 - Presidency flash

With a view to the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Potsdam Group) on 29 January 2026, delegations will find in annex the Presidency flash.



CYPRUS PRESIDENCY FLASH

Meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions – Potsdam Group

Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 10:00
Justus Lipsius Building, Room 35.8, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 BRUSSELS

Format 1+2 for each delegation

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the Cyprus Presidency's first meeting in the Working Group on Animal and Veterinary Questions (Potsdam Group) on Thursday 29th of January 2026.

The Cyprus Potsdam Team, are [REDACTED] (chair), [REDACTED] (vice-chair) and [REDACTED] (delegate).

Delegations that intend to raise any further issues under AOB are kindly invited to inform the Council Secretariat (LIFE.3@consilium.europa.eu) with a copy to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by Monday the 26th of January 2026.

The agenda of the meeting is set out in the document CM1186/26.

The Presidency wants to thank the European Commission for its valuable inputs to the agenda and the the General Secretariat of the Council for the support.

The following background information is intended to support Delegations in their preparations and to facilitate the exchange of views on the topics to be discussed during the meeting on the 29th of January 2026.

1. Presentation from the Cyprus Presidency

The Presidency will briefly inform about the Cyprus Presidency's program on the Animal and Veterinary issues and provide information on the timetable for the various meetings.

2. Follow up on market access priorities and the Commission's ongoing activities

The Commission will provide written comments to issues presented in document 16193/25 (Outcome of the discussions on market access priorities during the Danish Presidency).

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

3. Brazil:

a) Brazil reaction to the changes in the identification and health marking of products of animal origin in the EU

The Commission will inform Delegations on the reply letter that Brazil has sent to the Commission on 18 December 2025 about the changes in the EU of the identification and health marking of products of animal origin imported from the EU.

Delegations are invited to consult note WK 39/2026 INIT.

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

b) Preparation of the next SPS mechanism in Brasilia in March 2026

The Commission will inform Delegations on the state of play of preparation of the next SPS mechanism in Brasilia planned in March 2026.

Delegations will be invited to raise any relevant issues.

c) State of play of the EU exports, including the updating of the SPS matrix of the MADB

The Commission will provide information of the state of play for EU exports and will invite Delegations to update the SPS matrix in the MADB.

Delegations will be invited to raise questions.

4. China: Report on meeting with China's GACC on new Decree 280

The Commission will inform Delegations on the seminar with the General Administration of China Customs organized in Beijing on 18 November 2025.



Delegations are invited to consult note WK 17322/2025 INIT.

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

5. South Korea:

a) Pet Food Import Health Requirements (IHR)

The Commission will present any pending issues relating with the new South Korea's Import Health Requirements (IHR) for pet food that will enter into force by the end of December 2027.

Delegations are encouraged to share feedback and report any trade implications.

b) Status of the implementation of the new harmonized certificates

The Commission will provide the feedback received from Member States regarding the proposed timelines of the implementation of the new harmonized certificates.

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

6. United Arab Emirates: GSO standards

The Commission will inform about the feedback received from Member States on their experience with the GSO standards, ensuring access to and compliance with them.

Delegations will be invited to present their comments and questions.

7. South Africa:

a) "National Strategy on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regionalisation"

The Commission will inform about the feedback received from Member States on the South African document named "National Strategy on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Regionalisation".

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

b) State of play of the EU exports

The Commission will be invited to give an update on the state of play for EU exports and will invite Delegations to update the MADB.

Delegations will be invited to share their views.



8. Indonesia: Information about a study tour on Halal certification

The Commission will inform about a study tour on halal-related market practices between the European Union and Indonesia.

Delegations are invited to consult note WK 946/2026 INIT.

Delegations will be invited to present their comments and questions.

9. Mexico: Preparation of the upcoming SPS Subcommittee in March 2026

The Commission will inform Delegations about the preparation of the upcoming SPS Subcommittee planned in March 2026.

Delegations will be invited for an exchange of views.

10. WTO SPS Committee: Information on the upcoming WTO SPS Committee on 11-13 March 2026

The Commission will inform Delegations on the upcoming WTO SPS Committee to be held from the 11th to the 13th of March 2026.

11. Any other business (AOB)

a) Animal health situation in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

Cyprus will present the state of play concerning Foot and Mouth disease in the areas not under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Delegations will then be invited to raise their questions.



Explanations of the pictures of the flash (from left to right)

1) Halloumi (Greek: χαλλούμι) is the national cheese of Cyprus and for more than 1500 years it has been a key component of the local diet. It is a white semi-hard cheese with a distinctive layered texture, made from sheep's or goat's milk, or a mixture of these with or without cow's milk. Halloumi is the only semi-hard cheese that does not melt in high temperatures making it ideal for grilling and frying. Fresh halloumi can also be consumed raw.

The flavour of authentic Cypriot Halloumi is the result of a combination of factors such as the warm climate and the fodder that the island produces for animals. Since 2021 halloumi is registered as a Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) product.

2) Anari (Greek: αναρή) is a fresh, soft creamy cheese with a low-fat quantity and high in protein. It is a by-product of the halloumi-making process, created by reheating the remaining whey. It can also be found in a dry form which is used grated on pasta and in salads.

