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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Ministerial Conference on lumpy skin disease (8-9 September 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria)
- Information from the Bulgarian delegation, supported by the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Bulgarian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 14-15 November 2016.

**Ministerial Conference on lumpy skin disease
8-9 September 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria**

A ministerial conference on the Lumpy skin disease of cattle was held in Sofia on September 8-9, 2016.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency in close cooperation with the European Commission. The conference was attended by the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, and representatives of the Directorate-General “Health and Food Safety” of the European Commission, high level representatives from 19 countries (Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine), the European Food Safety Authority and scientists.

The main objective of the conference was to facilitate a discussion with a view to reaching a common approach to fighting the disease at national, regional and European level. The measures against the disease are extremely important not only for the affected countries or for those who are in immediate risk, but for the EU as a whole. The emergence of such an exotic disease necessitates an assessment of the readiness of each country, respectively of the EU, to meet the threat, coupled with reassessment of the protective measures (for live animals and products) in connection with the disease, implementation of a modern policy for disease control, guarantees for sustainability and reduction of the disease’s impact on trade, without compromising the safety or endangering the health of countries which are free of the disease.

This considerable challenge can be met only by coordinated EU and international efforts through enhanced international initiatives and support, like the one provided by OIE.

In view of the above, Bulgaria believes it is important for the Council be acquainted with the conclusions of the conference.