



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 February 2013

6688/13

VETER 13

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Delegations
Subject: Working methods of the CVO Working Party

Delegations will find attached a Presidency note in preparation of the discussion on the working methods of the CVO Working Party.

In follow-up to the January meeting, the Presidency would like to come back on the working methods of the CVO Working Party.

In addition to the discussion of strategic matters in the veterinary field, the Coreper mandate for the Working Party (see doc 16069/03) defines the following main axes of activity:

1. and 2. general guidelines before and examination of key technical elements after work done by technical working parties;
3. cooperation in the drafting of the work programme;
4. key questions to bi- and multilateral discussions with third countries.

The CVO WP has fulfilled its broad mandate along all these axes:

- as to its contribution to general policy questions, see the list attached in the Annex;
- direct input to technical working parties was regularly given for important files such as the Hygiene package, avian influenza or more recently legislation on maximum residue levels of veterinary drugs, Bluetongue and EID;
- the work programme is discussed at the beginning of each Presidency and frequently completed via AOB points introduced by individual delegations and subsequently taken up as formal discussion items (such as African swine fever, private standards or the present agenda item);
- the establishment of EU positions in multilateral organisations - in particular OIE - and in third country relations are a regular item on the agenda (as to the interplay between CVOs and the Potsdam WP, see doc. 9605/08 ADD 1 REV 1).

In addition, the CVO WP has been successfully used in the past as a forum for presentation of the various approaches chosen by individual Member States' to specific policy questions, such as assistance to third countries in the veterinary field or cost and responsibility sharing systems.

Specific seminar-like discussions on topics of general interest, based on presentations by experts, have been a frequent feature in particular at the occasion of out-of-Brussels CVO meetings, sometimes leading to formal CVO conclusions as a follow-up.

Particularly in view of the huge amount of legislative work in the pipeline and experience gained in the handling of third country relations, the Presidency deems it very appropriate to take up the suggestion made by members of the WP and launch a discussion on how to make best use of CVOs' contribution to Council's work.

In order to structure the debate, the Presidency would ask CVOs to reflect upon the following questions:

- Are there questions of general policy which would merit particular attention by CVOs outside the range of legislative proposals soon to be presented (Animal Health package, zootechnics, Hygiene package revision, cloning, veterinary medicine)?
- For such topics, should more systematic recourse be taken to seminar-like discussions based on introductory presentations?
- In the context of expected legislative proposals on animal health / official controls / expenditure in the veterinary field, which questions of over-arching importance might be particularly appropriate for definition of general guidelines by CVOs?
- Are there topics of general interest which would call for a series of presentations by individual delegations, followed by joint debate?
- Should the preparation of EU positions in third country relations in the veterinary field, and in particular the workflow between CVOs and the Potsdam WP, be re-examined?

Recent examples of CVO conclusions
or contributions to Council conclusions in the veterinary field

[14981/12

*Council conclusions on the follow up to the adoption of a standard setting maximum residue levels (MRLs) on ractopamine by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 35th session]*¹

[10347/12

*Council conclusions on the impact of antimicrobial resistance in the human health sector and in the veterinary sector – a “One Health” perspective]*²

10478/12 + ADD 1

Council conclusions on the Protection and Welfare of Animals

16634/11

CVO conclusions on the prevalence and eradication of African Swine Fever (ASF) and other animal infectious diseases in the third countries neighbouring the EU

10157/11

Revision of Council Decision 2009/470/EC - CVO comments on the feasibility study with a view to develop a harmonised EU framework for Cost and Responsibility Sharing Schemes (CRSS)

8606/11 + ADD 1 + REV 1

Council conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Honeybee Health

15620/10 + ADD 1 + REV 1

Council Conclusions on the welfare of dogs and cats

¹ Mostly prepared by Codex Alimentarius WP

² Mostly prepared by joint WG Health and Veterinary Attachés

14867/10

CVO conclusions on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

13889/10 + ADD 1 + REV 1

Council conclusions on the TSE Road Map 2

9547/10

CVO conclusions on animal disease surveillance systems in the EU

9085/10

CVO conclusions on the impact of Community rules on the competitiveness of the agricultural sector

7817/10

CVO conclusions on coordination for meetings in the framework of international organisations

7814/10

CVO conclusions on effectiveness of the Veterinary Fund

15000/09 + REV 1 + REV 2

CVO conclusions on a new Community Animal Health Policy

14299/09 + ADD 1

Council conclusions on the Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the experience gained from the application of the hygiene Regulations

6430/09 + ADD 1

Council conclusions on a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

17169/08 + ADD 1

Council conclusions on Safety of imported agricultural and agri-food products and compliance with Community rules

15429/08 + REV 1

Draft reply to the Director of EFSA concerning the EFSA draft strategic plan 2009-2013

14438/08

CVO conclusions on modernisation of sanitary inspection in slaughterhouses

14437/08

CVO conclusions on strengthening the health surveillance and control mechanisms of the Euro-Mediterranean zone countries

9605/08 + ADD 1 + REV 1

CVO conclusions on practical arrangements concerning the Potsdam Group

6898/08 + ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD 3

CVO conclusions in the framework of the "Adelbrecht Process" on the Community Animal Health Strategy

15481/07 + ADD 1

Council conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a New Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013) where "Prevention is better than cure"

13174/06

CVO conclusions on the evolution of the avian influenza epidemic in the EU and the necessary precautionary measures for preventing the disease in the near future
