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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Lumpy skin disease preventive measures in the Republic of Croatia –
current concerns
- Information from the Croatian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a request from the Croatian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 6 March 2017.

Lumpy skin disease preventive measures in the Republic of Croatia – current concerns

Due to the outbreaks of Lumpy skin disease (LSD) in the neighbouring countries, the Republic of Croatia has implemented the LSD strategy (File No: 322-01/16-01/762) with subsequent preventive vaccination of the entire cattle population. The preventive vaccination was agreed with the European Commission and vaccination programme was approved by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 of 15 November 2016 approving the vaccination programmes against lumpy skin disease submitted by the Member States. Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/2008 of 15 November 2016 concerning animal health control measures relating to lumpy skin disease in certain Member States, laying down animal health control measures in relation to lumpy skin disease in the listed Member States or parts thereof, was published in November 2016 and afterwards implemented in the EU.

Following LSD Strategy and in line with Decision (EU) 2016/2008, Croatia vaccinated 432 550 heads of cattle in 2016. This action successfully stopped LSD infection from spreading to other Member States. This was highlighted several times at the EU level as an effective preventive measure for the EU.

During the vaccination campaign, Croatia was faced with significant losses due to vaccination with live vaccine: increased morbidity and mortality of cattle and significant reduction of milk production. Reduced milk production loss alone is estimated at 4.85 million EUR. Because of such high losses, farmers are very concerned about new vaccination campaign in 2017.

In addition, according to the Article 6 of the Decision (EU) 2016/2008, no movement is possible from the herd if LSD vaccination of any animal was performed in the period less than 28 days before movement. Also, there is no foreseen derogation for movement from the herd in which all animals are not vaccinated against LSD. As a consequence, the biggest problems occur at dairy farms, from which calves and male cattle are moved frequently and many new-born calves should be vaccinated within certain deadline. Derogation is only foreseen in case of movement for the reason of emergency slaughter.

Faced with such constraining provisions of Decision (EU) 2016/2008 and with considerable economic impact on the agriculture, especially milk sector, Croatia is considering the possibility to cease LSD vaccination from 2018.

Taking into account everything mentioned above, Croatia proposes that the Commission, as a short term measure, considers amending Decision (EU) 2016/2008 in order to foresee the possibility of movement between herds, as well as of dispatch to regular slaughter, even in cases where not all cattle (new-born calves born from the immune mothers) at the farm was LSD vaccinated, having in mind that Croatia is a LSD free country (with vaccination).

More specifically, Croatia would like to ask the Commission for the following:

- to consider the possibility to compensate the full vaccine cost without ceiling of 1,1 EUR per vaccine dose, since within ongoing procurement procedure the lowest price offered by the bidders is 1,5 EUR;
- to consider the possibility for compensation of the losses (mortality and production losses) due to LSD vaccination for both vaccination campaigns in 2016 and 2017 or to foresee other solutions for this issue;
- to consider amending Decision (EU) 2016/2008 for year 2018 and include “exit” strategy for movement of vaccinated cattle within the EU when vaccination will not be performed anymore.
