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VETER 64

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
Subject:	Attendance of third parties at the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 19-20 June 2023 <i>- Approval</i>

1. In accordance with its mandate agreed by Coreper¹, the Working Party on Animal and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers) (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Party”) is responsible for a range of topics in the veterinary field, including preparation for discussions in relevant international organisations. The next meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 19-20 June 2023.
2. On the first day of the meeting, the discussions of the Working Party will focus on ways to enhance the “One Health” collaboration of the veterinary authorities with their counterparts in the public health and environment sectors in order to detect and control diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans. In order to set the general context for the discussion, the Presidency plans to invite representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), of the World Health Organisation (WHO), of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), to give presentations on their work in this field.

¹ 8728/21

3. On the second day, the Working Party will prepare written comments on the report of the meeting of the WOHAT Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. It is in the EU's interest that its positions on WOHAT standards be supported by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries. To facilitate the alignment of their positions with those of the EU, the Presidency proposes to invite representatives of the EFTA countries to attend the meeting during this specific agenda item.
4. On the second day of the meeting, the Presidency also plans to invite representatives of EFSA to present EFSA's recent scientific opinions on the welfare of dairy cows and of calves. Such a presentation is relevant for the Working Party in preparation of the discussion on the expected legislative proposals concerning animal welfare.
5. Furthermore, in order to exchange information on the consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine in the animal health epidemiological situation, the Presidency is planning to invite representatives of the Ukrainian veterinary authorities on the second day of the meeting, to give a presentation on the current situation in the veterinary field in Ukraine.
6. The Presidency considers that the above invitations are in the interest of the Council and in line with the framework applicable to the occasional attendance of third parties at meetings of the Council or its preparatory bodies, as set out in the comments on the Council's Rules of Procedure.
7. In this context, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the above third parties at the meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Matters (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 19-20 June 2023 during the specific agenda items referred to in points 2 to 5 of this note.