



Brussels, 30 June 2023
(OR. en)

11034/23

VETER 73

'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 12 July 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.
2. The next meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 12 July 2023. The agenda of that meeting includes two topics concerning the World Organisation for Animal Health: preparation for the upcoming elections of its specialist commissions and a discussion on its “Observatory” programme.
3. It is in the EU’s interest that its positions related to the World Organisation for Animal Health 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 the two topics mentioned above.

¹ 8728/21

4. In addition, the Presidency proposes to invite two representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health to share information on the state of play and plans regarding the “Observatory” Programme as an introduction to the discussion on that programme.
 5. 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.
 6. In this context, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the following third parties at the meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Matters (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 12 July:
 - representatives of the EFTA countries, during the agenda items related to the World Organisation for Animal Health, and
 - two representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health, to give a presentation on the “Observatory” programme of that organisation.
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