



Brussels, 23 October 2023
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VETER 97

'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 8 November 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 international aspects. The next meeting of the Working Party is scheduled for 8 November 2023.
2. The agenda of that meeting includes an item related the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) addressing the preliminary results of a survey concerning the use of zoning for certain animal diseases and the outcomes of the meeting of the WOAH Council held in September 2023. As it is in the EU’s interest that its positions related to WOAH be supported by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member countries, the Presidency proposes to invite their representatives to attend the meeting during that item in order to facilitate the alignment of their positions with those of the EU. In addition, the Presidency proposes to invite two representatives of WOAH to present the preliminary results of the above mentioned survey.

¹ 8728/21

3. Under Any Other Business on the agenda of that meeting, the Presidency foresees a presentation of an EU funded project within the Commission's regional Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) concerning the capacity building of veterinary and plant services in the Western Balkans. The project is implemented by Agriconsulting Europe S.A. (AESA) and IZSAM G. Caporale Teramo. The Presidency proposes to invite a representative of AESA to make the presentation.
 4. 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.
 5. In this context, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the above mentioned third parties at the meeting of the Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Matters (Chief Veterinary Officers) on 8 November 2023.
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