



The new EU Regulation on Animal Health (Animal Health Law)

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This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission

EU Animal Health Law

- The main instrument to implement the objectives of the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)
- More risk based, proactive, preventive behaviour
- Horizontal principles and rules for transmissible diseases
- Simplify existing rules:
 - Numerically
 - In substance
- Align with Lisbon Treaty
- Fit for decades to come
- No revolution, but evolution



A new **Animal Health Strategy**
for the European Union (2007-2013) where
“Prevention is better than cure”



The Animal Health Law (AHL)

- **From** a fragmented legislation of ca. 40 Directives and Regulations
- **To** a single and robust legal framework for animal health
- Clearly laying down **responsibilities** of keepers, operators, veterinarians, competent authorities, etc.
- **Risk based approach**: Categorization/prioritisation of diseases for EU intervention
- Improved **response to emerging diseases**



What is in the AHL?

- ***Transmissible animal diseases in:***
 - Kept and wild animals (not only production animals) and their products
 - Terrestrial, **aquatic** and other animals
- ***Animal health rules for:***
 - **Disease prevention (disease awareness, registration, traceability, biosecurity)**
 - **Disease control and eradication**
 - **Intra-EU movements and entry into the EU of animals and animal products**
 - **Emergency measures**
- ***Supplementing rules needed to ensure complete implementation***
 - **Detailed provisions of the current Directives and Regulations included in delegated and implementing acts**



AHL – New elements

- *More prevention:*
 - **Biosecurity at farms, in transport, assembly, at borders**
 - **Enhanced surveillance, disease notification and reporting**
 - **Clearer policy for the use of vaccines** and in relation to disease control & diagnosis **also some other veterinary medicines**
- *Easier and safer trade:*
 - **Enhanced convergence with international standards on animal health (OIE)**
 - **Compartmentalisation**
 - **Requirements for export**
 - **Added flexibility**



What is out of Animal Health Law ?

- *Not in scope:*
 - **Welfare of animals**
 - **Pathologies of individual animals**
 - **Veterinary checks, controls**
 - **EU veterinary expenditure**
 - **Feed, medicated feed**
 - **Veterinary medicines**
 - **Veterinary education**
- *In scope but specific rules remain in place:*
 - **ABPs**
 - **TSE rules**
 - **Certain zoonoses (e.g. Salmonella)**

Opportunities of AHL

- *Enabling a better response to new threats*
- *Reduce administrative burdens/costs, where involved risks permit so*
- *More flexibility to take account of:*
 - **Climate changes, emerging risks**
 - **International standards, scientific developments**
 - **Local circumstances, safer trade flows**
 - **Different sizes and types of establishments, animal production**
 - **Systems providing equal guarantees (for animal movements, identification & registration, etc.)**



Animal Health Law:

IMPACT ON AQUACULTURE

AHL and Aquatic animals: the approach






- *Keep principles of Directive 2006/88/EC*
- *Align to the Lisbon Treaty*
- *Harmonise with terrestrial animals where appropriate*
- *Simplify and clarify where appropriate*
 - **fewer definitions**
 - **simplified rules – details in delegated/implementing acts**
 - **added flexibility (in particular as regards movements and disease control)**
 - **Reduce administrative burden (registration, approval)**



General responsibility for animal health

- *Operators*
 - Responsibility for animal health and **biosecurity**
 - **Basic knowledge of animal health**
- *Veterinarians/aquatic animal health professionals*
- *Member States*
 - **Responsibility for animal health**
 - **Adequate resources, laboratory capacity, animal health services, training**

Surveillance and Disease Freedom

- *Operators surveillance (incl. "animal health visits")* 
- *Competent authority general surveillance for timely detection and information collection* 
- *Notification & reporting*
- *Surveillance programmes* 
- *Eradication programmes* 
- *Disease freedom (incl. compartments)* 

2006/88:

Risk based
animal health
surveillance

Surveillance
programme

Eradication
programmes

**In line with
OIE**

Disease listing and categorisation

- ***Disease listing and categorization/prioritisation:***
 - listing of diseases requiring EU intervention
 - which measures to be applied for which diseases
- ***Listed diseases for:***
 - **Disease preparedness, awareness and disease control measures**
 - **Disease eradication & disease freedom**
 - **Animal health requirements for movements including "international trade"**
 - **Disease notification & reporting, surveillance**
- ***Response to emerging diseases***



2006/88/EC:
Disease list
and criteria in
Annex IV



Disease Prevention, Preparedness and Control

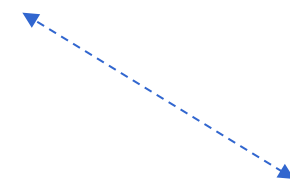
- *Disease preparedness*
 - **Contingency plans**
 - **Simulation exercises**
- *Vaccination – general principles*
- *Vaccine and diagnostic banks*
- *Control measures: “A” diseases (“exotic diseases”)*
- *Control measures: “B” and “C” diseases*



More flexibility

Registration, approval, traceability

- *Registration of aquaculture establishments*
- *Approval of aquaculture establishments and disease control food establishments*
- *Record keeping*
- *Register of establishments*
- *Less administrative burden:*
 - Registration or approval **of a group of establishments as a single entity** (epidemiologically linked area and biosecurity regime, etc.)



2006/88/EC:
Authorisation
of aquaculture
production
business and
processing
establishments

Movements of aquatic animals

- *Movement* (=placing on the market)
 - **Live aquatic animals**
 - **Products of aquaculture origin other than live aquaculture animals**
- *Principles for movements are the same!*

But added flexibility

In conclusion

- *Animal health Regulation builds upon the good experiences of the existing legislation*
- *Provides:*
 - **Solid ground for healthier animals and humans**
 - **Clearer and better understood framework for operators, citizens and non-EU countries**
- *Provides new elements for more:*
 - **Competitive and sustainable livestock and aquaculture sectors**
 - **Confident consumers**
- *On movements:*
 - **Provides flexibility, where possible to release unnecessary administrative burdens and costs**

Thank you for your attention

