

Report 2016/17 of the Advisory Committee to the EEA

The past year has been an annus horribilis for the small-breeders in Europe - a terrible year. Two epidemics went through Europe, the HPAI of the type H5N8 with the feathered and RHDV2 with the hairy. Both epidemics led to high death rates in almost all European countries.

Exhibitions were canceled, animals had to be imprisoned, rabies vaccine was available from French production since 2015, but was not allowed for injection in all countries. Once again, the federal system in Europe has led to different practices.

This situation was of great importance to the Advisory Board. 128 events were to be handled by the chairman alone. The most important information for the countries and the divisions has been set up in time in the three languages of the EE. As our media commissioner fell out, the chairman received support from Dr. Rey-Bellet, Hans Zürcher, Esther Huwiler and Gion Gross. Thank you very much.

Our response to the EK in Brussels on the initiation of research on the dissemination of the AI and on the leveling of the valid directive 2005/94 / EC has been answered two times:

A letter of 30.1. with the communication that the directive allows "to refrain from killing birds in non-commercial situations if the appropriate conditions are met, such as the risk assessment in the county concerned, safe erection and observation, etc." These possibilities were too little used by the veterinarians because most of these from the quest for absolute safety do not do as much as necessary, but as much as possible. In the end this is at the expense of animal welfare. Some things could be regulated in a different way if the veterinarians had courage for the responsibility. In this context, I would like to remind you that EE carried out its Europaschau 2006 in Leipzig during an epidemic of H5N1 in Europe and all were allowed to participate. For the assumption of responsibility is still to be thanked the office veterinarians.

I could give a lecture on incidents and details in Europe's epidemic, but I give only a few peculiarities without comment: All the preventive measures do not take the wild birds, because they fly freely. It is therefore appropriate for the situation, if, as in Denmark, such findings do not lead to restrictions. This is a

hope for Herring! Cullions of valuable races and protected species are to be prevented if one insists. It is also miraculous, that the supposedly disastrous migratory birds have not visited some countries on their routes. Till Eulenspiegel was the counselor of the authorities in some decisions on prohibitions of exhibition and culling.

The second answer, in the form of the implementation decision EU2017 / 263 of 14 February, does not satisfy us, since the majority of the problems remain unresolved by this decision of the EC. It only contributes to the prevention of general stabling and prohibition of exhibiting by setting high-risk areas.

What shall we do in our dialogue with Brussels? We are all Brussels. Our contacts with the officials of the EK are good, but are not enough, because officials can not decide freely. Our contacts with Parliament are less good. There are no decisions made in our case. We have no direct influence on the real decision-making body, the European Council, because we are not a governmental organ. The Council, as a body of Heads of Government, is virtually the government of the EU. But they can influence their governments, beneficial in the context of measures for their own countries. So, please put pressure on their governments to amend the 12 year old directive on AI. The readiness to do so is evident in Brussels and in many countries. We must use this before the next influenza wave, which is as sure as in humans also with the poultry, when it becomes cold and dark. Unfortunately, it comes at shorter intervals.

For the conversations with the authorities of the countries, we are launching an argumentation in the coming week.

If vaccination is allowed and a vaccine is available as with RHDV2, a vaccination is the best prevention. Unfortunately, large rabbits populations have been the victims of the disease in some countries, because vaccinations were not allowed or could not be carried out. In the meantime the situation has improved, also in Germany. The contradiction between declared animal protection and the hindrance of its implementation in individual measures was again shown. We are grateful to our Advisory Board for Rabbits Dr. Rey-Bellet for information and assistance.

As far as animal protection is concerned, we have achieved some success in the development of checklists to avoid overtypes. Keep it up!

The Advisory Board has received a personal reinforcement by Jan de Bruine NL for the Birds Division. Welcome! Many thanks to his association for taking over the costs.

I would like to thank our President, the Presidium and the divisions for uncomplicated cooperation. I wish you all the best for the future.