

## **Report 2018 to the General Assembly of the EE**

In 2017 and the exhibition season 2017/18 we were free of epidemics that severely affected our work and the exhibition industry. However, there have been cases of HPAI, VHD 2 and young pigeon disease in several countries. The state authorities still react differently in such cases. The advisory board can only advise on insisting. Since politics only reacts under pressure, the expected amendment to the Avian Influenza Regulation has failed to materialize.

In the reporting period, the Chairman of the Advisory Board again processed more than 100 transactions at short notice. It shows that special regulations in countries almost always lead to problems with shipments within Europe.

There were again some difficulties concerning border passages with animals. Unfortunately, we have different legal situations for livestock and pets in the Schengen area and entry into these. For this, we have negotiated with Brussels a working document for the associations, which is available on the homepage of the EE and has proven itself for the target group. It applies to all birds, but not to rabbits and cavies. For these there are no or only national regulations. Cavies can be treated according to EU LEX 32013 for the temporary movement of pets at border crossings. We do not want that.

At the end of April 2018, the veterinary conditions were finally negotiated with the authorities in Denmark. They are almost identical to the animal-friendly and breeder-friendly norms that we had already negotiated for Metz. Also, special regulations of the countries cause problems, especially vaccinations.

In terms of species and animal welfare, there is a general problem in Europe. On the one hand, the existing legal norms for the keeping and breeding of small animals are becoming more and more demanding and detailed in countries, while on the other hand states are doing little or nothing in terms of helping breeders and their organizations in the implementation of the normative. Here we only mention missing research funds, provision and approval of vaccines, specialist qualification of the competent authorities. This general problem can only be solved together if all member associations engage in their countries and exert pressure on the European competent bodies through their country governments.

With regard to animal welfare in breeding, the EE has developed checklists to avoid extreme breeding / over-typing in almost all sectors. This must be implemented consistently.