



Subject

Animal Health Regulation
Delegated regulation, article nr. 18 and 25

Date

5th May 2019

Please find our comments on

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (document SANTE/7016/2018)

It concerns:

Article 18 Information obligation of the competent authority as regards registers of establishments of kept terrestrial animals and hatcheries The competent authority shall include in its register of establishments of kept terrestrial animals and of hatcheries registered with it the following information for each establishment:

- (a) the unique registration number assigned to it;***
- (b) the date of registration with the competent authority;***
- (c) the name and address of the operator of the establishment;***
- (d) the address and geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) of the location of the establishment;***
- (e) a description of its facilities;***
- (f) the type of establishment;***
- (g) the species, categories and numbers of terrestrial animals or hatching eggs which are kept on the establishment;***



(h) the period during which animals or hatching eggs are kept on the establishment if it is not continuously occupied, including seasonal occupation or occupation during particular events;

(i) the health status of the establishment where one has been assigned to it by the competent authority;

(j) the restrictions on movements of animals, hatching eggs or products to and from the establishment, where such restrictions are applied by the competent authority;

(k) the date of any cessation of activity when the operator has informed the competent authority thereof.

Article 25 Record-keeping obligations of operators of establishments keeping poultry and captive birds Operators of registered or approved establishments keeping poultry and operators of establishments keeping captive birds shall record the following information:

(a) the production performances for poultry;

(b) the morbidity rate for the poultry and captive birds on the establishment together with information concerning the cause.

Our organisation underlines in general the necessity of registration of a location where animals are kept for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

For **non commercial bird-keepers** the registration of locations where birds are kept, as laid down in article 18, would become a new obligation in many member states. We talk about millions of locations in the EU where birds are kept for shorter or longer time.

We expect that in implementing acts derogations will be mentioned. However in this delegated regulation nothing is mentioned about derogations for small holders.

There are arguments to doubt the worth of the registration of every bird keeping location for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

1. *Value of registration*

A lot of households keep and breed birds, canaries, parquets, etc. These birds are kept inside or in an aviary. There is no need to registrate these kinds of locations for prevention and



control of animal diseases because these locations form no risk at all.

In the countryside most households keep some poultry. In the prevention and control of animal diseases a member state must take that into account. Registration of all these individual locations doesn't add any value for the prevention and control measures to be taken.

Since HPAI occurs with a certain regularity in the EU member states take measures in the frame of the present-day EU regulation. Individual member states have developed their own risk-based contingency plans to deal effectively with non-commercial bird keepers within the EU framework of regulations.

2. *Practical objections*

The bureaucracy and costs of EU measures need to be balanced with the worth of the registration of all bird keeping locations for the goal to be reached. To keep a registration up to date of millions of locations with fluctuations in well or not keeping birds brings unavoidable bureaucracy and accompanying costs. It is an impossible enterprise for members states and bird keepers to keep an up to date registration. A registration that is not up to date is of no use.

3. *Support*

Today registration of every location where birds are kept is not obliged by EU regulation. Considering the arguments mentioned in point 1 and 2 the support of bird keepers for the (new) obligation must be estimated as very low.

Therefore, we strongly plea for an exception for the registration of **every** location where birds are kept as is formulated in the delegated act and also for the obligations of record keeping by the operators.

We plea to leave it to the member states to formulate in contingency plans risk-based measures for non-commercial bird keepers. There are small differences between member states in today contingency plans who are related to the structure of commercial and non-commercial keeping and breeding of birds in their country. It is important that these flexibility for member states can be continued.



We hope the European Commission is prepared to formulate the possibility of derogations in article 18 and 25 for non-commercial holders (of birds).

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