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
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)
Oportunities 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

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**

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*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