EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis Preparedness in food, animals and plants
Director G

Brussels
SANTE/AM/mko (2024) 9928578

Subject: Enforcement of Regulation 2020/687 with regard to Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) outbreak confirmed in Bulgaria

Dear Dr Patarinski,

Following the meeting between our services, the brief information presented at the meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers today as regards the obstacles faced after the confirmation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) for swiftly enforcing eradication measures under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687([1]) in Bulgaria, I would like to highlight the following points.

PPR is a highly contagious viral disease affecting sheep and goats categorised as a 'Category A disease' under Article 9(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ([2]), for which immediate eradication is required upon its detection.

Bulgaria has confirmed an infection with PPR in a small ruminant establishment, following the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Article 58(1), Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 ([3]) and taking into account of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 ([4]). The laboratory testing was carried out in a national reference laboratory designated in accordance with Article 100 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, listed and published on the EU website: European Union Reference Laboratories - European Commission,

([1]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 64, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj)

([2]) OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj

([3]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 211–340 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj

([4]) OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1–142, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj

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Please note that once PPR infection has been confirmed in accordance with the above provisions, no further confirmatory sampling is necessary, except when additional sampling as part of an official epidemiological investigation in accordance with Article 11 (3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Article 57 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429) is decided by the competent authority.

The right to a second expert opinion under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 applies to documentary reviews or additional testing by another qualified expert and if appropriate another official laboratory, however such requests must not delay the competent authority's obligation to promptly address risks to animal health as provided for in Article 35(4) of the same Regulation.

Given the critical nature of the situation, I urge you to immediately implement the eradication measures, in particular stamping out, laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as further delays jeopardize the national and Union's animal health status.

Please be reassured of our commitment to assist Bulgaria in the management of the PPR infection and please do not hesitate to contact us for further assistance or clarification.

[e-signed]
Bernard Van Goethem

c.c.: F. Reviriego-Gordejo, B.Logar, M. Klemm, D. Dilaveris, A. Miteva (SANTE)