



## The new EU Regulation on Animal Health

Consequences for aquatic animal health

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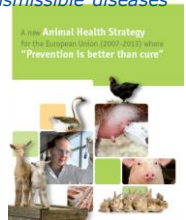
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## EU Animal Health Law

- 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)**



## Opportunities 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 AQUATIC ANIMALS





## 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

Surveillance programme

Eradication programmes

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**

**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**



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