

CC(17)2261:1 – CG/CG/al

Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis
Commissioner for Health and
Food Safety
European Commission
200, rue de la loi
BE-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 20th March 2017

Re: Lumpy skin disease preventive measures in the Republic of Croatia

Dear Commissioner,

Copa and Cogeca note the concerns made by the Croatian Minister during the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 6th March 2017 about Lumpy Skin Disease preventive measures in the Republic of Croatia.

Lumpy skin disease was detected in Greece in 2015 and one year later it was present in Bulgaria. In order to avoid the further spread of the disease, Croatia applied a vaccination programme despite its status as a "free zone". As a consequence, Croatia is now considered as a "free zone with vaccination".

We have been following the spread of the disease in Europe and we are worried about the potential consequences it may have on livestock (milk and beef production). In this context, Copa and Cogeca have supported all efforts undertaken by the Commission's services to prevent the spread and control of the disease.

Furthermore, we want to highlight the value of the actions taken by the Croatian farmers and authorities to prevent the spread of the disease. As you may know, the use of massive vaccination programmes was highly recommended by EFSA¹.

However, even though Croatian farmers have been successful, they are also bearing the cost of this policy. Given the high cost of the vaccines and the high risk for the neighbouring EU countries without such a policy in place, we urge the European Commission to consider compensating the full vaccination cost.

In addition, given that the use of this live vaccine led to higher mortality and morbidity rates, the European Commission should consider compensating Croatian farmers for their production losses.

Please note that a similar letter has been sent to Commissioner Hogan.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Yours faithfully,



Pekka Pesonen
Copa and Cogeca Secretary General

¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4573>