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## **EU-27**

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### **New EU Animal Health Law anticipated in 2010**

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

**Approved By:**

Kelly Stange

**Prepared By:**

Yvan Polet

**Report Highlights:**

In 2007, the EU launched its Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013), which was meant to review and upgrade the Community Animal Health Policy (CAHP). While several pieces of legislation were already approved during the past three years, a proposal for a comprehensive Animal Health Law is expected for 2010. It is still premature to speculate on the potential impact on future U.S. exports of animals and animal products.

## **General Information:**

### **Introduction**

The Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013) was meant to review and upgrade the [Community Animal Health Policy](#) [1] (CAHP) – (See also GAIN [E47096](#) [2] - EC adopts Community Animal Health Policy 2007-13). After three years of preparatory work in the different policy areas, a proposal for a comprehensive new Animal Health Law that will consolidate current existing legislation is expected for 2010. In the meantime, several pieces of EU legislation in the animal health domain have already been approved. It is at present unclear if and what impact on U.S. exports of animal products this new legislation may entail.

### **Four objectives covering nine Policy Areas in the Community Animal Health Policy**

Work on the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013) is centered around 4 main objectives covering 9 policy areas:

- To ensure a high level of public health and food safety by minimizing the incidence of biological and chemical risks to humans.
- To promote animal health by preventing/reducing the incidence of animal diseases, and in this way to support farming and the rural economy.
- To improve economic growth/cohesion/competitiveness assuring free circulation of goods and proportionate animal movements.
- To promote farming practices and animal welfare which prevent animal health related threats and minimize environmental impacts in support of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

A [timeframe](#) [3] for the progress of the CAPH strategy in the 9 policy areas on the DGSANCO website allows following the course of events. [On-line consultations](#) [4] for stakeholders were held during 2009, with one more on administrative burdens ending on March 15, 2010. The nine policy areas cover different aspects of EU animal health:

*Intra-community trade -*

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/intra\\_community\\_trade\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/intra_community_trade_en.htm)

The conditions for trade between the Member States (MS) for live animals and their germinal products are being harmonized. This is particularly important after the EU expanded to 27 MS in recent years and the abolition of the internal borders allows fast intra-EU trade in live animals and their products. As a result, the risk for a rapid spread of animal diseases has also widely increased.

To make EU farmers and citizens aware of their responsibilities, an Animal Health Communication Plan is being implemented, which includes annual conferences on animal health, a [road show](#) [5] to explain changes to stakeholders in the MS, as well as an [Annual Communication Plan](#) [6]

*Preventive animal health measures on imports (live animals, animal products, semen ova and*

*embryos*) -

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/preventive\\_measures\\_imports\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/preventive_measures_imports_en.htm)

In cases of non-compliance with EU legislation, information is circulated to all other Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) through the [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed](#) (RASFF).

*Animal disease control, eradication and monitoring measures* -

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/animal\\_disease\\_control\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/animal_disease_control_en.htm)

In past decades, several animal diseases ravaged through the EU, of which Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Avian Influenza (AI) and Blue Tongue Disease (BT) were the most important. This led the EC to develop and implement [eradication and monitoring programs](#) [7] for a whole list of animal diseases and zoonoses. See also the section on Financial aspects of CAHP below.

*Traceability* - [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/traceability\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/traceability_en.htm)

In case of an animal disease outbreak or a zoonosis, time has proven to be a critical factor in limiting the impact and the spread of the infection. However, this can only be achieved after identification of the infection source, followed by forward and backward trace-back operations. While [traceability](#) [8] has become mandatory for many years, both at the farm as throughout the food chain “from farm to fork”, the development of an online traceability system [TRACES](#) [9] is meant to increase the accessibility and speed of data recovery in case of an emergency.

Because bovines have long been responsible for important outbreaks, EU MS have long ago developed animal identification systems for cattle. To facilitate the exchange of this information between the veterinary authorities of the MS, the Commission has introduced a computerized system, called [ANIMO](#) [10] .

*Animal nutrition, feed additives and residues* -

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/nutrition\\_additives\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/nutrition_additives_en.htm)

Because several major food safety issues were identified to relate to animal feed in past decades, including the BSE and dioxin crisis, the beef hormone scandal or problems with contaminants, feed legislation has been integrated in EU food legislation. A [negative list for feed ingredients](#) [11] and a positive list for [feed additives](#) [12] have been developed and application of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point-principle (HACCP) has become mandatory in feed businesses.

*Veterinary Medicinal products* -

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/medicinal\\_products\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/medicinal_products_en.htm)

The European Pharmaceutical regulatory framework covers the marketing authorization of veterinary medicinal products, be they veterinary vaccines or [veterinary pharmaceuticals](#). Maximum residue limits (MRLs) are established for the protection of human health. The Community marketing authorization granted by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is valid in all the 27 Members States and the European Economic Area (EEA) countries Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway.

*Research* - [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/research\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/research_en.htm)

Research on animal health has been part of successive multiannual Framework Programs (FP) since 1984. In the current 7th FP (2007-2013) [13], Theme 2 "Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology" covers the total food chain.

*Science* - [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/scientific\\_advice\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/scientific_advice_en.htm)

The EC relies on and provides funding for several scientific institutions. Through its various Scientific Panels, the European Food Safety Authority [14] (EFSA), the independent authority responsible for risk assessment, provides scientific support to the EC. In addition, the EC has set up a network of Community and National Reference Laboratories [15] dealing with animal diseases.

*Financial aspects of CAHP* -

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/financial\\_aspects\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis/financial_aspects_en.htm)

Council Decision 90/424/EEC [16] of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field brings together all Community financial measures for the eradication control and monitoring of animal diseases and zoonoses. The EU financial contribution [17] to combat animal diseases including emergency measures and eradication programs is known as the veterinary fund. As an example, Commission Decision 2009/883/EC [18], [19] of 26 November 2009 describes the priorities and provides funding for the 2010 program.

### **New legislation already approved under the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)**

Several pieces of legislation have already been approved and implemented:

- Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 [20] of October 21, 2009 has replaced Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-products.
- Electronic identification of equines was introduced through Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 [21] of 6 June 2008.
- Several updates were made to the EU BSE/TSE legislation as part of the TSE Roadmap [22].

[1] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis\\_cahp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/whatis_cahp_en.htm)

[2] <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200711/146292905.pdf>

[3] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/action\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/action_en.htm)

[4] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/consultation\\_process\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/consultation_process_en.htm)

[5] [http://www.one-health.eu/ee/index.php/en/page/follow\\_the\\_bus\\_tour](http://www.one-health.eu/ee/index.php/en/page/follow_the_bus_tour)

[6] <http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/docs/acp.pdf>

[7] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/index_en.htm)

[8] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/foodlaw/traceability/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/foodlaw/traceability/index_en.htm)

[9] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/traces/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/traces/index_en.htm)

[10] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/animo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/animo/index_en.htm)

[11] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/labelling/prohibited\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/labelling/prohibited_en.htm)

[12] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/feedadditives/registeradditives\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/feedadditives/registeradditives_en.htm)

[13] [http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm)

[14] <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels.htm>

[15] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/laboratories/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/laboratories/index_en.htm)

[16]

[http://europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga\\_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31990D0424&model=g  
uichett](http://europa.eu/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31990D0424&model=g<br/>uichett)

[17] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/financial/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/financial/index_en.htm)

[18] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:317:0036:0045:EN:PDF>

[19]

[http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/EC%20animal%20disease%20eradication;%20control%20and  
%20monitoring%20program%20for%2020%20Brussels%20USEU%20EU-27%2012-2-2009.pdf](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/EC%20animal%20disease%20eradication;%20control%20and<br/>%20monitoring%20program%20for%2020%20Brussels%20USEU%20EU-27%2012-2-2009.pdf)

[20] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:300:0001:0033:EN:PDF>

[21] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:149:0003:0032:EN:PDF>

[22] [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/bse/roadmap_en.pdf)