Animal health and the trade in aquatic animals within and to the European Union

W. DAELMAN *

Summary: The creation of a single European market has significantly extended the scope of veterinary animal and public health legislation. This extension includes aquatic animals, and a comprehensive set of directives and decisions has been developed to ensure free circulation of aquaculture animals and their products, while guaranteeing a high level of animal health. At the same time, and in the same context, other directives have been adopted which organise checks on animals and products within and to the European Union (EU), as well as accompanying financial measures.

Animal health legislation for the movement of aquaculture animals is also based on a number of principles, including the following:

- the definition of important pathogens and their hosts
- zoning (regionalisation)
- the obligation for EU Member States to move animals only from areas or farms with high health status to and between areas and farms with equal or lower health status
- the prescription of a testing regime to improve animal health status in zones or farms.

In addition, disease control prescriptions have been established or are being considered for adoption. These include the establishment of national and EU reference laboratories, as well as the application of contingency plans and the measures to be taken in the event of a disease outbreak.

KEYWORDS: Aquatic animals – European Union – International trade – Regulations.

INTRODUCTION

The Treaty of Rome, which established the European Community (EC) in 1957, included specific provisions for enhancing agricultural performance and the objective of creating a single market throughout the Community by removing obstacles to trade. From the very early days, veterinary legislation has played its part in achieving these aims, seeking to maintain or improve the animal health status of livestock within

* Principal Administrator, European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture, 86, rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels, Belgium.
the Community, by ensuring that food of animal origin is safe for consumers, and by covering breeding and herd books and ensuring animal welfare. The first Community veterinary legislation dates from 1964. The approach throughout has been to base veterinary legislation on the best available scientific evidence.

The Single European Act of 1987 restated the long-standing objective of a high status for animal and public health within the Community, and took the concept of removing obstacles to trade a step further, with a major programme to establish the internal market.

For the veterinary sector, this involved a major review of the legislation to remove obstacles to trade within the Community, as well as a substantial programme of new legislation to cover animals and products not previously covered by Community legislation, and to provide the necessary mechanisms for the proper functioning of the internal market. Legislation was also required on imports from third countries, to ensure that such imports met animal and public health standards of the Community.

As a consequence, the single market programme significantly extended the scope of veterinary legislation and led to the completion of a comprehensive set of legislation covering animal and public health, animal husbandry and animal welfare requirements. This extension involved, inter alia, the inclusion under Community veterinary legislation of horses, sheep and goats, fish and bivalve molluscs, and the products derived from these animals. New legislation was also adopted on the veterinary checks to be conducted on live animals and animal products for trade within the Community (following the abolition of checks at internal borders), on imports from third countries, and concerning expenditure in the veterinary field (thus establishing a basis for the Community contribution to expenditure by Member States under certain programmes, e.g. for disease control and eradication).

Most veterinary legislation is in the form of ‘Directives’; these laws are binding on the Member States with regard to the result to be achieved, but leave each Member State free to determine the means for implementing the measures in national legislation. ‘Decisions’ are laws which are binding entirely on those to whom they are addressed (i.e. one or more Member States), and implementing legislation at the national level is not normally required. ‘Regulations’ are binding and directly applicable in all Member States without any implementing of national legislation.

**TECHNICAL BASIS**

European Union (EU) veterinary legislation is based on science, and takes particular account of the provisions established by recognised international organisations. These include the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as organisations such as the International Standards Organisation. The EU, both directly and through Member States, plays a full role in the work of these international organisations. In the absence of specific references from these bodies, other scientifically-recognised recommendations or methods are used.

The EU sponsors a wide variety of scientific and technical work through Scientific and Research Programmes, often including work needed to form the basis for subsequent legislation. The results of such work are published in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the studies, e.g. in *The European Commission Series on*
Information in Agriculture, in Agriculture Research Seminar Proceedings, in contracted publications on current topics in veterinary medicine and animal science, or in specialised scientific journals.

When establishing proposals, the European Commission seeks advice from representatives of all sections of society, e.g. governments of Member States, the scientific world, professional organisations, industry, commerce, consumers, etc. In particular, the Commission has its own scientific committees from which advice may be sought. These include the Scientific Veterinary Committee, the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition, the Scientific Committee for Food, and the Scientific Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products. The work of these committees is publicly available, and forms the basis for legislative proposals presented to the Council of Ministers or to Commission Committees.

In addition to the scientific work involved in developing proposals for legislation, the EU has a network of recognised scientific bodies, notably Reference Laboratories, which help to maintain scientific standards. The Reference Laboratories were established to monitor standards, through routine ‘blind’ trials to test the efficiency and repeatability of testing by individual national laboratories, to ensure that the most up-to-date diagnostic methods are used in a standardised way throughout the EU. The work of Reference Laboratories includes the diagnosis of the principal animal diseases, and testing for residues.

The fundamental approach to formulating legislation includes the establishment of certain specific requirements — especially for the protection of the EU from certain exotic diseases or diseases transmissible to humans. Such requirements must be established on the basis of risk assessment and, if appropriate, an opinion from a scientific committee on the possible spread of serious transmissible diseases, or of diseases transmissible to humans, which could result from the movement of a product. The risk should be evaluated not only for the species from which the product originated, but also for other species which could carry the disease or become a focus of disease or risk to animal or human health.

**BASIC PRINCIPLES**

The objective of the EU in legislating with regard to trade in animals is to attain and maintain a high animal and public health status. With the advent of the single European market, a number of new approaches had to be developed, and existing mechanisms and principles reviewed. The overriding principle still remains: that measures should be based on the best available scientific knowledge. A high health status is the objective at all stages in the production of animals and animal products, from the farm through transport, storage, preparation, processing, etc.

With the creation of the single market, the basic aim is the establishment of a single EU standard for any individual product or animal, thus enabling such products or animals to circulate freely throughout the EU. Provision is made to recognise higher standards, however, such as the absence of a disease in a specific geographical area of the EU.

The EU operates a regionalisation policy for animal diseases, through the application of measures to control and eliminate animal disease within and around an affected area. Member States each have contingency plans to deal with outbreaks of
disease, to enable control to be swiftly established and to enable movements to continue from the 'free' area.

With the suspension of checks at internal frontiers, the necessary checks are conducted at the place of origin/despatch, with the possibility of spot-checks at the destination.

The EU imports a wide variety of animals and products from third countries. The basic principle underlying import conditions is that the animal or product must satisfy health guarantees at least equivalent to those for EU production. Third countries from which imports are authorised are listed according to the various animals and products. For live animals, provisions exist which allow the EU to establish specific import conditions. For each species – and for related products – provision is included that third countries wishing to export to the EU must satisfy either EU conditions, or conditions which are at least equivalent.

All live animals and products are checked at the external EU frontier before release into free circulation to ensure that EU conditions have been respected. An information system ‘SHIFT’ is in development, which will link up all the authorised Border Inspection Posts, thus enabling information on rejections, etc., to be transmitted swiftly.

Safeguard provisions enable the European Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to take necessary actions over and above the normal provisions of the legislation should a serious animal or public health situation arise, whether within the EU or in a third country.

It is in this general context that the EU has adopted a number of Directives and Decisions which are aimed at applying the general principles, set out above, to the aquaculture sector. The relevant Directives and Decisions are described below.

**SPECIFIC LEGISLATION**


*Definition of important diseases and their susceptible species*

In deciding the diseases for which regulations must be established, attention has been paid to the seriousness of the diseases and the likelihood of their spreading throughout the EU via commercial transfers (1). Three categories of diseases have been identified, as described below.

*List I diseases*

Diseases in List I are exotic to the EU, and would have a serious negative impact on aquaculture if introduced. The presence of a disease on List I implies that the Member States are prepared to take eradication measures should the disease occur in their territory. The only disease on List I at present is infectious salmon anaemia (ISA). The absence of other diseases (e.g. enzootic haematopoietic necrosis, piscirickettsiosis, oyster velar disease, etc.) from List I does not mean that these diseases are not exotic to the EU. A great number of diseases listed in the OIE *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* do not occur in the EU (6), and measures will be taken to prevent their
introduction. To date, however, no decision has been taken at EU level regarding measures to be taken in the event of the introduction of these diseases.

**List II diseases**

List II diseases have a serious negative impact on aquaculture. Inclusion in List II means that a disease is present in certain areas of the EU, while other areas are free from the disease. This Directive lays down the rules to prevent the spread of List II diseases to such free areas. In this context, the trade in salmonids is of major importance in the EU, and measures are included to prevent the further spread of infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) through trade. The mollusc diseases, bonamiosis (caused by *Bonamia ostreae*) and marteliosis (caused by *Marteilia refringens*) are classified as List II diseases.

**List III diseases**

Diseases appearing on List III have a negative impact on aquaculture. Member States which are free from such diseases or which have a programme for controlling them may request that additional guarantees be applied when moving aquatic animals or their products into their territory. Although List III contains several diseases, guarantees exist at present only with regard to spring viraemia of carp.

Table I shows the listed diseases and the susceptible species in Annex A to Directive 91/67/EEC (1).

**Approved zones and approved farms**

Directive 91/67/EEC introduces the principle of epizootiological zones which may, after having been submitted to a number of checks, obtain the status of 'approved zone', free from one or more List II diseases (1). This provision applies to continental and coastal areas.

In the case of continental areas, a zone consists of an entire water catchment area. In such areas, a disease may spread rapidly through the environment and may infect wild stocks and aquatic animals in farms which draw their water supply from the same water system.

A continental zone may also consist of several water catchment areas, or part of a catchment area from the source of a waterway to a natural or artificial barrier preventing fish from migrating further downstream. To obtain approved status, all farms in the water catchment area must be placed under the control of an official service. For many large rivers, the controls must be carried out by the official services of more than one administrative unit (provinces, departments, etc.), or even of more than one country.

In the case of coastal areas, a zone is defined as part of the coast or sea, or an estuary with precise geographical limits, which consists of a homogeneous hydrological system.

Although the epidemiological unit is defined as described above, individual farms situated in a non-approved zone may constitute a special case. Under certain conditions, an individual farm may obtain approved status with regard to List II diseases. Such a status may be granted to continental farms, where water is supplied by a well, borehole or spring, and if a natural or artificial barrier to migrating fish
### Table I

**Listed diseases and susceptible species, as laid down in Annex A to European Community Directive 91/67/EEC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease/pathogen</th>
<th>Susceptible species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>List I</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fish</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious salmon anaemia</td>
<td>Atlantic salmon (<em>Salmo salar</em>)</td>
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<td><strong>List II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fish</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia</td>
<td>Salmonid species</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grayling (<em>Thymallus thymallus</em>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>White fish (<em>Coregonus</em> spp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pike (<em>Esox lucius</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turbot (<em>Scophthalmus maximus</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious haematopoietic necrosis</td>
<td>Salmonid species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pike fry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Molluscs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Bonamia ostreae</em></td>
<td>Flat oyster (<em>Ostrea edulis</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Marteilia refringens</em></td>
<td>Flat oyster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>List III</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fish</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious pancreatic necrosis</td>
<td>To be specified in the programme referred to in Articles 12 and 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring viraemia of carp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacterial kidney disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>(<em>Renibacterium salmoninarum</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furunculosis (<em>Aeromonas salmonicida</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enteric redmouth disease (<em>Yersinia ruckeri</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Gyrodactylus salaris</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Crustaceans</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crayfish plague (<em>Aphanomyces astaci</em>)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

exists downstream. Coastal farms must be supplied with water by means of a system which allows the destruction of disease agents.

The checks to which zones and farms must be submitted before obtaining approved status are described in detail in Commission Decisions 92/532/EEC, for IHN and VHS (2), and 94/306/EEC, for bonamiosis and marteiliosis (5). In the case of IHN and VHS, the testing must be maintained for a period of four years, during which all fish farms must be inspected twice a year and fish tested in an approved laboratory. To maintain this status, fish farms must be inspected twice a year and samples must be taken by
rotation in 50% of the farms each year. In the case of bonamiosis and marteliliosi,
health inspections must be carried out at intervals adapted to the development of the
pathogens in question, i.e. once a year after the summer period for M. refringens, and
twice a year (spring/autumn) for B. ostreae. For a given zone, at least three sampling
points must be selected, and their number shall be increased for large zones containing
several discrete areas of cultivation of the susceptible species. Approved status can be
achieved after a period of testing of two years.

Member States may either present the justification for obtaining approved status on
the basis of tests already carried out (historical data) or present a programme to be
implemented which would enable them to obtain the approved status. Such
programmes must specify the practical and legal means by which the competent
authority intends to comply with the EU provisions. Such programmes must be
approved at EU level.

At present, the following approved zones for IHN and VHS have been designated:
- for IHN: Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, the
  Republic of Ireland, Denmark and Brittany (France);
- for VHS: Great Britain (apart from the Isle of Gigha), Northern Ireland,
  Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, the Republic of Ireland, Denmark (partly) and
  Brittany (France).

In addition, ten farms in Germany have obtained approved status.

The following programmes have also been approved: for IHN and VHS in Asturias
(Spain); and for bonamiosis and marteliliosi in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Jersey,
Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the Republic of Ireland and France.

Movement of cultured aquatic animals and products within the European Union

Animals belonging to species susceptible to List II diseases (and their products) may
be moved from areas of high health status to low health status, and between zones and
farms of equal health status in accordance with the principles described below.

When live fish, their eggs and gametes are to be introduced into an approved zone,
they must be accompanied by a movement document certifying that they come from
an approved zone or – depending on the national rules applied in the Member States –
farm. When such animals or products are to be introduced into an approved
farm situated in a non-approved zone, they must be accompanied by a movement
document certifying that they come from an approved zone or farm of the same health
status.

The same principles apply to the relaying in an approved coastal zone of molluscs
belonging to species susceptible to List II diseases. Such molluscs must be
accompanied by a movement document certifying that they come from an approved
coastal zone or from an approved farm situated in a non-approved coastal zone. If they
are to be relaid on an approved farm in a non-approved zone, the molluscs must be
accompanied by a movement document certifying that they come from an approved
coastal zone or from a farm of the same health status as the farm of destination.

With regard to the movement of products for consumption, eviscerated fish are
considered to present only a low, acceptable risk of spreading diseases from an
infected area to a free area, and thus there is no reason to restrict trade in such
products. Slaughtered, eviscerated fish can therefore be moved freely within the EU. Whole fish, however, can only be introduced in an approved zone if they originate from another approved zone.

Live molluscs from a non-approved zone introduced to an approved zone must be delivered either for direct human consumption or to the preserving industry, and not be relaid. Under conditions yet to be defined, exceptions to this rule may be granted.

With regard to List III diseases, European Commission Decision 93/44/EEC established additional guarantees for the introduction of live fish belonging to species susceptible to SVC (as well as their eggs for breeding) into Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Guernsey (3). These species must be accompanied by a certificate confirming that the site of origin is free from this disease. Other details concerning notification of outbreaks of SVC and the classification of infected sites are described in the above Decision.

Movement of species not susceptible to List II diseases

Directive 91/67/EEC takes account of the possibility of passive transfer of List II diseases via movement of aquatic animals not susceptible to these diseases from a non-approved zone to an approved zone (1). Article 14 introduces guarantees to prevent such passive transfers and states that live fish, their eggs and gametes belonging to non-susceptible species must, in the event of such a movement, be accompanied by a movement document certifying that they originate from a zone of the same health status, from an approved farm in a non-approved zone or from a non-approved farm in a non-approved zone (on condition that such farms do not contain fish belonging to the susceptible species and are not connected with a watercourse or with coastal or estuarine waters). The same conditions apply to introductions onto approved farms, and to the movement of molluscs not belonging to species susceptible to List II diseases.

Exceptions may be granted if there is practical and/or scientific evidence that no such passive transmission of disease occurs when moving cultured aquatic animals, their eggs and gametes, of a species not susceptible to List II diseases, from a non-approved zone to an approved zone. At present, scientific opinions are being prepared regarding the movement of bivalve molluscs other than flat oysters – in particular, Crassostrea gigas and mussels (Mytilus edulis and M. galloprovincialis) and elvers.

Movement of wild aquatic animals, and their eggs and gametes

The movement of wild aquatic animals is also the subject of requirements in Article 14 of Directive 91/67/EEC (1). When introduced into an approved zone or farm, such animals must be accompanied by a movement document certifying that they originate from an approved zone. When such animals are caught in deep sea waters and are to be used for breeding in approved zones or farms, they must be placed in quarantine under the supervision of the relevant official service.

Imports from third countries

The rules governing imports of cultured aquatic animals and their products from third countries are contained in Articles 19-21 of Directive 91/67/EEC (1). The following conditions must be fulfilled in relation to such imports:
a) Aquaculture animals and products must come from third countries (or parts of countries) appearing on an EU list. These lists take account of various criteria, including the following: the health status of the animals (with particular attention being paid to exotic diseases); the environmental health situation; the regularity and rapidity of the information supplied with regard to the presence of diseases; the rules on the prevention and control of diseases; the structure and powers of the relevant official services; the organisation and implementation of measures to prevent and control diseases; assurances concerning the respect of the EU rules.

b) Health conditions must be defined for each third country depending on the animal health situation in the third country concerned. These may include the following: restriction of imports to animals originating from part of the third country (regionalisation principle); restriction to certain species at any stage of development; prescription of a treatment to be applied to the products (e.g. disinfection of eggs); prescription of the use for which the animals or products are intended; measures to apply after importation (e.g. quarantine).

c) A certificate must be provided, which has been drawn up by the competent authority of the exporting country, certifying that the animals or the products meet the EU requirements.

At present, the establishment of detailed rules on these criteria is under study at EU level. Meanwhile, Member States shall ensure that imports of aquaculture animals and products are subject to conditions which are at least equivalent to those applying to the production and placing on the market of products originating from the EU.


Council Directive 93/53/EEC concentrates on the measures to be taken in case of an outbreak of List I or List II diseases, and contains the following requirements (4):

- A census of all aquaculture farms must be made by the Member States.
- All farms must keep a record of live fish, their eggs and gametes moved into or out of the farm, and of the observed mortalities; this record must be open to scrutiny by the competent authority.
- Certain control measures must be implemented in case of a suspected outbreak of a List I disease, and follow-up measures must be undertaken when the presence of the disease is confirmed. These measures include movement restrictions, and mandatory 'stamping-out' and disinfection measures in the affected farm. Particular attention is paid to the performance of an epizootic investigation.
- Different control measures must be implemented in case of a suspected outbreak of a List II disease, and follow-up measures must be undertaken when the presence of the disease is confirmed. The measures are adapted to the status of the zone or farm where the outbreak occurs. If a Member State wishes to preserve the approved status of a zone or farm, stamping-out measures and other follow-up measures must be taken. If there is an outbreak of a List II disease in a non-approved farm situated in a non-approved zone, such a farm is placed under official supervision to ensure that the only movements from the farm involving live fish or their eggs or gametes are intended either for other farms infected by the same disease or for slaughter for human consumption.
In addition, this Directive prescribes that all testing for the presence of diseases or pathogens is conducted by a laboratory approved by the relevant official service. In each Member State, a national reference laboratory is designated as responsible for the coordination of work in the official laboratories. The Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) (State Veterinary Laboratory, Aarhus, Denmark) is responsible for the coordination of the work of the national reference laboratories. To this effect, the CRL organises workshops and comparative tests to ensure uniform application of the tests prescribed in EU legislation. All the responsibilities of the CRL are clearly described in the Annex to Directive 93/53/EEC (4).

Another task imposed on the Member States under this Directive is the establishment of disease contingency plans, specifying how to implement the control measures of the Directive in the event of an outbreak of a List I disease.


As outbreaks of certain diseases affecting bivalve molluscs can quickly assume epizootic proportions, causing mortality and disturbances on a scale liable to reduce severely the profitability of mollusc farming, and consequently to have an influence on the internal market in bivalve molluscs, it is proposed to establish – at EU level – control measures to be applied in the event of an outbreak of such a disease.

The proposed measures aim to prevent the spread of diseases likely to cause important losses. To this effect, a surveillance system is to be established for mollusc diseases occurring in farms or in natural growing beds. Such a system must enable identification of the sites where problems occur. Samples will have to be taken for examination in an approved laboratory. If the presence of a disease is confirmed, the appropriate official service shall take the necessary actions to control the situation.

To ensure efficient application of the control system, it is further proposed that diagnosis of the diseases be harmonised and be performed under the auspices of approved laboratories, the coordination of which may be assigned to a reference laboratory designated and financed by the EU.

The adoption of these measures by the European Council will ensure that a uniform disease control system is applied throughout the EU.

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SANTÉ ANIMALE ET COMMERCE D’ANIMAUX AQUATIQUES DANS L’UNION EUROPÉENNE. – W. Daelman.

Résumé : La création du marché unique européen a considérablement élargi le champ d’application de la législation vétérinaire sur la santé publique et la santé animale. Cet élargissement s’applique également aux animaux aquatiques ; un ensemble de directives et de décisions a ainsi été mis au point pour assurer la libre circulation des animaux aquatiques et de leurs produits tout en garantissant une qualité sanitaire optimale. Parallèlement et dans le même contexte, d’autres directives ont été adoptées, régissant les contrôles...
effectués sur les animaux et leurs produits, qu’ils soient échangés au sein de l’Union européenne (UE) ou importés dans ses États membres, avec les mesures financières correspondantes.

La législation sur la santé animale, applicable aux animaux aquatiques, se fonde également sur un certain nombre de principes, à savoir :

- la définition des principaux agents pathogènes et de leurs hôtes ;
- le zonage (régionalisation) ;
- l’obligation, pour les États membres de l’UE, de ne procéder à des déplacements d’animaux qu’à partir de régions ou d’élevages présentant un statut sanitaire de haut niveau vers des zones et élevages dont le statut sanitaire est de niveau égal ou inférieur (ou encore entre ces derniers) ;
- la mise en place d’un système de contrôle obligatoire afin d’améliorer la situation sanitaire dans certaines zones ou certains élevages.

De plus, des directives portant sur la prévention des maladies ont été adoptées et d’autres sont à l’étude. Ces dispositions prévoient la désignation de laboratoires de référence, nationaux et communautaires, ainsi que la mise en œuvre de plans d’urgence et les mesures à prendre en cas d’apparition d’une maladie.

MOTS-CLÉS : Animaux aquatiques – Commerce international – Réglementation – Union européenne.

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SANIDAD ANIMAL Y COMERCIO DE ANIMALES ACUÁTICOS EN Y HACIA LA UNIÓN EUROPEA. – W. Daelman.

Resumen: La creación de un mercado único europeo ha extendido de forma significativa el campo de aplicación de la legislación veterinaria relativa a la salud pública y de los animales. Dicha ampliación incluye todo lo relativo a los animales acuáticos. En este sentido, y con el fin de asegurar la libre circulación de animales acuáticos y productos derivados, y de garantizar a la vez su alto nivel sanitario, se ha desarrollado un amplio conjunto de directivas y decisiones. Al mismo tiempo, y en el mismo marco, se han adoptado otras directivas que reglamentan el control de los animales y productos derivados producidos o importados por la Unión Europea (UE). Se han previsto, asimismo, medidas financieras de acompañamiento.

La legislación sanitaria relativa al movimiento de animales acuáticos también se basa en un cierto número de principios, entre los cuales se cuentan los siguientes:

- definición de los patógenos importantes y de sus huéspedes;
- zonificación (regionalización);
- obligatoriedad, para los Estados miembros de la UE, de desplazar animales sólo desde áreas o viveros con un nivel sanitario elevado hacia (y entre) áreas y viveros de igual o inferior nivel sanitario;
- prescripción de un sistema de pruebas para la mejora del nivel sanitario en ciertas zonas o viveros.
Además, se han establecido o están en estudio una serie de normas para el control sanitario, entre ellas la designación de laboratorios de referencia nacionales y de la UE, así como la elaboración de planes de emergencia y el establecimiento de un conjunto de medidas aplicables en caso de brotes de enfermedad.


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REFERENCES


