



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Health and food audits and analysis

ANNEX II

DG(SANTE)/2019-6752 – Mission Plan

PLAN FOR A TAILS MISSION TO

SPAIN

FROM 30 TO 31 JANUARY 2019

**IN ORDER TO ASSIST MEMBER STATES AND THE PIG SECTOR
IN PREVENTING TAIL-BITING AND AVOIDING ROUTINE TAIL-
DOCKING OF PIGS**

Note to the competent authority

This plan is designed to provide information on the scope and depth of the planned mission. It indicates the main areas that the mission team will wish to discuss, and is intended to assist both national authorities, and others, and DG Health and Food Safety in its planning and preparation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The mission will take place in Spain from 30 to 31 January 2019. The mission team will comprise two TAILS experts, one expert from DG Health and Food Safety and one national expert.

The mission team should be accompanied throughout the mission by a representative of the central competent authority. In addition, the availability of representatives of all authorities involved in the controls covered by this mission should be ensured during the meetings.

Animal welfare is a high priority for the Commission, which has decided to target pig welfare as a priority area from a broader set of animal welfare issues. Compliance with the tail-docking provisions remains unacceptably high 27 years after the adoption of the original Directive 91/630/EEC, subsequently replaced by Directive 2008/120/EC. Therefore, DG Health and Food Safety launched a project in 2016 aiming to improve the situation with a three-stage approach.

In the first phase, the Commission produced an overview report on study visits¹, which aimed at giving competent authority experts the opportunity to learn from countries, which successfully rear pigs with intact tails. This was followed by two series of questionnaires to 26 Member States and audits to 5, which collectively cover about 80% of pig production. Subsequently, 26 Member States were requested to provide action plans to improve controls on the prevention of tail-biting and the avoidance of tail-docking. In addition, since 2016 annual meetings were organised by DG Health and Food Safety, in Grange, to discuss the state of play and the way forward. The Commission also produced educational materials for farmers², a Recommendation³ and a Working Document⁴.

We are now entering the second phase of the project where the first step is to visit four Member States with experts from the pig sector that can provide assistance in reviewing and implementing Member States' action plans. At the end of this phase, the Member States will have received significant support and should be well equipped to implement the relevant requirements.

Once the Commission has provided the necessary time and support to the Member States, it will move into the last phase of the project (in 2019). This will consist of traditional audits with follow-up and enforcement, as appropriate.

As this mission is still part of the second phase – designed to assist Member States – it is not an audit and any advisory recommendations drafted by the TAILS team may be considered as peer-to-peer advice. Nevertheless, your services are strongly encouraged to use this opportunity to discuss issues with the experts, give due consideration to their advice and find implementation solutions before phase three of the project begins. We intend to share findings and recommendations, as appropriate, with other Member States and stakeholders in order to facilitate implementation in those Member States, which are not visited during this round.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=101

² https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/pigs/tail-docking_en

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1537182200662&uri=CELEX:32016H0336>

⁴ COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs (C(2016) 1345 final)

2. OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND STANDARDS

The objectives of this mission are to assist Member States' pig sectors and competent authorities in preventing tail-biting and avoiding routine tail-docking, provide support in the transition towards a pig sector that produces pigs with intact tails and share good practices between Member States.

The scope of the mission includes both the competent authorities' and pig industry's activities in preventing tail-biting and thus avoiding the need for tail-docking, such as the action plans, measures and monitoring of progress in reducing tail-biting and avoiding routine tail-docking.

Directives 2008/120/EC, 98/58/EC, Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 and the accompanying staff working document will be used as a reference for this mission – not as audit standards.

3. BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission will be carried out in agreement with the competent authority of Spain – Ministerio de Agricultura Y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (MAPAMA)).

4. AREAS TO BE INCLUDED

4.1 National strategies and action plans on the prevention of tail-biting and avoidance of routine tail-docking.

4.2 Details of pig sector plans/actions, either separately, or working with competent authorities.

4.3 An overview of progress in implementing the plans above – this should include both the competent authorities' and the pig sector's progress, as appropriate, such as official controls, internal audits etc, industry's own controls and any other mechanisms to verify effectiveness of planned arrangements. This overview should have a specific focus on the problems and solutions found during this process highlighting examples of good and best practice.

5. PREPARATION AND ORGANISATION

The mission does not involve on-site visits. The details of the TAILS experts and the national experts and possible observer have not been finalised yet, but these will be communicated to you as soon as they are.

The mission team should be accompanied throughout the mission by a representative of the competent authority. The primary objective of the mission is to provide advice and feedback to stakeholders. Therefore, it will be necessary to engage and encourage their participation.

In order to organise the mission to cover the objectives and scope defined above, the following aspects should be considered in setting up the agenda of the two day meetings proposed below:

Meeting with the competent authority and pig sector stakeholders Day 1

Competent authority personnel should include policy officials responsible for meeting the objectives of the action plan, including those of related departments responsible for agricultural funding, and officials responsible for implementing and monitoring the performance of official controls.

Pig sector stakeholders should be drawn from organisations with an input into meeting the objectives of the competent authorities' action plan and related industry actions directed to the

same or similar objectives. Representatives from sectors responsible for implementing industry actions such as farmers, agricultural consultants, feed companies, slaughterhouses and private veterinarians should be included where relevant.

The meeting agenda should include:

- Very brief introduction of the missions' objectives, scope, agenda etc
- Brief explanation of the national action plans focussing on objectives, measureable targets and deadlines
- Progress report on Implementation of the national action plans
- Discussion on the national action plans/progress report/problems and solutions
- Question and answer session with competent authorities and pig sector stakeholders on rearing pigs with intact tails

Meeting with the competent authority and pig sector stakeholders Day 2

Participants indicated for Day 1 should be invited for Day 2

The meeting agenda should include

- Brief explanation of pig sector plans/actions, either separately, or working with competent authorities, on the prevention of tail-biting and avoidance of routine tail-docking focussing on:
 - Objectives, measureable targets and deadlines of actions related to national action plans:
 - Objectives, measureable targets and deadlines of other related pig sector initiatives
- Progress report on Implementation of pig sector action/action plans
- Discussion on pig sector action plans/progress report
- Question and answer session with competent authorities and pig sector stakeholders on rearing pigs with intact tails
- Closing meeting and preliminary recommendations/feedback

6. INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED

Documentation in points 4.1 to 4.3 should be made available to the mission team, as they become available, in advance of the planned visit but in any case before **9 January 2019**. This will give the team time to assess this information before the mission.

The mission team will take into account the information already received from the competent authority on 18 September 2018 in response to the requests for Action Plans and updates sent by DG Health and Food Safety, in July 2018 [Ares(2018)3922389 - 24/07/2018] and this should be cross-referenced where possible to avoid repetition and unnecessary administration.

The following information should also be available electronically for reference purposes during the meetings and to the mission team on request:

- Competent authority working instructions, manual of procedures, checklists;
- Competent authority/pig sector tools to monitor progress on farm (including animal based indicators such as levels of tail-biting and tail-docking);
- Compliance criteria used in relevant official controls;
- Measures to verify the effectiveness of these official controls;
- Industry guidance for pig farmers;
- Relevant criteria of industry quality assurance programs;
- Relevant content of training for pig farmers / vets / consultants;
- Relevant criteria (if available) for funding of pig farm improvement measures.

In order for the mission team to discuss/answer questions from the competent authority and the pig-sector, these should be solicited in advance by the competent authority and forwarded to the Commission services before **9 January 2019**. Questions should be concise, focus on a single issue, and number not more than 20 in total.

Comments on the proposed points for the agenda and other administrative details should be sent to the [REDACTED], (Tel.: direct line [REDACTED], switchboard: (+353 46) 9061 700. Fax: [REDACTED], e-mail: [REDACTED] and copied to [REDACTED] and xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx

7. LANGUAGE TO BE USED

The language to be used during the course of the mission will be English. Interpreters will be provided by the Commission services.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS

The provisions of Article 339 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union apply to this mission.

9. TAILS ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS

There will be no report of this mission. The advisory recommendations from the TAILS experts will be sent to the competent authority and stakeholder representatives within 5 days of the final meeting. The advisory recommendations will be shared with all Member States.

10. FEEDBACK

The competent authority will be invited to provide feedback on the performance of the mission once it has been completed.