



For the members of the Agricultural Council

Brussels, 16th October 2020

Re: Postponement of the application date of the AHL

Dear Minister,

This letter is sent on behalf of six Livestock related associations regarding the date of implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law').

Article 283 of the AHL sets the date of application of this Regulation and its delegated acts on 21st April 2021. However, despite the considerable work done by the Commission services and Member States experts to prepare these delegated acts, not all of them have not been published and adopted before June 2020, even though Article 274 of the AHL provided that they should be adopted by 20th April 2019 at the latest.

This deadline, set in the spirit of AHL recital 172¹, was intended to allow Member States and operators sufficient time to "adapt properly to the new rules". This adaptation period would therefore be reduced by more than a year if the deadline of 21st April 2021 were to be retained.

Moreover, the current context linked to the Covid-19 pandemic aggravates this situation.

These important delays and the huge amount of work to do within the Member States are of great concern. 25 Chief Veterinary Officers, our European organisations and Members of European Parliament have drawn the attention of the Commission services to this serious problem. Unfortunately, the Commission is for the moment refusing to change the planned timetable. We welcome the constructive approach Commission had for instance for the implementation of the regulation on organic farming by postponing it; hence, we feel that this approach could also fit the Animal Health Law implementation process, in order to favorise an adequate entry into force in all Member States. Therefore, we would ask you to study the possibility to postpone this application date for one year.

¹ The requirements set out in this Regulation should not apply until the key delegated and implementing acts have been adopted by the Commission pursuant to this Regulation, allowing a period of 24 months from the adoption of the key acts until the date when they start to apply, thus permitting Member States and operators to duly adapt to the new rules. In addition, it is appropriate to provide for a period of at least 36 months for the Commission to elaborate the new rules.

With this letter we would also emphasize on the good work that has been done at European level and the need for one set of legislation that drives Animal Health to the next phase.

We hope that this request will hold your attention. We remain at your disposal should you have any point to clarify.

Yours faithfully,

SIGNATURES from all interested organisations



of Animal Health Europe



of AVEC



of Copa and Cogeca



of EFFAB



of FESASS



of UECBV