

**Advice 12-2013 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the draft Royal Decree regarding the assignment of the animal diseases that fall under the application of chapter III of the Royal Decree of 24<sup>th</sup> of march 1987 and regarding the regulation of mandatory notification**

The Scientific Committee is asked to give an advice on a draft Royal Decree which revises the list of animal diseases that fall under the application of chapter III of the Royal Decree of 24<sup>th</sup> of march 1987 and which regulates at the same time the modalities of mandatory notification.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the list with zoonoses which is mentioned in the draft Royal Decree is better mentioned in the Royal Decree of 22<sup>nd</sup> of may 2005 regarding measures for the surveillance of and protection against certain zoonoses and causative agents of zoonoses, to avoid confusion and lack of clarity.

The terms « notification » and « declaration » are used indifferently in the draft Royal Decree. The Scientific Committee proposes to use the term « notification » in accordance with the terminology of the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). Anyway, the terminology should be uniform throughout the draft Royal Decree.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the conditions to proceed to a notification or to be able to speak of a laboratory diagnosis are vaguely described in the draft Royal Decree. These conditions should be clearly defined for each disease and should moreover be regularly adapted to guarantee the feasibility in the field. Therefore it is proposed to draw up a table with specific conditions for notification or diagnosis of each disease which could be implemented as a Ministerial Decree or better as a guideline or circular on the FASFC website. A reference to this document in the present draft Royal Decree is recommended.

The Scientific Committee insists on a good information and sensitization campaign after the publication of this Royal Decree to avoid confusion or misinterpretation and to install a constructive and non repressive mandatory notification.

Finally, the Scientific Committee formulates some specific remarks with regard to the text in the draft Royal Decree and proposes some modifications/additions to the list with animal diseases in annex 1 of the draft Royal Decree.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section “Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen” and “Comité scientifique/Avis”.