

Advice 21-2014 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the evaluation of a draft royal decree amending Annex I of the royal decree of 3 February 2014 laying down the animal notifiable diseases.

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate a draft royal decree consisting of the addition of 4 diseases to the Belgian list of notifiable diseases: porcine epidemic diarrhea coronavirus infection, fowl cholera, infection by Ebola and by monkey poxvirus.

The advice of the Scientific Committee is, at one hand, based on the criteria used by the OIE to include diseases in its international list, and, on the other hand, on more specific Belgian criteria, such as the epidemiological situation of the disease, the availability of diagnostic tests and of a national reference laboratory, and the existence of a legal basis for issuing control measures in case of declaration of an outbreak.

The Scientific Committee proposes to wait for the time being to include porcine epidemic diarrhea coronavirus infection on the Belgian list of notifiable diseases, mainly because of the lack of standardized specific diagnostic tests, the absence of Belgian legislation concerning measures to be taken in case of an outbreak, and a current insufficient knowledge of the epidemiology and sanitary consequences of this disease in Belgium. However, it recommends strengthening communication with the sector on the measures to be taken in case of suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak on a farm.

The Scientific Committee is not in favor of the inclusion of fowl cholera in the Belgian list of notifiable diseases, mainly because of the absence of the disease in the OIE list, the lack of zoonotic character, the absence of evidence of international transmission, and the absence of a Belgian national reference laboratory, which can pose a legal problem in terms of diagnostic analysis and possible counter analysis. If, for other reasons it is considered necessary to add fowl cholera on the list of notifiable diseases, it is recommended to identify a national reference laboratory to ensure the diagnosis.

The Scientific Committee recommends the inclusion of infection by Ebola virus in the Belgian list of notifiable diseases, mainly because of the zoonotic character of the infection, the very serious consequences of human infection and the possible infection of domestic animals (pigs and dogs).

Finally, the Scientific Committee recommends the inclusion of monkeypox in the Belgian list of notifiable diseases, mainly because of the hosting of the virus in various rodent species used as pets, the zoonotic character of the infection and the potential of inter-human transmission of the virus.

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