

Advice 15-2016 on the draft royal decree establishing an identification and registration system for poultry, rabbits and some backyard poultry

Background

Tracing and identification systems have already been developed by royal decree for cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, deer and horses based on specific European legislation. For the identification and registration (I & R) of poultry and rabbits there are no specific EU rules. The draft royal decree submitted for advice broadly follows the rules of the identification and registration system for pigs. It relates primarily to the risk management of poultry, rabbits and some backyard poultry.

Given the risk to the food chain, a legislation for (sport) pigeons yet placed in the food chain is elaborated. These birds may indeed contain residues of drugs used in racing pigeons but whose use in food producing animals is not allowed.

Considering the sanitary risks a special legislation is elaborated for some backyard poultry (not destined for the food chain) which are held in greater numbers (over 199 pieces) or which are brought together at commercial gatherings.

Methodology

The draft royal decree was discussed by electronic consultation between the members of the working group.

Conclusion

The Scientific Committee, within the realm of its competency, has no fundamental remarks on the draft royal decree which provides a statutory basis for managing risks in some smaller animal sectors. The Scientific Committee endorses the draft royal decree.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.