LinkTADs

D2.3: Report on agreed areas in animal health, food safety and security requiring policy discussion and possible harmonisation between EU and China

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Animal Health Policy in the European Union

Principal actors of the European legislation

In the European Union (EU), the legislative function is exercised by the **European Parliament**, the **Council of the European Union** and the **European Commission**.

The **European Parliament** is composed of 751 members. It has been directly elected every five years by universal suffrage since 1979. Although the European Parliament has legislative power that the Council and Commission do not possess, it does not formally possess legislative initiative. The Parliament is the "first institution" of the EU, and shares almost equal legislative and budgetary powers with the Council.

The **Council of the European Union** represents the national governments of the EU's member states. Therefore, its composition is essentially the number of member states though votes are weighted according to the population of each state.

The **European Commission** (**EC**) is the executive of the EU responsible for introducing legislation into the legislative process, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU.

Legal acts of the European legislation

Legal acts of the European Union are laws which are adopted by the institutions of the European Union. The regulations and the directives are the most important ones. Other legal acts also include the decisions, the recommendations and the opinions.

A **regulation** becomes immediately enforceable as law in all member states simultaneously. **Directives**require member states to achieve a particular result without dictating the means of achieving that result. It can be distinguished from regulations which are self-executing and do not require any implementing measures. Directives normally leave member states with a certain amount of leeway as to the exact rules to be adopted. As opposed to regulations, directives need to be transposed into national law.

Directives and regulations can be adopted by means of various legislative procedures depending on their subject matters. Most legislation needs to be proposed by the European Commission and approved by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in order to become law.

The evolution of the animal health policy in the European Union

The current animal health legislation framework in the EU is made of almost 50 basic directives and regulations and around 400 pieces of secondary legislation (decisions, recommendations and opinions), some of which having been written more than 50 years ago. It is a very complex system of legislative texts, often very prescriptive regarding actions that need to be implemented for improving animal health. For example, the Council directive 2002/60/EC lays down specific provisions for the control of African swine fever by specifying actions that need to be undertaken

in cases where the presence of ASF on a holding is suspected, is confirmed, for conducting an outbreak investigation, for establishing protection and surveillance zones, etc.

In December 2004, the European Commission launched an external evaluation of the current animal health legislation in order to identify the direction to take in the future[1]. This external evaluation was motivated by different reasons: 1) most of policy texts were written between 1988 and 1995 when the EU was composed by only 12 member states; 2) new challenges have emerged due to the emergence of new diseases as well as the rapid geographical expansion of existing diseases; 3) the trading conditions have changed globally and the volume of trade in animals and animal products have increased dramatically both in the EU and in third countries; and 4) science, technology and the European institutional framework have evolved substantially. Based on this evaluation, a number of problems have been identified. First it appeared that the animal health legislation is too complex, involving too many legislative texts of different nature. Then, the lack of an overall strategy appeared critical. In addition, the animal health legislation was shown to focus insufficiently on disease prevention. Finally, some specific problems related to the functioning of the existing legislation were identified such as issues related to intra-Union trade of live animals.

The European animal health strategy

In order to solve these issues, the European Commission presented a proposal for a new EU **Animal Health Strategy** (AHS) in 2007. This report is publicly available:
https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CCIQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Ffood%2Fanimal%2Fdiseases%2Fstrategy%2Fdocs%2Fanimal_health_strategy_en.pdf&ei=3bKKVbS5C4fbU8H6kOgM&usg=AFQjCNEcX1CNqhYvdu1NFOLSUy7MfPGwUQ&bvm=bv.96339352,d.d24.

Overall, the AHS encompasses a 6 year programme to increase the prevention of animal health related problems before they happen following the motto “prevention is better than cure”. The action plan focused on four main areas of activity:

- The prioritisation of EU intervention by categorising animal-health related threats
- The development of a single and clear regulatory framework with a greater focus on incentives rather than penalties, consistent with other EU policies and converging to international standards leading to a harmonised export strategy at community level
- The enhancement of animal-related threat prevention, surveillance and crisis management by supporting on-farm biosecurity measures, harmonising identification and tracing systems of live animals, improving the border biosecurity and the surveillance and crisis preparedness
- The development of evidence-based policy by stimulating and coordinating risk analysis, science, innovation and research

[1]The report of the external evaluation of the Community Animal Health Policy can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/archives/final_report_en.htm

The European animal health law

In 2013, the European Commission presented to the European Parliament a proposal for the new **Animal Health Law** (AHL) which is aims to be a regulation describing the legal framework to support the AHS that was published in 2007. The proposal for the AHL is publicly available on the internet and can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animal-health-proposal-2013_en.htm. The AHL aims at establishing a single, simplified, transparent and clear regulatory framework focusing on long-term preventative measures. As such, it would replace all previous directives and regulations and should be considered as the single piece of European legislation regarding animal health. It introduces overarching general principles allowing a simplified legal framework and ensures consistency amongst the horizontal principles of the legislation in the field of animal health, animal welfare and food safety policies. In addition, it aims at reducing the impact of animal disease by enhancing disease awareness, preparedness, surveillance and emergency response systems at national and EU levels. Finally, it intends to ensure a smooth functioning of the internal market of animals and animal products. The proposal for the new AHL is structured in seven parts:

- General rules: the AHL sets out general principles for good animal health in EU legislation, including the prioritisation and listing of diseases which are likely to have a significant impact on animal or public health in the EU
- Notification, surveillance, eradication programmes and disease freedom: this part clarifies the responsibilities of all stakeholders for notification and surveillance. A main change here is that compartmentalisation, which was only used for avian influenza, can now be used more widely.
- Disease preparedness, awareness and control: member states are still required to draw up contingency plans for dealing with certain diseases. This part also explains the regulatory framework for vaccination and lays down the control measures to be taken in the case of suspicion of certain diseases (with little change to the existing systems as it is considered to work well).
- Requirements concerning registration, approval, traceability and movements
- Entry into the Union and export: this part lays down the procedures to be followed in case of emergency, ensuring a rapid and consistent Union response. Note that only a few changes are envisaged from the existing legislation as it is considered to work well.
- Final and transitional provisions

This proposal was submitted by the European Commission to the European parliament and Council of the European Union in May 2013. From February 2015, the proposal is being discussed between the Council of the EU (representing the government of all member states), the European Parliament and the European Commission (trilogue phase) until a political agreement is reached. Once the three European legislative parties agree, there will be a transition period of several years to allow a smooth shift from the old legislation to the new animal health law.

Animal health policy in China

Relevant laws and regulation system in China

The structure of general law and regulation system for animal disease prevention and control of China mainly includes three layers: laws (that are directly enforced at national scale once the Council approves them), administrative regulations and departmental/local rules and regulations (Figure 1).

Figure 1: General structure of the legislative system in China

Most important laws in the Chinese animal health legislation include:

- The law of the People's Republic of China on Animal Disease Prevention also called Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China (动物防疫法) which was first promulgated on 3 July 1997, and amended on 30 Aug, 2007, and taken effect on 1 Jan, 2008.
- The basic law on prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases in China.
- Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine (进出境动植物检疫法) which was promulgated in 1991. It is the basic law on quarantine of entry animal and animal products and on prevention of exotic animal disease from introducing.

Main administrative regulations include:

- The Regulation on Emergency Response to the Major Animal Diseases (重大动物疫情应急条例)
- Regulations on Administration of Veterinary Drugs (兽药管理条例)
- Regulations for the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine (进出境动植物检疫法实施条例)

Other legal texts include departmental rules (24; ex: Methods on Administration of Animal Quarantine), normative documents (30; ex: Regulations on the implementation of veterinary license examination), technical guidelines (122

national standards related to animal disease prevention and 98 industrial standards; ex: foot-and-mouth disease contingency plan), local regulations (ex: provincial regulations on animal disease prevention and control) and local governmental rules (ex: regulations of veterinary management implementation of Hubei province).

Main policies on animal disease prevention and control

The 'Mid- and long-term animal disease prevention and control plan (2012-2020)' is the main guideline for China's animal disease prevention and control. It has identified 16 prioritized diseases that are present in China and 13 exotic diseases (Table 2). According to the 'Mid-long term plan', the prevention and control strategies of the 16 prioritised diseases, including FMD and HPAI, should meet the pre-set appraisal standards by 2020. In addition, the incidence of major pig, poultry, cattle, and sheep diseases should decrease to less than 5%, 6%, 4%, and 3%, respectively. Finally, the incidence of animal mortality and public health risks should be decreased significantly. The risks of introducing and spreading of the 13 exotic animal diseases, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy and African swine fever, will also be reduced significantly, and the capacity to respond to these exotic threats in case of introduction should improve notably. There are three general strategies to achieve the goal: 1) control major animal diseases and key zoonoses; 2) improve general animal health; 3) improve the risk management for key exotic animal diseases.

For most of the major animal diseases and key zoonoses, China is progressively eradicating pathogens in animals and environment, aiming at achieving for disease-free status with or without vaccination. Roadmaps for controlling each specific animal disease should be made based on epidemiological dynamics of the disease. Any adjustments of compulsory vaccination and compulsory stamping out shall be conducted based on relevant laws and regulations.

According to the Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China, the Veterinary Bureau annually generates a *National plan for compulsory vaccination*, as well as a *National Plan on Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation of Animal Diseases*. Then the provincial veterinary authorities will generate their own vaccination and surveillance plans according to these two national plans. The county level veterinary authorities are responsible for implementation of the provincial plans.

Table 1: *Animal diseases for preferred prevention and control and exotic animal diseases for key prevention of introducing (from original document)*

Animal diseases for preferred prevention and control in China (16)	Class I Animal Diseases (5): Foot and mouth disease (A type, Asia I type, O type), high pathogenic avian influenza, highly pathogenic porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (HP-PRRS), swine fever, Newcastle disease.
	Class II Animal Diseases (11): brucellosis, dairy cow tuberculosis, rabies, schistosomiasis, echinococciosis, glanders, equine infectious anemia, salmonellosis, avian leukosis, swine pseudorabies, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (classic blue ear pig disease).

Exotic animal diseases for prevention of introduction(13)	Class I Animal Diseases (9): Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, African swine fever, sheep scrapie, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease (C-type, SAT1 type, SAT2 type, and SAT3-type), swine vesicular disease, African horse sickness, H7 subtype avian influenza. Animal diseases that are not included in the disease class, but having higher risks of introduction (4): vesicular stomatitis, Nipah virus disease, West Nile fever, and Rift Valley fever.

Comparison of a few European and Chinese animal health policies

The table below presents a comparison of the legislation in the EU and in China regarding four different components of the Animal health policy. For the European Union, the information was extracted from the animal health law proposal unless stated.

Policy	European Union (as specified in the animal health law proposal)	China
Animal identification	Cattle, sheep, goat, horses and pets shall be identified individually by an individual physical mean of identification. Other species shall be identified in groups. The Commission shall lay down rules (by means of implementing acts) concerning the deadlines for the registration of kept terrestrial animals. In the United Kingdom legislation, beef cattle must fit ear tags within 20 days of birth while dairy cattle must have it within 36h. Imported cattle shall be tagged within 20 days of importation. Sheep and goat shall be identified within 6 months of birth, before leaving the holding and within 14 days of importation. Pig herds must be identified within 30 days of arrival, and pigs that leave the holdings shall be identified with the official herd mark. Member states have the responsibility for establishing a system for the identification and registration of kept terrestrial animals.	The code for the identification consists of 15 digital numbers covering species code, area code and serial number as well as dedicated bar code. Livestock and poultry flocks shall be identified within 30 days of birth, before leaving the holding or within 10 days of importation. Pig, cattle, sheep and goat shall be identified individually. In China, policy made by central government is more generic as compared to that of EU. The lack of details gives space to local policy makers to implement the policy according to the local context. However, it leads to various levels of implementation which can create problems, especially in poor areas.

Movement of animals within the region	Member states have the obligation for establishing a computer database of kept terrestrial animals. All movements of live cattle sheep and goat into and from establishments need to be registered in that database. Operators keeping animals of the bovine, ovine and caprine species are responsible to report the movement of those animals into and from their establishment to the computer database. Operators shall only move animals if they are correctly identified and registered, and if they come from establishments that are registered and approved by the competent authority. To move animals between member states, they need not to have been in contact with animals subject to movement restriction, to be accompanied by an animal health certificate and to come from an establishment with no abnormal mortality and which is not subject to movement restrictions nor situated in a restricted zone. In some specific conditions, derogations can be granted (ex: recreational use, going to slaughter house, etc.). Operators shall notify the competent authority in their Member State of origin in advance of intended movements of kept terrestrial animals from that Member State to another Member State.	Before the animals are slaughtered, sold or transported (for exhibition, performance and competition), and the animal products are sold or transported, the owners shall apply for quarantine to local animal health supervision institutions. Quarantine shall be implemented by official veterinarians appointed by the animal health supervision institutions. When moved, animals shall be accompanied by quarantine certificates. Animals and animal products shall be allowed to enter epidemic free regions only when they passed quarantine. China is in pressing need of a national database of animal movement. For years China has tried to build up databases at national, regional and provincial levels. In some well-developed regions and provinces such as Shanghai and its surrounding provinces, a regional network and database for animal movement control has been successfully established. A database for the whole country is still under development.
Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats	An outbreak or a suspicion of an outbreak of any of the diseases listed by the EC as well as abnormal mortalities and other serious disease signs or significant decreased production rates with an undetermined cause shall immediately be notified to the competent authority or a veterinarian. Member States shall immediately notify the Commission and the other	According to Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China, Veterinary Bureau annually generates *National plan for compulsory vaccination*, as well as ***National Plan on Surveillance*** *and Epidemiological Investigation of Animal Diseases*. Then the provincial veterinary authorities will generate their own vaccination plans and surveillance plans according to

	Member States of any outbreaks of listed diseases. The competent authority in each member state has the obligation of conducting surveillance for the presence of the listed diseases and for emerging diseases. The surveillance shall be designed to ensure the timely detection of the presence of the listed and emerging diseases. The competent authority is responsible for the design of the surveillance but it has to be appropriate and proportionate to the objectives of the surveillance. Member states shall inform the Commission about the implementation of a surveillance programme and submit regular reports on the results of that surveillance.	these two national plans. The county level veterinary authorities are mainly responsible for implementation of the provincial plans. The national contingency plan is a combination of fixed-point and nation-wide sampling, active and passive surveillance, and pathogen/infection and antibody (protection) surveillance. Expenditure for implementing national surveillance shall be incorporated in the financial budget of central government; expenditure for implementing provincial surveillance shall be incorporated in the financial budget of local government. At the same time, China Animal disease control center (CADC), China Animal Health and Epidemiology center (CAHEC) and national reference laboratories/professional laboratories are responsible for direct sampling and analysis of key animal diseases. National exotic animal disease diagnostic center CAHEC is mainly responsible for the organizations of surveillance related to exotic animal diseases. In 2014, the exotic diseases that were under active surveillance were: BSE, scrapie, CBPP, PPR, ASF and BTV-8. Reference laboratories and professional laboratories that are appointed by veterinary bureau are responsible for performing the laboratory tests, analyze the data, and finally report to veterinary bureau. In China, national and local surveillance plans are made every year according to the practical needs, and surveillance is carried out under the supervision of the central government, However, due to the lack of funding, human resources and poor understanding of epidemiology of the specific disease at

		both local and national level, the design and implementation of the surveillance plans are not always carried out in the best way. For example, the sampling for surveillance for a specific disease may not be carried out at the peak season for transmission, but according to the convenience of the workplan of the local vets and governmental officials. This reduces the efficiency of the surveillance system.
Disease awareness, preparedness and control using contingency plans	The Member States shall draw up and keep up-to-date contingency plans and where necessary detailed instruction manuals laying down the measures to be taken in the Member State in the event of the occurrence of a case or an outbreak of a listed disease or an emerging disease. The competent authority shall ensure that simulation exercises concerning the contingency plans are carried out regularly. Where feasible and appropriate, simulation exercises shall be carried out in close collaboration with the competent authorities of neighbouring Member States and neighbouring third countries and territories. Member States shall make available on request a report on the main results of the simulation exercises to the Commission and to the other Member States.	China has a general administrative document regarding emergency management (guideline): *The Regulation on Emergency Response to the Major Animal Diseases* Under such guideline, there is a generic contingency plan: *National Contingency plan for outbreak of major animal diseases*. For specific diseases, there are two separate documents): Contingency plan and technical standards. Within the 16 major diseases listed in medium to-long term plan, there are contingency plans and standards officially published for 11 diseases, but all 16 diseases have draft documents. Compared to contingency plan in EU countries, the Chinese contingency plan is more general and seems to lack detailed information. When they generate the Chinese version, the Chinese authorities have taken the contingency plans from other countries as their references, but they think there is a lot of contents that have been repeated in each plan for a specific disease. It is thought that these may be unnecessary andcreate troubles under urgent situation. Also, in China, each province will generate their own detailed plan according to these national plans and they need to refer to these plans unless there is

	an urgent situation. Therefore, the authorities think that there is no need to generate a national level plan that contains every detail.

Perception of harmonisation needs regarding policy on animal health between the EU and China

In order to identify the areas of animal health policy where harmonisation of the legislation between the EU and China is perceived to be required, an online survey was conducted. The questionnaire was developed in English by the Royal Veterinary College with inputs from all WP2 partners. Following validation of the structure and content of the questionnaire, it was translated into Chinese by two native Chinese speakers from the RVC and FAO-China, to ensure consistency. Finally, the questionnaire was made online using the software developed by the online survey development company Survey Monkey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/). The survey was distributed to all LinkTADs partners, and subsequently to decision and policy makers known by the LinkTADs partners in the EU and China.

In this survey a list of four specific topics of the legislation was covered, including 1) animal identification, 2) movement of animals within each region (EU or China), 3) surveillance for early detection of exotic threats and 4) contingency planning in case of the introduction of an exotic threat. For each policy topic, respondents were asked about its usefulness in their region, about how well implemented it is and about the perceived necessity to harmonise the legislation between the EU and China on that specific policy topic. A reproduction of the survey can be found in Annex.

In total, 11 respondents answered the survey. Only 9 of them provided exploitable answers. Amongst these 9 respondents, 5 mainly work in China and 3 in Europe (1 respondent did not provide any answer to that question). As shown in Figure 2, almost 80% of respondents work either in an international organisation (FAO, OIE, EFSA, etc.) or an academic/research environment. Two respondents aim at influencing policy at both provincial and national level, three at national level only, one at both national and international level and three at international level.

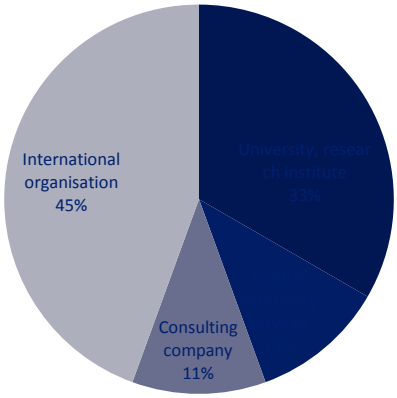

Figure 2: Repartition of respondents' type of institution

In the early stage of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to rate the relative importance of harmonising the legislation related to each of the policy topics between the EU and China. Results are summarised in Figure 3. From this question, it appeared that the perceived top priority topic in terms of harmonisation of the policy is the one related to animal movements in each region (score = 4.3; min-max = 4-5), followed by surveillance for early detection of exotic threats (4; 2-5); contingency planning in case of introduction of exotic threats (4; 2-5) and animal identification (3.8; 3-5). Note that although animal identification comes up with a lower overall score, the agreement between respondents is greater than for the two previous topics.

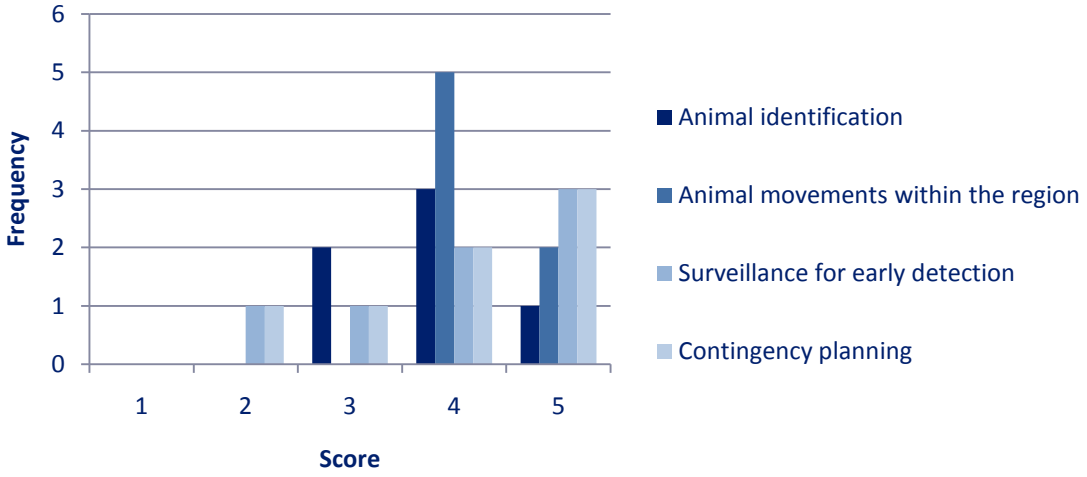

Figure 3: Perceived priorities for the harmonisation of animal health policy between the EU and China.

Animal identification

While most respondents consider that animal identification is useful in all the species where it is mandatory to improve trade opportunities, animal and human health in their respective region, one Chinese respondent mentioned that it requires too many efforts when compared to the very limited results. Indeed, although they believe animal identification is useful, most of Chinese respondents consider that the animal identification system is not well implemented in all species where it is mandatory. One respondent argued that the implementation of animal identification in China needs to be reinforced and that the individual identification of pigs is very difficult to conduct in practice. In Europe, it was mentioned that the compliance of breeders with the EU legislation is difficult to achieve, especially in some remote parts of the EU such as Corsica, Sardinia or some mountain areas.

When asked if they feel there would be a need to harmonise the legislation between the EU and China regarding animal identification to improve trade opportunities, animal and human health, all respondents who had an opinion (4/9) answered that they agreed (2/4) or they strongly agreed (2/4). To support their answer, they argued that trade between the two regions is already growing and that harmonisation of the legislation will allow having an interoperable system that will permit the exchange of data between both regions which is necessary for movement control and early detection of diseases. In addition, animal identification (at individual or herd level) is key to guarantee the origin of products and a quick traceability. On the other hand, it was argued that it may help to

improve international trade but only to a limited extent if other important issues such as infectious disease surveillance and control or use of drugs (antibiotics for example) are not addressed at the same time.

Animal movement within each region

Because the topic "movement of animals" may be addressed differently depending on the species considered, to make it easier, respondents were asked to focus on movements of pigs (in relation with the risk of spread of major pig diseases such as African swine fever).

Amongst the participants who had an opinion (5/9), three considered that the current legislation on pig movement in their region is very useful to improve animal (and human) health (one was from the EU and the two other from China). Another respondent from the EU considered it useful while a Chinese respondent considered it useful to some extent but without explaining the answer. Of those who considered it very useful, two respondents considered that the level of implementation could be improved (scores 3/5 and 4/5). Again, no justification was given.

When asked if they feel there would be a need to harmonize the legislation between the EU and China on animal movements with each region (EU and China), six out of the seven respondents who had an opinion agreed (4/6) or strongly agreed (2/6). Respondents suggested the China should learn from the experience of the EU. It was even proposed to have a pilot region in China where good practices in terms of animal identification and animal movement would be applied. One respondent disagreed with the need to harmonise the legislation on that topic by arguing that a necessary preliminary step would be the mutual recognition of each other's rules and practices.

Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats

Because the topic "Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats" may be addressed differently depending on the threat considered, to make it easier, respondents were asked to focus on the surveillance for early detection of African swine fever (whether they mainly worked in the EU or in China).

Overall, respondents who had an opinion (6/9) considered relatively useful the current legislation on the surveillance for early detection of African swine fever (scores: 3, 3, 4, 4, 5 and 5). However, they generally consider the implementation of the legislation as slightly less satisfactory since the score were systematically equal or smaller than the scores on the usefulness (scores: 2, 3, 3, 4, 4 and 5). In both regions, it was mentioned that efforts should be spent to make the surveillance for early detection of exotic diseases more based on the risk of introduction.

When asked if they feel there would be a need to harmonize the legislation between the EU and China on the surveillance for early detection of exotic threats, respondents had different points of view: some Chinese respondents agreed by saying that it would be useful for the Chinese policy to learn and apply what is being done in the EU, while some others disagreed by arguing that more important than the harmonization is the coordination and the cooperation between the two regions to face together the risk of introduction of exotic threats.

Contingency planning in case of an introduction of an exotic threat

Because the topic "Contingency planning" may be addressed differently depending on the threat considered, to make it easier, respondents were asked to focus on the contingency planning in case of the suspicion of African swine fever.

Amongst the respondents who had an opinion (5/9), four considered the current legislation on contingency planning in their region as useful (2/5) or very useful (2/5). Similarly, four respondents also considered that the contingency planning would be well or very well implemented in their region.

In general, participants disagreed with the need to harmonize the contingency planning between the EU and China. They considered that each region having its own specificities, it would be meaningless to try and harmonise the details of the contingency plans. Just like for the surveillance for early detection, respondents emphasized that the important aspect is that the contingency plans work in case of need, not that it is harmonized with the other region.

Conclusions of the survey

Overall, respondents suggested that trade opportunities, animal and human health would greatly benefit from a harmonisation of the legislation regarding animal identification and animal movement within the EU and China. But it was reminded that disease surveillance and monitoring of drug use were also of importance. On the contrary, respondents argued that other policy topics such as the surveillance for early detection of exotic threats and contingency planning in case of introduction of exotic threats need to be context specific. Therefore, it would not require harmonisation between the EU and China. Nonetheless, it was mentioned that it is necessary to learn from others and be aware of what is being implemented in the other parts of the world.

Conclusion of the deliverable

Compared to EU, China has a very different law and regulation system for animal health policy making. This may partially be due to the unique situation of China related to huge animal populations, complex political situations and uneven development between provinces. In addition, for historical and economic reasons, the development of a modern animal health policy in China is much youngerthan in most EU countries. Therefore the Chinese government, from local to central level, tends to develop its animal health policy according to the specificities of the Chinese context. They do have certain knowledge about the policies from the EU and often consider them as a “gold standard”, but they are very cautious not to translate the policies from other countries directly to the Chinese context as it may not apply well in particular regions. As a consequence, it could be seen that animal health policy made by central government is more generic as compared to that of EU. The lack of details gives space to local policy makers to implement the policy according to the local context. Therefore it is worth asking the question whether or not there would be a need to harmonise legislation on animal health between the two regions.

Results of this study suggested that there could be a benefit in trying to harmonise the legislation regarding animal identification and animal movement within the EU and China to improve trade opportunities, animal and human health. On the contrary, results suggested that other policy topics such as the surveillance for early detection of exotic threats and contingency planning in case of introduction of exotic threats need to be context specific, and therefore do not need harmonisation. However, there is a need for both the EU and China to be compliant with OIE standards, so they can use OIE guidelines as a basis for harmonisation to a certain extent.

Annex

LinkTADs - Identifying policy gaps in relation to animal health了解有关动物卫生相關政策的差距

1. Introduction 简介

Dear participant,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey!

Building up on the results of a previous questionnaire that was launched last year, we designed this survey to identify the specific areas in animal health policy for which adjustment or harmonisation of the regulations may be justified between the European Union and China.

In this survey, a list of five specific topics of the legislation will be covered. They include:
- Animal identification
- Movement of animals within each region (with a focus on pigs)
- Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats (with a focus on African swine fever)
- Contingency planning in case of the introduction of an exotic threat (with a focus on African swine fever)

As policy makers, your views are very valuable and will contribute to the discussion on harmonisation of policy contexts to improve globally animal health, public health and food security.

Your answers will be treated completely anonymously.

Answering this questionnaire should not take more than 15 minutes of your time.
Your input is very much appreciated!

The LinkTADs team

敬爱的受访者

感谢您愿意拨空参与这项调查。

依据去年进行的问卷结果，我们设计了这项调查以确认在欧盟与中国的法规需要针对动物健康相关政策的哪些特定领域去调整或协调。

在本项调查中，五项特定法规相关议题将进行探讨，包括:
-动物身份识别
-在各区域内的移动(主要针对猪)
-境外疾病威胁的早期监测(主要是非洲猪瘟)
-境外疾病威胁入侵的应急计划（重点是非洲猪瘟）

身为政策制定者，您的观点将非常有价值，且对于政策内容调合的相关讨论，将有助于改善全球动健康、公共卫生及食品安全。

您回答问卷所需时间将不会超过十五分钟。
非常感谢您的参与。

LinkTADs团队 敬上

LinkTADs

Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in EU and China

Royal Veterinary College University of London

2. BACKGROUND 背景资料

1. Where do you mainly work?
请问您的主要工作地点?

- ○ China 中国
- ○ European Union 欧盟

Other (please specify)

2. In which type of institution do you mainly work?
您主要在哪类机构工作?

- ○ Central veterinary services (at EU level or China level) 中央兽医机构(在欧盟或中国)
- ○ Local veterinary services (at national level in EU or provincial level in China) 地方兽医机构(在欧洲国家级或中国省级)
- ○ Governmental agency 政府组织
- ○ International organisation (FAO/OIE/EFSA/etc.) 国际组织(FAO/OIE/EFSA等)
- ○ University/Research institute 大学/研究机构

Other (please specify) 其他(请列举)

3. At which level do you aim to influence policy? (you may choose more than one option)
您所制定的政策主要影响层级? (您可以勾选一个或一个以上的选项)

- ☐ Provincial level 省级
- ☐ National level 中央级
- ☐ International level 国际级

3. PRIORITY 优先顺序

1. On a scale from 1 (very low priority) to 5 (top priority), how would you rate the relative importance of harmonising the legislation related to each of the following topics between the EU and China?

依照1(低优先)到5(高优先)的评分标准，请您对于下列相关于欧盟与中国的五项议题进行法规调和的重要进行评分。

	1	2	3	4	5	I do not know 不知道
Animal identification 动物识别	○	○	○	○	○	○
Animal movement within the region 在各区的动物移动	○	○	○	○	○	○
Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats 境外疾病威胁的早期监测	○	○	○	○	○	○
Contingency planning in case of introduction of an exotic threat 境外疾病威胁入侵的应急计划	○	○	○	○	○	○

4. Animal identification system 动物识别系统

In the European Union, any cattle, sheep, goats and horses needs to be registered and identified individually. Poultry flocks need to be registered only if the flock size is above a given threshold (50 birds in the United-Kingdom). All pig herds must be registered. Poultry and pigs do not need to be registered individually.

In China, all cattle, sheep, goats and pigs need to be registered and identified individually. All poultry flocks must be registered (birds do not need to be registered individually).

在欧盟，所有的牛，绵羊，山羊及马都需要注册及进行个体识别。家禽则只针对饲养超过某特定数量时(如英国为50只)，需要注册。家禽跟猪毋须进行个体识别。

在中国，所有的牛，绵羊，山羊及猪都需要注册及进行个体识别。家禽则只针对群体进行注册(家禽毋须进行个体识别)。

1. To improve trade opportunities, animal and human health, do you consider animal identification USEFUL IN ALL THE SPECIES WHERE IT IS MANDATORY?
为了提生国际贸易机会，以及动物与人的健康，您认为强制要求所有动物都进行动物识别是否有用?

- ○ Yes 是
- ○ No 否
- ○ I do not know 不知道

2. If you responded "No" to the previous question, please explain briefly the reasons for your answer:
若您回答否，请简要说明理由

3. Do you think that the ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM is well implemented IN ALL THE SPECIES WHERE IT IS MANDATORY in your region (EU or China)?
您是否认为在您所在区域(欧盟或中国)强制要求的所有动物相关动物识别系统已经执行完善?

- Yes 是
- No 否
- I do not know 不知道

4. If you responded "No" to the previous question, please explain briefly the reasons for your answer:
若您回答否，请简要说明理由

5. To improve trade opportunities, animal and human health, do you feel there would be a need to harmonise the legislation between the EU and China regarding ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION?
为了提升国际贸易机会，以及动物与人的健康，您是否认为需要针对欧盟与中国的动物识别相关法规进行调和?

- I strongly agree 非常同意
- I agree 同意
- I have no opinion 没意见
- I disagree 同意
- I strongly disagree 非常不同意

6. Please explain briefly the reasons for your answer:
请简要说明理由

5. Movement of animals within the region 在各区的动物移动

Because the topic "movement of animals" may be addressed differently depending on the species considered, to make it easier, you are asked to focus on movements of pigs (in relation with the risk of spread of major pig diseases such as African swine fever).

由于"动物移动"这项议题针对不同动物品种可能有不同的意见，为了让调查简单化，请针对猪的移动(相关于传播猪重要疾病的风险，如非洲猪瘟)

1. On a scale from 1 (not useful at all) to 5 (very useful), how USEFUL do you consider the current legislation on PIG MOVEMENTS WITHIN YOUR REGION (EU or China) to improve animal (and human) health?
依照1(完全没用)到5(非常有用)的评分标准，请您对于您所在区域内(欧盟或中国)目前有关猪隻移动的法规对于改善动物(与人类)健康是否有用进行评分。

- ◯ 1 (not useful at all) (完全没用)
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 5 (very useful) (非常有用)
- ◯ I do not know 不知道

2. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由:

3. On a scale from 1 (not implemented) to 5 (very well implemented), how WELL IMPLEMENTED do you consider the current legislation on PIG MOVEMENTS WITHIN YOUR REGION (EU or China)?
依照1(无执行)到5(执行很好)的评分标准，请您对于您所在区域内(欧盟或中国)目前有关猪隻移动的法规相关执行情形评分。

- ◯ 1 (not implemented) (无执行)
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 5 (very well implemented) (执行很好)
- ◯ I do not know 不知道

4. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由:

5. General question not focused on pigs only: To improve animal and human health, do you feel there would be a need to harmonise the legislation between the EU and China on ANIMAL MOVEMENTS WITHIN EACH REGION (EU and China)?
不限定于猪的一般性问题:为了改善动物与人类健康，您是否认为需要针对欧盟与中国在各区的动物移动相关法规进行调和?

- ○ I strongly agree 非常同意
- ○ I agree 同意
- ○ I have no opinion 没意见
- ○ I disagree 同意
- ○ I strongly disagree 非常不同意

6. Please explain briefly the reasons for your answer:
请简要说明理由:

6. Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats 境外疾病威胁的早期监测

Because the topic "Surveillance for early detection of exotic threats" may be addressed differently depending on the threat considered, to make it easier, you are asked to focus on the surveillance for early detection of African swine fever (whether you mainly work in the EU or in China).

由于"境外疾病威胁的早期监测"这项议题针对不同疾病威胁可能有不同的意见，为了让调查简单化，请针对非洲猪瘟的早期监测(不论您现在主要是在欧盟还是中国工作)

1. On a scale from 1 (not useful at all) to 5 (very useful), how USEFUL do you consider the current legislation in your region (EU or China) on SURVEILLANCE FOR EARLY DETECTION of African swine fever?
依照1(完全没用)到5(非常有用)的评分标准，请您对于您所在区域内(欧盟或中国)目前有关非洲猪瘟的早期监测相关法规是否有用进行评分。

- ○ 1 (not useful at all) (完全没用)
- ○ 2
- ○ 3
- ○ 4
- ○ 5 (very useful) (非常有用)
- ○ I do not know 不知道

2. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由:

3. On a scale from 1 (not implemented) to 5 (very well implemented), how WELL IMPLEMENTED do you consider the current legislation in your region (EU or China) on SURVEILLANCE FOR EARLY DETECTION of African swine fever?
依照1(无执行)到5(执行很好)的评分标准，目前有关非洲猪瘟的早期监测相关法规的执行情形，进行评分。

- ○ 1 (not implemented) (无执行)
- ○ 2
- ○ 3
- ○ 4
- ○ 5 (very well implemented) (执行很好)
- ○ I do not know 不知道

4. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由:

5. General question not focused on ASF only: To improve animal and human health, do you feel there would be a need to harmonise the legislation between the EU and China on SURVEILLANCE FOR EARLY DETECTION OF EXOTIC THREATS?
不限定于非洲猪瘟的一般性问题:为了改善动物与人类健康，您是否认为需要针对欧盟与中国在境外疾病威胁的早期监测相关法规进行调和?

- ○ I strongly agree 非常同意
- ○ I agree 同意
- ○ I have no opinion 没意见
- ○ I disagree 同意
- ○ I strongly disagree 非常不同意

6. Please explain briefly the reasons for your answer:
请简要说明理由:

7. Contingency planning in case of the suspicion of an exotic threats 境外疾病威胁入侵的应急计划

Because the topic "Contingency planning" may be addressed differently depending on the threat considered, to make it easier, you are asked to focus on the contingency planning in case of the suspicion of African swine fever.

由于"境外疾病威胁入侵的应急计划"这项议题针对不同疾病威胁可能有不同的意见，为了让调查简单化，请针对非洲猪瘟的疑似案例

1. On a scale from 1 (not useful at all) to 5 (very useful), how USEFUL do you consider the current legislation in your region (EU or China) on CONTINGENCY PLANNING in case of a suspicion of African swine fever?
依照1(完全没用)到5(非常有用)的评分标准，请您对于您所在区域内(欧盟或中国)目前有关非洲猪瘟入侵的应急计划是否有用进行评分。

- ○ 1 (not useful at all) (完全没用)
- ○ 2
- ○ 3
- ○ 4
- ○ 5 (very useful) (非常有用)
- ○ I do not know 不知道

2. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由:

3. On a scale from 1 (not implemented) to 5 (very well implemented), how WELL IMPLEMENTED do you think the current legislation in your region (EU or China) WOULD BE on CONTINGENCY PLANNING in case of a suspicion of African swine fever?
依照1(无执行)到5(执行很好)的评分标准，请您针对您所在区域(欧盟或中国)，目前有关非洲猪瘟入侵的应急计划的执行情形，进行评分。

- ○ 1 (not implemented) (无执行)
- ○ 2
- ○ 3
- ○ 4
- ○ 5 (very well implemented) (执行很好)
- ○ I do not know 不知道

4. If you ticked the boxes "1" or "2", please explain your answer:
若您评分为"1"或"2"，请简要说明理由: