



## Opinion 03-2023 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the draft royal decree on requirements for establishments keeping Equidae and traceability of Equidae

### Background & Terms of reference

The Scientific Committee is requested to evaluate the draft royal decree on requirements for establishments keeping Equidae and traceability of Equidae.

Due to the publication of a number of new European Regulations, Belgian legislation on the traceability of Equidae needs to be adapted. The current draft royal decree does not contain specific provisions for Belgium, but only implementing provisions of European Regulation.

### Method

The assessment of the draft royal decree was carried out on the basis of expert opinion.

### Conclusions

The Scientific Committee has examined the draft RD. The Scientific Committee considers that the draft RD contains almost exclusively management measures and that, within her competences, there are no fundamental comments to be made on risk assessment.

A number of general and specific comments on the draft RD are made. In addition, a number of recommendations are made. The main points are briefly presented below.

The Scientific Committee recommends to carry out a regular review (e.g. every 2 to 3 years) of the practicality of the royal decree. It is also recommended to launch awareness and information campaigns within the framework of this royal decree, aimed at both professionals and hobbyists involved in horse husbandry.

Governments should check how they can ensure that data on deceased Equidae are registered correctly in the database. According to the draft royal decree, only the veterinarian or the holder of the horse can enter the fact that the horse has died into the database. To ensure a sufficiently accurate picture of the Belgian equine population, it is recommended that the registration of deceased Equidae is also carried out by the rendering company. The Scientific Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that the HorseID database is developed and managed in such a way that it can be updated and is accurate at all times.

Finally, it is pointed out that checking the sanitary status of Equidae for various diseases should be an important focus during their movements between establishments.

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