

No. 8806

**BELGIUM
and
BULGARIA**

**Veterinary Health Convention. Signed at Brussels, on
14 June 1966**

Official texts: French, Dutch and Bulgarian.

Registered by Belgium on 19 October 1967.

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**Convention sanitaire-vétérinaire. Signée à Bruxelles, le
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Textes officiels français, néerlandais et bulgare.

Enregistrée par la Belgique le 19 octobre 1967.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8806. VETERINARY HEALTH CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, ON
14 JUNE 1966

The Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, on the one hand, and
The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, on the other
hand,

Desiring to facilitate traffic in animals and animal products in both
directions between the two countries so far as possible, with due regard
to preventing epizootic diseases and diseases communicable to humans or
animals from being introduced into the territory of either country,

Have decided to conclude this Veterinary Health Convention.

Article 1

This Convention relates to the health and veterinary problems involved
in traffic in both directions in animals, raw materials of animal origin,
animal products, wastes of animal origin and articles capable of transmitting
epizootic diseases or diseases communicable to humans or animals.

Article 2

(a) The term "animals" means:

Solid-hoofed animals (horses, asses, hinnies, mules);
Ruminants (cattle, sheep, and goats);
Pigs;
Poultry (chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and other domestic fowl);
Dogs and cats;
Rabbits;
Wild animals, including game and fur-bearing animals;
Bees;
Fish, snails, frogs, and cage and aviary birds;
Exotic animals and animals for circuses, zoological gardens and labo-
ratories.

(b) The term "raw materials of animal origin" means all unprocessed parts
of the animals mentioned in paragraph (a), irrespective of the purpose
for which they are intended.

¹ Came into force on 31 May 1967, by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at
Sofia, in accordance with article 34.

- (c) The term “animal products” means all processed edible parts of the bodies of animals and also eggs, milk, milk products, honey and other food products.
- (d) The term “wastes of animal origin” means inedible parts of the bodies of the animals mentioned in paragraph (a).

Article 3

Traffic may be carried on only at such frontier posts (customs offices) as are mentioned in the list drawn up by the competent authorities of each Contracting Party and notified to the other Contracting Party within three months from the entry into force of this Convention.

Veterinary health inspection shall be available at each post open for such traffic.

Any amendments to the list thus established shall be communicated to the other Contracting Party without delay.

Article 4

Domestic animals imported or conveyed in transit shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin and health issued by a State veterinary officer, and other animals imported or conveyed in transit shall be accompanied by a certificate of health issued by a State veterinary officer or a veterinary surgeon approved by the State.

The certificate shall be drawn up in the language of the exporting country and in the French language.¹

Article 5

Save in the special circumstances referred to in article 6, exported animals must originate from farms in which, and within a radius of ten kilometres of which, no case of contagious disease communicable to the species in question has been detected within the preceding thirty days.

A. The certificate of origin and health prescribed for domestic animals shall be made out individually for each animal, except in the case of pigs, sheep, poultry and animals intended for slaughter; the term “animals intended for slaughter” means animals which are to be transported to the slaughter-house immediately upon arrival in the importing country.

The certificate must attest:

- (1) That the animals were reared in the territory of the exporting country;
- (2) That at the time of loading they were examined and found to be healthy and free from any symptoms of contagious disease;

¹ This sentence appears in the Bulgarian authentic text only.

- (3) That the territory through which they passed in order to reach the place of loading is free from statutorily notifiable contagious diseases;
- (4) In the case of animals intended for breeding or for use while alive, that they have remained in the farm of origin for the thirty days prior to loading and have been under constant veterinary supervision. Individual certificates issued for animals intended for breeding or for use while alive shall specify the owner's name, the commune and province or department of origin, and the species, breed, and distinctive features and identifying marks of the animals.

In the case of animals intended for slaughter, it shall be sufficient to specify the province or department of origin, species, breed, number and distinctive features and identifying marks of the animals.

B. The certificate of health prescribed for other animals shall specify the place and province or department of origin and the number and species of the animals and shall attest that they have been examined and found to be healthy and free from all symptoms of contagious diseases communicable to the species in question. A collective certificate shall relate solely to animals of one species, conveyed in the same vehicle to the same consignee.

Certificates shall be valid for ten days from the date of issue. If a certificate expires in course of transit through the territory of a third country, such certificate shall remain valid until the animals arrive at the frontier of the importing country.

Article 6

Certificates issued for the export of animals shall expressly state, with regard to the susceptible species:

1. That the following diseases have not been detected in the exporting country:

- (a) Rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and African horse sickness: anywhere in the territory, within the preceding twelve months;
- (b) Foot-and-mouth disease: within a radius of twenty kilometres of the farm of origin, within the preceding three months;
- (c) Dourine, glanders, infectious anaemia and contagious encephalomyelitis of solid-hoofed animals: within a radius of thirty kilometres of the farm of origin, within the preceding twelve months;
- (d) Caprine pleuropneumonia: anywhere in the territory, within the preceding six months;
- (e) African swine fever: anywhere in the territory, within the preceding twelve months;

- (f) Classical swine fever, atrophic rhinitis, infectious encephalomyelitis (Teschen disease) and sheep and goat pox: within a radius of ten kilometres of the farm of origin, within the preceding two months;
- (g) Fowl pest, pseudo-pest and cholera: within a radius of ten kilometres of the farm of origin, within the preceding sixty days; in the case of fowl, the farm of origin must have been free from chronic mycoplasmosis, leukaemia, infectious bronchitis and ornithosis-psittacosis for at least twelve months;
- (h) Rabies, in the case of dogs and cats: anywhere in the province or department of origin, within the preceding six months.

2. That:

- (a) In the case of game, fur-bearing animals, hares and rabbits, the province or department of origin has been free for the preceding twelve months from infectious or virus diseases communicable to the susceptible species;
- (b) In the case of exotic animals, they have been held in quarantine or in a zoological garden for the preceding two months;
- (c) In the case of bees, no statutorily notifiable contagious disease has been detected within a radius of ten kilometres of the apiary of origin within the preceding twelve months;
- (d) In the case of fish and fish eggs intended for stocking inland waters, no case of infectious or parasitic disease has been detected in the fish-ponds or waters of origin.

3. That, during the two weeks prior to loading, exported animals have been subjected to the tests necessary for certifying that:

- (a) Solid-hoofed animals are free from glanders, dourine and catarrhal influenza;
- (b) Cattle and their farms of origin are free from tuberculosis, brucellosis, trichomoniasis, vibriosis and leukaemia;
- (c) Sheep and goats are free from brucellosis, tuberculosis and contagious epididymitis;
- (d) Pigs and their farms of origin are free from brucellosis and tuberculosis.

The official veterinary services of the Contracting Parties may determine by agreement the methods and the biological and other tests to be used in their respective countries in order to guarantee the freedom from disease referred to above.

4. That the exported animals have been vaccinated before loading as follows:

- (a) Cattle have been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease, at least two weeks and at most four months before loading, with an AOC vaccine

officially approved by the official veterinary service of the exporting country;

- (b) Animals of susceptible species (solid-hoofed animals, cattle, sheep and goats intended for breeding or for use while alive) have been vaccinated against anthrax at least thirty days prior to loading.
- (c) Pigs over the age of two months have been vaccinated against swine fever with a crystal violet vaccine at least twenty-one days before loading;
- (d) Dogs and cats have been vaccinated against rabies at least thirty days and at most twelve months before loading.

Article 7

Horses to be entered in races, competitions or sporting events may be imported temporarily for a maximum period of three months if they are accompanied by a certificate issued by a State veterinary officer or by a veterinary surgeon approved by the State.

In addition to stating the owner's name and address, an exact description of the animal or animals, and their origin and destination, such certificate shall attest that the establishment of origin is free from contagious diseases and that the animals are in good health.

In advance of any temporary importation, the owner of the animal or animals concerned shall submit an application in writing to the official veterinary service of the country into which admittance is requested.

Article 8

No raw materials or food products derived from cattle, solid-hoofed animals, sheep, pigs or fowl shall be imported unless they come from a slaughter-house, poultry slaughter-house or meat-processing plant approved by the competent authority of each Contracting Party. Each approved slaughter-house, poultry slaughter-house or plant shall be assigned a number which shall be reproduced on all stamps, labels and documents.

Article 9

Each Contracting Party shall communicate to the other within three months of the entry into force of this Convention the list of approved slaughter-houses, poultry slaughter-houses and meat-processing plants and the numbers assigned to them.

Any amendment to the said list shall be communicated immediately to the other Party.

Article 10

Each consignment shall be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a State veterinary officer or a veterinary surgeon approved by the State in the exporting country.

Article 11

In slaughter-houses, meat-processing plants and poultry slaughter-houses, the premises in which the meat is kept shall be built of materials which are easy to maintain and disinfect and shall be supplied with drinking water.

Article 12

Workers employed at slaughter-houses, meat-processing plants and poultry slaughter-houses shall be free from diseases which are communicable, contagious or capable of contaminating the meat or products. They shall undergo a health examination every year.

Article 13

The following rooms shall be available at approved export slaughter-houses:

- A room for the slaughtering of cattle and sheep;
- A room for the slaughtering of pigs;
- A special room for the slaughtering of sick or suspect animals;
- A room for the processing of stomachs and intestines;
- A room for the processing of by-products and wastes;
- Refrigerating facilities.

Approved slaughter-houses should be so equipped that the dressing operations can be carried out, as far as possible, while the animal is in a suspended position.

Article 14

Carcasses of animals other than pigs shall be flayed.

The serous membranes and lymph nodes shall not be removed.

No incisions or excisions other than those necessary for inspection shall be made.

Meat derived from animals treated with oestrogenic, hormonal, anti-biotic or thyreostatic substances to stimulate fattening shall in no case be imported.

Article 15

Consignments of fresh meat, whether frozen or unfrozen, shall be sent only in the following form:

Cattle: halved or quartered carcasses or pieces weighing not less than 10 kilogrammes;

Calves: halved or quartered carcasses or unboned pieces weighing not less than 10 kilogrammes;

Pigs: halved carcasses, hams, shoulders, unboned loins or pieces of bacon weighing not less than 3 kilogrammes;

Horses: halved or quartered carcasses or unboned pieces weighing not less than 10 kilogrammes;

Lambs: whole carcasses;

Sheep: whole or halved carcasses, legs or shoulders;

Heads and tails: if they are whole and unboned;

Tongues, hearts, livers, kidneys, brains and thymus glands: if they are whole;

Stomachs, rumens, tripe and intestines: if they are whole and have been cleaned and bleached.

Article 16

Each quarter shall bear at least two inspection stamps.

Lamb and sheep carcasses shall bear at least two inspection stamps on each half.

Each piece of meat shall bear at least one inspection stamp.

Each parcel containing pieces or scraps shall bear a label identifying the slaughter-house of origin. The label must bear the inspection stamp. A duplicate of the label shall be placed in each parcel.

Article 17

The veterinary health certificate shall attest that the meat is derived from animals found to be healthy before slaughtering, that the meat has been found unconditionally fit for consumption and that it is not derived from animals slaughtered for reasons of emergency or as part of a campaign against animal diseases.

The inspection stamps applied to the meat or to the labels shall be listed in the health certificate.

Article 18

Meat-processing plants shall be so arranged as to permit work under the best possible hygienic conditions; they shall include :

- A boning and cutting room;
- A preparing room;
- A cooking room;
- A separate room for the rendering of fats;
- A smoking room;
- A drying room;
- Rooms for packing, storage and shipping;
- Refrigerating rooms for storing the unprocessed meat.

Article 19

Only meat from approved export slaughter-houses shall be used in meat-processing plants.

The use of antibiotic or anti-oxidant substances or other substances intended for preservation of the products shall be prohibited.

Article 20

Each container or piece shall bear the approval stamp of the establishment in which the product was prepared.

Each parcel shall bear a label identifying the meat-processing plant from which it originates; a duplicate of the label shall be placed inside the parcel.

Article 21

The health certificate shall state that the raw materials used are derived from animals found to be healthy before slaughtering and have been declared unconditionally fit for consumption; it shall also attest that the product is free from antibiotic, anti-oxidant or preservative substances and has been prepared in accordance with the rules of food hygiene.

Article 22

Poultry shall be plucked, except for the head, and drawn in accordance with the health requirements of the importing country. Poultry which has been cut into parts and refrigerated or frozen shall be packed in a moisture-proof wrapper. Each consignment shall be accompanied by a health certificate.

Article 23

Killed game shall be presented in accordance with the health regulations of the importing country. Each consignment shall be accompanied by a

health certificate attesting that the game originates from a region free from contagious diseases.

Article 24

1. Products of animal origin such as hides, bristles, horsehair and other hair, wool, feathers, horns, hoofs, bones, manure, fertilizer and livestock fodder (in the case of fertilizer and livestock fodder, where they consist wholly or partly of meal made from meat scrap, bones, blood or fish) may be required to be accompanied, for importation, by a certificate issued by a State veterinary officer or by a veterinary surgeon approved by the State, identifying the products and attesting that they have undergone a process of disinfection or sterilization and are not suspected of carrying or containing salmonellae or other pathogenic germs.

2. The official veterinary service of each Contracting Party shall make known to the other Party the technical processes used for disinfecting or sterilizing products of animal origin before their export.

Article 25

1. If, in a consignment of animals for import, the veterinary inspector discovers or suspects, at the crossing of the frontier, that certain animals are suffering from a contagious disease, such animals shall be handled, according to the nature of the disease, in conformity with the provisions of the relevant regulations in force in the importing country.

According to the nature of the disease, this measure may be applied to all animals having the same origin or belonging to the same consignment.

The meat and products of the slaughtered animals shall be dealt with according to the regulations applicable to native animals.

2. However, animals for which clearance is refused may be returned to the country of origin at the request of the owner or exporter, provided that the authorities of the countries to be traversed *en route* do not object.

3. The measures provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 above may be applied to consignments of animals presented for import which do not satisfy the requirements of this Convention.

4. The veterinary inspector of the importing country shall enter on the certificate, in a signed statement, the grounds for refusing clearance or for slaughtering.

5. If a contagious disease is discovered among imported animals only after they have entered the country of destination, the fact shall be recorded in a report drawn up by a State veterinary officer or by a veterinary surgeon approved by the State.

6. Whenever health measures are taken, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, with respect to animals presented for import, the official veterinary service of the importing country shall immediately notify the official veterinary service of the exporting country by cable, specifying *inter alia* the number of animals to which the measures have been applied, the symptoms or disease discovered and the nature of the measures taken. The cable shall subsequently be confirmed in a more detailed report.

7. The procedure described in paragraph 6 above shall also be applicable to imports of meat, fats and meat preparations.

Article 26

1. The provisions of this Convention shall apply to animals originating in the territory of either Contracting Party for the purposes of direct transit through the territory of the other Party, provided that the country of destination undertakes not to refuse clearance to any transit consignment of such animals. If other countries must be traversed *en route*, a transit permit shall be obtained from each country in advance.

2. The declarations of health provided for in article 5 of this Convention shall not be required for animals in transit without trans-shipment.

3. An advance undertaking by any countries to be traversed *en route* and by the country of destination to grant clearance shall not be required for transit consignments of fresh, frozen, tinned or prepared meat or raw materials of animal origin conveyed from the territory of the other Party by rail or road, in closed and sealed waggons or lorries or by air.

Article 27

1. Each Contracting Party undertakes to publish at least once a month a bulletin on the epizootic situation, which shall be transmitted directly to the other Contracting Party.

In addition, either Contracting Party may at any time obtain from the other Party, with respect to any statutorily notifiable contagious disease, a list of the communes infected in such regions or provinces as it may designate.

2. When any unusual contagious disease, such as rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia, an exotic variety of foot-and-mouth disease, or African horse sickness, is discovered in the territory of either Contracting Party, the central veterinary authority of the other Contracting Party shall be so notified by cable.

In such cases the other Party shall be entitled to prohibit or restrict, for such time as the danger of propagation persists, and taking into account

the other provisions of this Convention, the transit and import of animals, of products of animal origin and, in general, of all products capable of transmitting the contagion.

3. Urgent communications relating to the implementation of this Convention may be exchanged directly between the veterinary authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

Article 28

The disinfection of vehicles used for the conveyance of animals or raw materials of animal origin shall, if carried out in accordance with the regulations in force in the territory of one Contracting Party, be recognized as valid by the other Party.

Article 29

In cases in which the health certificates provided for under this Convention are not drawn up in the language of the country of destination, a translation in the French language shall be annexed thereto.

Article 30

The procedure for giving effect to certain provisions of this Convention, such as those of articles 3, 6 and 24, and any subsequent amendments thereto shall be determined by correspondence between the official veterinary authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Article 31

1. The Contracting Parties shall establish a Mixed Commission. Each Contracting Party shall appoint three members.

Meetings of the Mixed Commission shall be held at the request of either Contracting Party, alternately in the territory of the Kingdom of Belgium and in the territory of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The head of the delegation of the country in whose territory the session of the Mixed Commission is to take place shall preside.

Each delegation may be assisted at the sessions by specialists called upon to give their professional opinion on particular matters.

2. The functions of the Mixed Commission shall be:

— To examine the results of the practical implementation of this Convention and to propose to the two Governments measures with a view to more effective implementation of the provisions of this Convention;

— To submit to the Governments any proposals which may be made for the modification or amendment of particular provisions of the Convention;

— To settle disputes relating to the implementation and interpretation of this Convention;

— To submit to the two Governments proposals to reconcile the provisions of the Convention with the recommendations of competent international offices recognized by the Governments of the Contracting Parties.

3. The decisions of the Mixed Commission shall be subject to the approval of both Governments.

Article 32

The provisions of this Convention may be extended, by supplementary agreements between the two Contracting Parties, to cover other known or hitherto unknown diseases if there is good reason to fear that they may be communicated.

Article 33

This Convention shall be ratified in accordance with the constitutional provisions of the two Contracting Parties, and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Sofia.

Article 34

This Convention is concluded for a term of five years.

Unless it is denounced by either Contracting Party six months before the expiry of the above-mentioned term, the Convention shall be extended automatically for an indefinite period, but either Contracting Party may denounce it through the diplomatic channel at six months' notice.

This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

DONE at Brussels on 14 June 1966, in two original copies in the French, Dutch and Bulgarian languages, all three texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium:

A. DE WINTER

For the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

J. BUDINOV