

# **Initial impact (ex-ante) assessment report (explanatory memorandum) of the draft legislative act “Procedures for the monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis”**

## **1. Justification**

### **1.1. Rationale for drafting**

Ministry / Institutional Initiative

#### **Description**

The draft legislative act “Procedures for the monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis” (hereinafter referred to as the draft) has been drawn up in order to comply with the provisions of Section 25(17) of the Veterinary Medicine Law on the issue of a procedure for the monitoring, control and eradication of infectious diseases in animals under State supervision.

### **1.2. Objective**

#### **Description of the objective**

The draft has been prepared in order to lay down procedures for the monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter also referred to as the disease) in animals of the caprine species (hereinafter also referred to as the animals).

**Date of entry into force 01.07.2027.**

### **1.3. Current situation, problems, and solutions**

#### **Current situation**

The current regulatory enactments do not specify the procedures for monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis.

Section 15(1) of the Veterinary Medicine Law provides that the monitoring and control of animals under State supervision shall be carried out in accordance with regulatory enactments and programs for eradicating and monitoring infectious diseases in animals under State supervision.

Annex 1 to Cabinet Regulation No 127 of 21 February 2012 "Regulations on reportable, registrable, and State-monitored infectious animal diseases and the procedure for providing information thereon to the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service" lists caprine arthritis encephalitis as a notifiable infectious disease in animals under State supervision, for which monitoring, control and eradication procedures must be laid down in Latvia.

The causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis is a lentivirus (hereinafter also referred to as provirus) of the Retroviridae family of small ruminants, which spreads unnoticed in the herd, so that infected goats do not show visible symptoms for a long time after infection. Therefore, early identification of infected animals is necessary to control the disease, but this can only be achieved through laboratory testing.

Caprine arthritis encephalitis is a slowly progressing irreversible infectious disease characterized by respiratory disorders, sometimes also central nervous system disorders, mastitis, joint inflammation, and emaciation. Goats of various ages are susceptible to the disease. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for caprine arthritis encephalitis. The causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis is not dangerous to humans. Not all infected animals develop clinical signs of the disease, and in some cases the infection may be latent, so it is very important to carry out regular laboratory testing of the herd as this can detect infected animals.

According to data from the State Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR” (hereinafter referred to as the national reference laboratory), by 1 January 2025, 995 goat blood samples had been tested, of which 25 were positive for caprine arthritis encephalitis antibodies.

#### **1.3.1. Description of the problem**

The current regulatory enactments do not regulate the requirements for monitoring, controlling and eradicating caprine arthritis encephalitis, nor do they specify the procedure for granting status to

holdings with animals of the caprine species. This means that the spread of caprine arthritis encephalitis is currently not being effectively controlled and eradicated, even though laboratory tests are available.

For owners or keepers of goats, caprine arthritis encephalitis is an economically significant disease, as it causes significant productivity losses in chronically ill animals. Ignoring the risks posed by caprine arthritis encephalitis could jeopardize the development of goat farming in Latvia, because improving the meat and milk qualities of goat breeds also involves importing valuable breeding stock that is highly susceptible to the disease.

Currently, the Latvian Goat Breeders Association has determined in performance tests, i.e., breeding programs, that it is necessary to diagnose arthritis encephalitis in breeding goats in order to limit the spread of the disease.

The Latvian Food and Veterinary Service and the Latvian Goat Breeders Association, in implementing the detection of caprine arthritis encephalitis in goat herds under supervision in Latvia, have determined that it is necessary to develop and establish uniform requirements for the caprine arthritis encephalitis monitoring program for all owners or keepers of animals of the caprine species who wish to obtain and maintain a holding status:

- (a) the status of a holding recovered from caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter referred to as M1 status), the status corresponds to the lowest status level;
- (b) the status of a holding free from caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter referred to as M2 status), the status corresponds to an medium status level;
- (c) the status of a holding officially free from caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter referred to as M3 status), the status corresponds to the highest status level.

It is also necessary to stipulate that the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service shall grant a status to a holding affected by caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter referred to as MP status). This status is granted if:

- (1) an animal in the holding is infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis, i.e., the animal shows clinical signs together with a positive or suspicious laboratory result, the animal has been fed milk from sick goats or sheep and has a positive or suspicious laboratory result, a positive serological result or a repeat suspicious result is found in a self-monitoring sample at an M1 status holding, a repeat positive serological result is found in an M2 or M3 status holding, or the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis is found in a virological or molecular biological laboratory test;
- (2) an animal kept in a holding with M2 or M3 status and suspected of being infected has not been tested in a laboratory.

### **Description of the solution**

In view of the problems described above, uniform measures must be laid down for owners or keepers of animals of the caprine species to implement a caprine arthritis encephalitis monitoring program. It is also necessary to establish a procedure for granting status to holdings with animals of the caprine species.

A draft has been prepared to establish requirements for monitoring, controlling and eradicating caprine arthritis encephalitis, establishing a clear and controllable system for assigning health status (MP, M1, M2 or M3 status) to holdings and ensuring strict measures for monitoring, control and eradication of the disease. The draft will contribute to the eradication of the disease and the improvement of animal health in those holdings where animal owners or keepers wish to comply with the conditions set out in the draft.

Pursuant to Section 25(17) of the Veterinary Medicine Law, the Cabinet of Ministers is authorised to issue regulations laying down the procedure for monitoring, controlling and eradicating infectious diseases in animals under State supervision.

For the purposes of this draft, a 'holding' is a space, building or enclosed area registered in the Latvian Rural Support Service's register of farm animals, herds and holdings (hereinafter referred to as the Rural Support Service register) intended for keeping animals and constituting a separate

epidemiological unit in which the animals have the same health status, but if the animals are kept indoors, all animals sharing the same airspace shall be considered as such a unit.

The requirements for monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis laid down in the draft require laboratory tests to be carried out. During the monitoring and control measures, it is planned to take a blood sample for laboratory testing for antibodies against the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis (hereinafter referred to as the self-control sample). During the eradication measures, it is planned to take a blood or spleen sample from the animal or its carcass in order to determine in laboratory tests the provirus of the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis or antibodies against it (hereinafter referred to as the control sample).

The draft also stipulates that self-control and control samples (hereinafter referred to as samples) shall be taken by a practising veterinarian.

In order to avoid false laboratory results, the draft stipulates that samples should not be taken 10 days before the planned date and after the birth of the goat's kid (this is based on the results of a 2016 study by the Warsaw University of Life Sciences entitled "Decrease in antibody titres against small ruminant lentivirus during goat kidding"; available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2016.12.006>).

Since laboratory testing of samples in Latvia can be performed by the national reference laboratory or another European Union accredited reference laboratory (hereinafter referred to as the reference laboratory of another Member State), samples can be sent to them by a practising veterinarian, animal owner, keeper, or an organization of livestock breeders representing animal owners or keepers.

If samples are sent to the national reference laboratory, the results of the sample testing shall be sent to the person who ordered the laboratory testing and to the person indicated by them in accordance with the information provided in the accompanying letter, as well as to the Rural Support Service, if the person who ordered the tests has indicated in the accompanying letter that the results should be sent to the Rural Support Service or, if the tests were carried out in the performance of public administration tasks, that the person who ordered the tests is the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service. However, if samples are sent to a reference laboratory of another Member State, the owner or keeper of the animals shall send the results of the laboratory tests to the breeders' organization representing the owner or keeper of the animals concerned, or to the practising veterinarian for registration in the Rural Support Service register.

The prepared draft provides for activities that will enable the holdings to obtain and maintain M1, M2 or M3 status in the future. The draft also sets out situations where the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service will grant and maintain MP status to holdings, as well as the requirements for changing status.

The draft stipulates that the Latvian Rural Support Service shall maintain an up-to-date list of animal holdings that have been granted and that have retained MP, M1, M2 or M3 status in the public section of its website, indicating the date of granting of the status, the district and parish where the holding is located, and its number. In the Rural Support Service register, the Service will be able to indicate the status assigned by the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to the holding from which the animals were imported, and will send information about the added status of the holding to the animal owner or keeper to the email address indicated in the Rural Support Service register, if animals have not been kept at the holding before or the animals have been brought in from a holding with a lower status, except in situations where the animals have been imported into the holding from a Member State of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as a Member State) or a country that is not a Member State of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as a third country). If animals are imported from another Member State or a third country, the owner or keeper of the animals must comply with the procedures for obtaining M1, M2 or M3 status.

In turn, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service will notify the owner or keeper of the animals in writing of the granting or non-granting of M1, M2 or M3 status after assessing the holding based on the application received.

In order for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to grant **M1, M2 or M3 status** to holdings, the draft stipulates that the owner or keeper of the animals must submit an application for the status to be assigned to the holding, and must also attach a reference from the Rural Support Service register regarding the addition or change of the holding's status.

The application form for granting status is provided in Annex 1 to the draft, but before submitting the application, the owner or keeper of the animals must ensure that measures to combat caprine arthritis encephalitis are implemented (if applicable). In addition, female goats, breeding rams and all other goats older than 12 months (hereinafter referred to as 'basic herd animals') must be tested in a laboratory for caprine arthritis encephalitis and the results must be negative. It must also be ensured that laboratory-tested negative reproductive products – animal semen, ova or embryos (hereinafter referred to as reproductive products) – are used for the basic herd animals.

In order to prevent the spread of caprine arthritis encephalitis in the holding, the draft stipulates that animals brought into the holding must come from a holding of the same or higher status, or from another Member State or third country that has been granted and maintains the appropriate holding or herd status, or from a holding where the basic herd animals have been tested in a laboratory for the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis and the results have been negative. If the animal has been imported from another Member State or a third country, the results obtained in the laboratory or the status assigned to the place of origin must be indicated in the certificate set out in Annex 2 to the draft. The certificate can be obtained from the competent authority of the Member State or third country from which the animals are being moved, if the holdings or herds are granted status relating to the monitoring of caprine arthritis encephalitis, whereas if the competent authority does not grant status to the holdings or herds, the certificate may be obtained from the practising veterinarian of the Member State or third country from which the animals are being moved.

When moving animals so that the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service can **maintain the M1, M2 or M3 status** of the holding, they must be imported from a holding of the same or higher status or from another Member State or third country which has been granted and maintains the relevant holding or herd status, or from a holding where the basic herd animals have been subjected to a laboratory examination for the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis with negative results and where laboratory-negative reproductive products of the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis have been used. Similarly, within 12 to 14 months of the last sampling date, self-control samples from all basic herd animals must be tested in a laboratory. However, if goats are kept together with sheep, the sheep must be tested for Maedi-Visna disease, and the kids must be fed only milk that is negative for caprine arthritis encephalitis or Maedi-Visna disease, or the milk must be heat-treated to ensure the destruction of the caprine arthritis encephalitis pathogen.

The draft will stipulate that animals are moved to a common grazing area where only goats or sheep from holdings with the same status are grazed.

The draft stipulates that imported animals may be added to the rest of the animals in the holding if they have been tested using self-control samples and the results are negative, or, if they have not been tested in a laboratory, they are isolated and tested in a laboratory and, if the results are negative, only then can they be added to the holding with the other animals.

Similarly, in order to prevent the spread of disease, if goats are taken to an event attended by goats or sheep from holdings of different status, the draft stipulates that the owner or keeper of the animals must ensure that visitors to the event cannot come into contact with their animals and that animals from different status holdings are isolated from each other, except in situations where goats or sheep from holdings of the same status participate in the event.

The draft defines measures for combatting goat caprine encephalitis in situations where there is suspicion that an animal has contracted the disease or where an animal is sick with caprine arthritis encephalitis.

**Suspicion of an animal being infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis** arises in situations where the animal shows clinical signs of caprine arthritis encephalitis, the animal is fed milk obtained from a goat suffering from caprine arthritis encephalitis or from an ovine animal suffering

from Maedi-Visna disease, or when laboratory tests on animals in M1, M2 or M3 status holdings reveal a suspicious (indeterminate) serological test result for caprine arthritis encephalitis or a first positive serological test result for caprine arthritis encephalitis. In such a situation, the draft regulations stipulate that the owner or keeper of the animal must ensure that the animal does not come into contact with any other goat or sheep in the holding.

The draft stipulates that an animal suspected of being infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis must be removed from M1 (if deemed necessary), M2 or M3 status holdings and must be tested in a laboratory for the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis or must be moved from M1 status holdings to holdings where animals for fattening are kept or to a slaughterhouse for slaughter. It is also stipulated that animals suspected of being infected may not be used for breeding, sperm, egg or embryo collection, and milk obtained from them may only be fed to animals in M1, M2 or M3 status holdings after heat treatment.

Animals suspected of being infected may be returned to the herd only if the results of laboratory tests are repeatedly negative. Basic herd animals which have been in contact with an animal suspected of having contracted caprine arthritis encephalitis must be serologically examined for the presence of the agents of caprine arthritis encephalitis.

The draft also stipulates that the owner or keeper of animals must ensure that basic herd animals with M1, M2 or M3 status that have been in contact with an animal suspected of being infected and confirmed to be infected are tested in a laboratory no earlier than six months after the suspicion was identified. If the test result is positive, the animal is considered to be infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis and must be isolated and transferred to a slaughterhouse for slaughter within two weeks. If the result is negative, the animal sample shall be re-examined in the laboratory no earlier than 12 months after the date of the last self-control sample collection.

The draft stipulates that **an animal shall be considered infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis** when laboratory tests of samples taken from an M1 status holding reveal suspicious or positive serological test results, or when laboratory tests of samples taken from an M1, M2, and M3 status reveal repeated positive serological test results for caprine arthritis encephalitis or virological or molecular biological testing for the causative agent of caprine arthritis encephalitis.

In such a situation, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service revokes the M1, M2 and M3 status and grants the holding MP status, which is maintained until the sick animal, as well as the offspring of sick goats younger than 12 months, have been moved to a holding where animals for fattening are kept or to a slaughterhouse for slaughter, and the control samples taken from the basic herd animals have yielded negative laboratory test results. Control samples shall be taken from basic herd animals that have been in contact with the sick animal and shall be examined in a laboratory four months after the positive laboratory test result for caprine arthritis encephalitis was confirmed. If the result of the examination is positive, the animal is considered to be infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis and shall be immediately isolated and, within two weeks of obtaining the laboratory results, transferred to a holding where animals are kept for fattening or slaughter. However, if the result is negative, the control samples from the basic herd animals must be re-examined in the laboratory no earlier than 12 months after the date of the last control sample collection. After the requirements have been met, the Rural Support Service shall indicate M1 status in its register for the holding.

If an animal is considered to be infected with caprine arthritis encephalitis, the draft regulations stipulate that the owner or keeper of the animal is obliged to isolate the infected animal and ensure that it does not come into contact with other animals in the holding. It is also stipulated that such animals may not be used for breeding, sperm, egg or embryo collection, and milk obtained from such animals may only be fed to animals in M1, M2 or M3 status holdings after heat treatment.

In turn, in order to identify potentially infected and epidemiologically related holdings where animals have been in contact with sick animals, the project provides for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to organize an epidemiological investigation (a working method for identifying the causative agents, sources, transmission factors, and routes of spread of infectious diseases, as well as for organizing preventive and anti-epidemic measures) if the owner or keeper of the animals

has requested it. The Latvian Food and Veterinary Service shall, where necessary, consult veterinarians practising in the goat farming sector and specialists from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies in order to determine the necessary additional measures for combating caprine arthritis encephalitis in infected and epidemiologically related holdings.

If all animals are removed from the premises, the premises should be cleaned and disinfected, and animals should preferably only be brought back after 14 days. In this case, the Rural Support Service will add the status of the holding from which the animals were imported to its register, unless the animals were imported from a Member State or a third country, because then the owner or keeper of the animals acts in accordance with the procedure for obtaining M1, M2, or M3 status.

The draft provides that the Rural Support Service shall, **within five working days after** receipt of the information, add or change the status in its register and, in such cases, inform the owner or keeper of the animals within five working days by sending a notification to the email address indicated in the register.

It is also envisaged that the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service will assess the compliance of the holding with the specified criteria and decide on the granting or refusal of M1, M2 or M3 status, notifying **the owner or keeper of the animals within five working days**. If a decision is made to grant the status, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service shall enter the granted status in the Rural Support Service register **within five working days**. However, in situations where, based on the results of laboratory tests, it is found that the holding no longer meets the criteria for granting the status, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service shall revoke the M1, M2, or M3 status **within three working days** and assign MP status to the holding, informing the Rural Support Service and the owner or keeper of the animals thereof. It is also envisaged that the Rural Support Service will send a reminder about the necessary examinations to the animal owner or keeper **30 days before the end date of the required examination** to the email address indicated in the register.

### **1.3.2. Description of the problem**

In order for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to grant M1, M2, or M3 status to a holding with animals of the caprine species, it is necessary to process certain data.

#### **Description of the solution**

In order for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to grant M1, M2, or M3 status to a holding with animals of the caprine species, the owner or keeper of the animals must submit to the Service the application form provided in Annex 1 or 3 to the draft, as well as the certificate provided in Annex 2, confirming the monitoring of caprine arthritis encephalitis in the goat herd or holding in the country of origin. Since one of the applicants listed in Annexes 1 and 3 may be a natural person who is the owner or keeper of animals, and since the certificate in Annex 2 requires the provision of the natural person's data, the natural person's data specified in the application (name, surname, personal identification number, email address) and the personal data of the natural person indicated in the certificate (name, surname, personal identification number, email address, declared place of residence and telephone number) will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

For this reason, the draft has set a data processing objective – to identify the owner or keeper of the animals, to assign and maintain the status of the holding, and to notify the owner or keeper of the animals of the assignment of M1, M2, or M3 status. The data storage period – until the storage facility is liquidated – and the conditions for data destruction are determined in accordance with the requirements set out in the Archives Act. In order to identify the applicant, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service needs to know the applicant's name, surname, and identity number, and in order to notify the applicant of the granting of the aforementioned status, it is necessary to know the

applicant's email address. These submitted personal data are proportionate and necessary for the implementation and achievement of the objectives set out in this draft.

### **1.3.3. Description of the problem**

Already today, in practice, regardless of regulatory requirements, animal owners or keepers often test animals for caprine arthritis encephalitis and ensure that the disease is eradicated on the holding, but holdings are not granted any status.

#### **Description of the solution**

The draft stipulates that in 2026 and 2027, animal owners or keepers will be able to obtain M1, M2, or M3 status for their farms more easily, and this status will be granted if the basic herd animals at the holding test negative for caprine arthritis-encephalitis in laboratory tests and only imported animals that have been kept in isolation for at least 30 days after import and tested in laboratory tests with negative results are placed on the holding. M1 status can be obtained if the requirements have been implemented for one year, M2 for two years, M3 for three years.

In order for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service to grant M1, M2, or M3 status to holdings, the draft stipulates that for the status to be granted to the holding the owner or keeper of the animals must submit an application by 1 November 2027. The application form is provided in Annex 3 to the project.

## **2. Groups of companies affected or likely to be affected by the legal framework**

### **Natural persons**

Owners or keepers of animals of the caprine species

Practising veterinarians

### **Legal entities**

Owners or keepers of animals of the caprine species

Practising veterinarians

### **Description of the impact**

The first section of the explanatory memorandum explains that caprine arthritis encephalitis is an economically significant disease because it causes a significant loss of productivity in chronically ill animals over a longer period of time. Ignoring the risks posed by caprine arthritis encephalitis disease could jeopardize the development of goat farming in Latvia, because improving the meat and milk qualities of goat breeds also involves importing valuable breeding stock that is highly susceptible to the disease. Thus, due to undefined restrictions, difficulties have been identified in certain sectors of the goat farming industry, which threaten the further improvement, development, and existence of this sector.

The draft regulations will improve the situation in the goat farming sector and economic interest.

The legal framework of the project will apply to owners or keepers of animals of the caprine species who wish to obtain and maintain the status of holdings where animals come from holdings with M1, M2, or M3 status.

The legal framework of the project will also apply to practising veterinarians who are required to implement communicable disease control measures.

## **3. Impact of the regulatory framework on:**

### **3.1. sectoral competitiveness:**

The legal framework of the draft promotes the keeping of animals of the caprine species selected for breeding or intended for breeding that have tested negative for caprine arthritis encephalitis in laboratories;

### **3.2. the business environment:**

The legal framework of the draft affects companies that keep animals of the caprine species that have tested positive for caprine arthritis encephalitis in laboratory tests.

The legal framework of the draft stipulates that if animals of the caprine species have been tested in a laboratory for caprine arthritis encephalitis and the results are negative, an application can be submitted to the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service for the granting of a status to the holding.

As the draft involves the introduction of a new administrative procedure, the legal framework of the draft has an impact on administrative costs, i.e. costs incurred in connection with the obligations to prepare and submit information. In the case of a group of companies constituted by legal persons (owner or holder of animals), they exceed EUR 2,000 per year.

Similarly, the legal framework of the draft has an impact on compliance costs (in monetary terms), and this generates compliance costs for the target group, which consists of legal entities (animal owners or keepers) who wish to obtain and maintain M1, M2, or M3 status for their holdings;

### **3.3. small and medium-sized enterprises:**

The legal framework of the draft affects companies that keep animals of the caprine species that have tested positive for caprine arthritis encephalitis in laboratory tests.

The legal framework of the draft stipulates that if animals of the caprine species have been tested in a laboratory for caprine arthritis encephalitis and the results are negative, an application can be submitted to the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service for the granting of a status to the holding;

### **3.4. competition:**

Legally regulated and managed health issues in the goat sector preserve animal health and promote trade competition;

### **3.5. employment:**

Legally regulated and managed health issues in the goat sector maintain rural population and employment;

### **3.6. the State budget and local government budgets:**

The institutions involved in the implementation of the draft will implement the provisions of the regulations within the limits of the allocated funds;

### **3.7. institutions:**

The legal framework of the draft will apply to:

- (1) the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service during assessment of the documents submitted and preparation of information for the owner or keeper of the animals, as well as reporting the status of the goat holdings in the Rural Support Service register;
- (2) the State Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”, which performs laboratory examinations in case of diagnosis of caprine arthritis encephalitis;
- (3) the Latvian Rural Support Service, by preparing a platform in the register to record the status granted to goat holdings.

Administrative costs for the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service, the State Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”, and the Data Centre will increase after the implementation of the draft as a result of the implementation of measures for monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis;

### **3.8. data protection:**

The planned processing and circulation of personal data included in the draft Regulation has been assessed and determined in accordance with Article 5 and Article 6(1)(c) and (e) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

## **4. Commitments of the draft legislative act to the European Union**

**EU legislative act:** 32015L1535; Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services;

Directive 2015/1535 lays down technical notification procedures for technical regulations and rules on Information Society services.

Given that the draft Cabinet regulation lays down new and detailed procedures for the monitoring, control and eradication of caprine arthritis encephalitis, including clear criteria for granting and maintaining the status of holdings (M1, M2, M3, and MP), as well as the conditions for carrying out laboratory tests, the draft regulation is considered to be a draft technical regulation. As the framework provides for new requirements for animal movements, monitoring, sampling and the granting of status, this may affect both animal owners and laboratories and supervisory authorities. The draft technical regulation will be notified to the European Commission for assessment using the Technical Regulation Information System (TRIS) when the draft is agreed with all the stakeholders before submission to the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers.

#### **5. Bodies involved in drafting the regulation**

The Latvian Rural Support Service, the State Scientific Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment “BIOR”, the Latvian Food and Veterinary Service, the Latvian Goat Breeders Association, the Latvian Sheep Breeders Association, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies.

#### **6. Public participation and results**

Public consultation: [https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/public\\_participation/87342df1-92a7-4781-b3f8-fcfe42049f94](https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/public_participation/87342df1-92a7-4781-b3f8-fcfe42049f94) No objections or suggestions were received regarding the draft.