European Union measures for the control of avian influenza

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EU legislation on Animal Health

Fully harmonised

• Disease control
• Trade & Imports
• Identification and traceability
Role of the European Commission

- Drafting of Legislation
- Information gathering - dispatch
- Standing Committees
- Crisis management
- Auditing
HPAI in the EU

A quick view of epidemiological situation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affected region</th>
<th>HPAI subtype</th>
<th>Outbreak Type</th>
<th>Confirmation date</th>
<th>Flock size</th>
<th>Species / Production type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania</td>
<td>H5N8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>05/11/2014</td>
<td>30939</td>
<td>fattening turkeys indoor</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>H5N8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21/11/2014</td>
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<td>common teal live bird</td>
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<td>16/12/2014</td>
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<td>20/12/2014</td>
<td>10102</td>
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<td>Sachen-Anhalt, Anhalt-Bitterfeld</td>
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<td>Rostock</td>
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<td>Zuid-Holland province, Ter Aar</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>H5N1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2/02/2015</td>
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<td>6/02/2015</td>
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<td>dove / gull dead bird</td>
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<td>Békés County, Füzesgyarmat</td>
<td>H5N8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24/02/2015</td>
<td>21170</td>
<td>fattening ducks indoors</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Stockholm, Djurgården island,</td>
<td>H5N8</td>
<td>Feb/March</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>mute swan (cygnus olor) dead bird</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Tulcea/Constanta county - Danube delta</td>
<td>H5N1</td>
<td>26/03/2015</td>
<td>6+/64†/250</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dalmatian pelican dead bird</td>
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</table>
HPAI - Notifications 2006-2015
HPAI notifications - 2006-2015

logarithmic scale

HPAI in domestic

HPAI in wild birds
Notification of low pathogenic avian influenza (H5/H7) 2006-2015

LPAI in poultry
HPAI in the EU

A quick view of rules, measures and tools
Avian influenza control legislation

*Directive 2005/94/EC*

**Main Principles**

- **Stamping-out Policy** of all poultry on infected farms
- **Zoning** 3km and 10km around outbreak farm
- **Movement controls**
- **Cleaning and disinfection**
- Since 2007 **control of low pathogenic avian influenza** by stamping out or by "controlled slaughter" *(very rarely used)* to avoid virus circulation and possible mutation to HPAI
Flexibility based on risk assessment

More stringent measures

• “standstill”
  on the whole territory for movements of poultry, poultry products and vehicles of poultry sector
  - may also be extended to mammalian species
  - not more than 72hrs

• “temporary control zone” can be established around a holding under AI suspicion e.g. relevant in densely populated poultry areas

• “pre-emptive killing” of flocks upon suspicion, of flocks in direct and indirect contact (vehicles, staff, fomites) without awaiting sampling/diagnosis

Some derogations from culling
quarantine and testing for endangered species, zoos birds...
Disease control tools

- **Contingency plans** of Member States
- **Simulation exercises**
- **EU co-financing** of:
  - *Compensation* paid to farmers of animals killed, C&D, feed, equipment
  - *Surveillance* according to EU-guidelines
  - *Emergency Vaccination* under approved programmes
- **Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) missions** to Member States and neighbouring third countries with a disease or at risk
- **Better Training For Safer Food (BTSF) trainings**
Additional tools: Network of EU and national AI laboratories

**EU AI Reference Laboratory** – Weybridge, UK, arranges for:

- Annual meetings of all 28 Member States' national reference laboratories and other invited countries and experts
- Ring tests for virus typing, serology and PCR
- Confirmatory diagnosis and support to Member States
- Virus characterisation, phylogeny
- Ongoing review of antigens for ability to detect new strains
- H5N8 – rapid update of antigens for surveillance
- International networking - OFFLU
Additional tools: Biosecurity

- First line of defence against AI virus introduction in poultry flocks
- Solid scientific evidence about the real efficacy of these measures is often lacking or is not quantified
- Compulsory confinement
- Poultry with open air access and indoor farms affected (HPAI H5N8 mainly detected in indoor farms)
- Need for protection against direct and indirect virus introduction
Objective: detect circulating AI virus:

Scope:

- **LPAI in gallinaceous birds**: chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, pheasants, partridges, quails and ratites thereby complementing other existing early detection systems
- **LPAI and HPAI in domestic waterfowl**: ducks, geese and mallards for re-stocking game

Strategy: targeted surveillance towards risk factors:

- Proximity to wet areas (migratory wild water birds gather)
- Poultry in free range
- Poultry holdings with more than one poultry species
- High density of poultry holdings
- Intensity of trade
Additional tool: Surveillance in wild birds

**Objective:** timely detection of HPAI H5N1 to protect poultry holdings

**Scope:**
“target species” are a selection of 50 bird species being more likely to be infected with HPAI HAN1 - migratory aquatic birds and those previously found positive such as birds of prey

**Strategy: risk-based surveillance**
- laboratory testing of moribund or birds found dead - focusing on water birds
- Increased surveillance close to areas with a high density of poultry holdings
Additional tool: Vaccination against AI

- **Emergency and preventive vaccination**
  - Primarily Member States’ decision
  - Commission needs to approve the vaccination plan
  - coupled with surveillance and control of movements

- **Member States do not see advantages in using emergency vaccination with currently available vaccines**
  - onset of immunity too slow
  - cumbersome, costly application
  - trade implications although internationally recognised measure

- **Currently very little use of preventive vaccination in poultry and zoo birds**
HPAI in the EU

Examples of application of rules and measures
Additional measures for HPAI H5N1 in Romania

movement restrictions for wild feathered game, by-products e.g. game trophies, manure products, untreated feathers, pet food, prohibition of bird gatherings and shows

High Risk Area includes 3/10km areas

Low Risk Area - surrounding buffer zone
Additional measures:
HPAI H5N1 in wild birds
UK
Zoning around wild bird findings
Movement restrictions for live poultry/products
Prohibition of hunting & game bird release

Clinical & laboratory investigations **in poultry farms** to detect possible virus introduction & prevent spread
HPAI in the EU

Two essential aspects:

- EU scientific advice
- EU financing
Science-based animal health legislation
European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

- EFSA is assessing modes of virus entry into EU poultry farms for review of biosecurity measures and surveillance tools (2015)
- HPAI H5N8 epidemiological situation and spread (2014)
- Animal health and welfare aspects of AI and risk for introduction into EU poultry (2008)
- Vaccination against AI in domestic, captive and zoo birds (2007)
- Animal health and welfare risks associated with import of birds other than poultry (wild caught) into the EU (2006)
- Possible role of migratory birds in HPAI spread (2006)
- Animal health and welfare aspects of AI (2005)
## EU financial support to Member States (€)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<td>For eradication/control</td>
<td>€1,273,505</td>
<td>€6,724,197</td>
<td>€1,385,521</td>
<td>€1,222,014</td>
<td>€3,694,896</td>
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<td>For surveillance programmes</td>
<td>€4,007,452</td>
<td>€2,579,494</td>
<td>€1,780,914</td>
<td>€1,816,041</td>
<td>€2,555,000</td>
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</table>
HPAI in the EU

Conclusions
Some conclusions on avian influenza (1)

- Response to AI outbreaks in Member States works well
- Robust emergency procedures and contingency plans in place
- AI disease control measures are generally well accepted
- Good balance between prescription and flexibility for Member States
Some conclusions on avian influenza (2)

- Measures in line with OIE requirements
- No major shift in rules foreseen in the most recently reviewed veterinary legislation
- Fine-tuning of existing measures based on scientific advice
Thank you for your attention!!