

AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI)- Response to Outbreaks in Asia in 2004– CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS AND LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION¹

*Situation as of 9 February 2004
DG SANCO.E2: Animal health and welfare, zootechnics*

| | Date | Main event | Action by the European Commission | Miscellaneous |
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| FIRST WEEK | FRI 12/12 | The veterinary authorities from the Republic of South Korea report to the OIE² a confirmed outbreak of HPAI ³ | European Commission monitors the evolving animal situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as South Korea is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | H5N1 initially isolated from 1 farm in the central part of the country |
| SECOND WEEK | WED 17/12 | Republic of South Korea report a second outbreak of HPAI to the OIE | | The second outbreak affects two farms and is located 2.5 km from the first affected farm. |
| FIFTH WEEK | THU 8/1 | The Vietnamese veterinary authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI in three farms | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Vietnam is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak in Vietnam- H5 subtype isolated from three farms |
| SIXTH WEEK | MON 12/1 | The Japanese Veterinary authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI in three farms | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Japan is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak in Japan- H5N1 subtype isolated from one farm in the Yamaguchi prefecture |

¹ This document summarises very basic information on the current outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in Asia, and related Community action. This focuses on the animal health aspects. For additional information, please refer to the Decisions in the Official Journal, to the Commission's [Avian Influenza webpage](#), including associated [press releases](#) . For more general animal health information, please refer to the Commission's [Animal Health](#) web-pages. For public health information, please refer to the Influenza pages from the Commission's [public health](#) unit, or [AI pages](#) from the World Health Organisation (WHO)

² OIE- The World Organisation for Animal Health is an intergovernmental organisation set up to monitor and report on global animal health

³ HPAI- High Pathogenic Avian Influenza

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| | TUES 13/1- WED 14/1 | Meeting of the SCFCAH⁴ | The evolving situation in South East Asia is discussed. It was agreed that because no imports of live poultry or poultry products take place from any of the countries affected by AI, a safeguard measure was not necessary. In addition, because live birds other than poultry have to undergo 30 day quarantine and must be subjected to laboratory testing for avian influenza in accordance with Commission Decision 2000/666/EC , they could still be imported from this region. However the Commission stressed that it would continue to monitor the epidemiological situation. | OIE press release on AI situation in South East Asia |
| | WED 15/1 | | | FAO ⁵ press release expressing concern about the spread of AI in Asia |
| | THU 16/1 | | Press release -Commissioner Byrne offers help in Avian Influenza crisis to Vietnam IP/04/64 | |
| SEVENTH WEEK | TUES 20/1 | The Taiwanese authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of AI (low path. AI) | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Taiwan is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak in Taiwan- Low pathogenic H5N2 subtype isolated from two farms, one in Changhwa Prefecture and the other in Chiayi Prefecture |
| | WED 21/1 | | | OIE press release updating AI situation Vietnam, including work of the WHO/OIE/FAO task force |

⁴ Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health - It is a Regulatory Committee, chaired by the Commission, including veterinary experts from all MS's governments

⁵ FAO- The Food and Agriculture Organisation is a specialist agency of the UN focusing on agriculture and food supply- see [here](#) for its work in relation to AI

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| | FRI 23/1 | The Thai authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI | The Commission adopts Decision 2004/84/EC ⁶ to suspend imports into the EU from Thailand of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fresh meat from poultry, ratites, farmed and wild feather game, • meat preparations and products consisting of or containing meat from those species • raw petfood and unprocessed feed material from these species from poultry slaughtered after 1 January 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eggs for human consumption | First outbreak in Thailand- H5 subtype isolated from a single farm in Supanburi Province OIE press release on situation in Thailand Commission action is summarised in a Press release IP/04/95 |
| | SAT 24/1 | The Cambodian authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Cambodia is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak in Cambodia - H5N1 subtype isolated from the infected farm |
| EIGHTH WEEK | MON 26/1 | The Hong Kong authorities report to the OIE that HPAI has been isolated in a single falcon found dead within its territory | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Hong Kong is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | |
| | TUE 27/1 | The Laos authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Laos is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak in Laos- H5 subtype isolated from a single farm close to Vientiane OIE press release on evolving AI situation in Asia. OIE press release on initial information from the joint WHO/OIE/FAO ⁷ mission to Vietnam |
| | WED 28/1 | Meeting of the SCFCAH (Section- Biological Safety of the Food Chain) | Commission Decision 2004/93/EC ⁸ adopted by the Commission following agreement in SCFCAH. The Decision suspends imports of birds other than poultry, including pet birds from South East Asia | Commission action is summarised in a Press release IP/04/123 |

⁶ OJ L 17, 24.1.2004, p.57.

⁷ WHO- World Health Organisation is a specialist agency of the UN and its primary role to improve global public health – see [here](#) for its work on AI and public health

⁸ OJ L 27, 30.1.2004, p.55.

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| | | The Pakistani authorities report to the OIE a confirmed outbreak of HPAI (H7 subtype) | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Pakistan is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | Three outbreaks in Sindh province in Pakistan- the first Pakistani outbreaks during the epidemic. H7 subtype isolated |
| | | OIE press release reporting the notification by the Chinese authorities of a confirmed outbreak of HPAI in ducks | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as China is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | First outbreak reported in China- H5N1 subtype isolated from infected ducks in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, SW China |
| | THU 29/1 | | In response to requests from WHO/OIE/FAO, an EU official flies to Vietnam to provide assistance in tackling the AI outbreak in the area. See Commission press release (Midday express) | OIE press release requesting Indonesia to confirm reports made by Ministry of Agriculture of AI outbreaks in Indonesia (see 3 Feb.) |
| NINTH WEEK | MON 2/2- TUE 3/2 | Meeting of the SCFCAH | Commission Decision 2004/122/EC ⁹ adopted by the Commission following agreement in SCFCAH. The Decision consolidates and prolongs for 6 months (until 15 August 2004) the measures adopted in relation to AI in Asia regarding the suspension of imports of both poultry meat and 'other' live birds, and repeals Decision 2004/84/EC and Commission Decision 2004/93/EC . | Commission action is summarised in a Press release IP/04/160 |
| | TUE 3/2 | The Indonesian authorities report to the OIE confirmed outbreaks of HPAI | European Commission monitors the evolving animal health situation, but agrees that no action is necessary as Indonesia is not authorised for the importation of live poultry or poultry meat into the EU | 127 outbreaks reported in Indonesia- caused by H5N1 subtype. 20.2M birds slaughtered since mid-December 03. Vaccination programme introduced |
| | WED 4/2 | OIE receive updated report on AI situation in China | | |
| | TUE 3/2- THU 5/2 | A joint FAO/OIE/WHO meeting on Avian influenza at FAO headquarters in Rome | | OIE press release and FAO press release summarising outcome of the joint meeting in Rome, including recommendations to manage the crisis |
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⁹ OJ L36, 7.2.2004, p.59.

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| | THU 5/2 | | | Article in Nature news section on AI epidemic in Asia |
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