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Report

Surveillance for avian influenza poultry carried out by Member States

January – March 2007

*Prepared by the Community Reference Laboratory for avian influenza and
Newcastle disease*

**REPORT OF THE EU POULTRY
SURVEILLANCE FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA
2007 – FIRST QUARTER (JANUARY –
MARCH)**



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SUMMARY

- 21 out of 27 member states (MS) submitted data to the EU commission for the sampling of poultry holdings between January and March 2007.
- Overall for the first quarter of 2007, a total of 36619 poultry holdings were sampled by EU MS (Backyard flocks constituted 81.39% of these holdings)
- The following categories of poultry were sampled: laying hens, broilers, chicken breeders, fattening turkeys, turkey breeders, backyard flocks, ducks, and geese, game birds (including quail and guinea-fowl), ratites and 'other.'
- A total of 48 holdings tested positive for avian influenza between January to March 2007, from 2 MS (DK and ES):
 - 20 holdings tested serology positive for subtype H5 (18 ducks/ geese holdings (5 (DK) and 13 (ES) and 2 'other' poultry holdings (ES))
 - 28 holdings tested serology positive for other LPAI subtypes (not H5 or H7) (4 laying hen holdings and 24 backyard flocks (ES))
- No positive holdings were reported for chicken breeders, broilers, turkey breeders/ fatteners, game birds and ratites.
- Subtype H5 was only reported in ducks/ geese and 'other' holdings.
- No subtype LPAI H7 was found in poultry holdings between January and March 2007

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this report is to provide a brief descriptive overview of the poultry surveillance for the first quarter of 2007. As the complete dataset of holdings to be sampled will only be available by the end of the year, all analysis and interpretation will be carried out in the annual report.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Where a category was included by a member state, which was not in the list of poultry holding categories (e.g. free-range laying hen), these totals were put into the nearest category (e.g. laying hens)

- Laying hens (Category includes free-range layer and 'hen of the field' (PT) and chicken (HU))
- Turkey Fatteners (Category includes turkeys (when not specified as turkey fatteners) (CZ/DE) and free-range turkeys)
- Game birds (Category includes quail and guinea-fowl)
- Ducks and Geese (Category included mallards)
- Backyard flocks (Any category which stated it was backyard flock; e.g. laying hen, or ducks and geese)
- Broilers (free-range broilers included (PT))

Slovak Republic – One holding categorised as 'other' was excluded from the report as it was referring to 'psittacines', which would not be categorised as a poultry holding.

Cyprus – 16 holdings were excluded from the total number of holdings for this MS, as these holdings had not originated from poultry holdings, but were from captive/ zoo birds.

Luxembourg - Sampled a laying hen and broiler flock from the same holding, plus a second holding (ratites), the total holdings reported was 2, therefore a laying hen, and not a broiler was reported in table 1.

SAMPLING

Between January and March 2007, 36619 poultry holdings were sampled. Of 27 EU member states, 6 did not sample from any poultry holdings in the first quarter of 2007 (Austria, Belgium, France, Latvia, Lithuania and United Kingdom). Figure 1 displays the total number of holdings sampled by Member State for the first quarter of 2007.

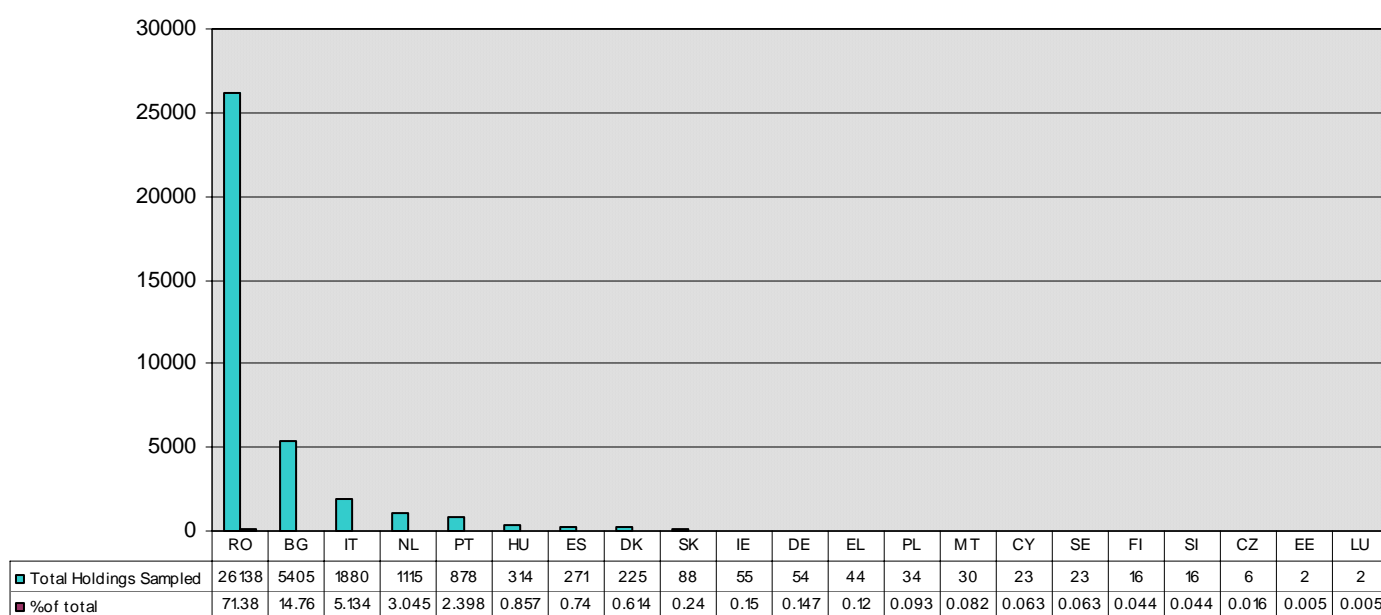


Figure 1 Total number of holdings sampled by MS

Of 21 EU Member States that sampled poultry holdings in the first quarter, Romania sampled the highest number of holdings (71.38% of total number sampled). The vast majority (98.26%) of these were from backyard flocks (n=25684) (From a total of 10 poultry holding categories sampled by Romania).

Table 1 displays a breakdown of the poultry holdings sampled between January and March 2007 (excluding those member states which did not sample any poultry holdings). The table includes any positives found in a Member State (shown highlighted in blue (H5) or orange (other subtype)).

Member State	Total number of sampled and positive holdings by member state and poultry category										
	Poultry Category										
	Chicken Breeders	Laying Hens	Broilers	Turkey Fatteners	Turkey breeders	Backyard Flocks	Ducks & Geese	Game Birds	Ratites	Others	Total
BG	67	892	130		10	3875	417	13	1		5405
CY	4	14	1				1	1	2		23
CZ		2		4							6
DE		5		14		21	14				54
DK	98	116		8			5/8	3			225
EE		2									2
EL	15	11	8	1		5		3	1		44
ES	55	4/127	107	52	9	24/1149	13/27	47	1	2/115	271
FI	16										16
HU	1	141	5	8			158	1			314
IE	47	5	2	1							55
IT	160	614		385	32	216	74	180	21	198	1880
LU**		1							1		2
MT		30									30
NL*		441	576	60	2		36				1115
PL	12	6		5			11				34
PT	104	10	638	115		1		10			878
RO	10	194	226		4	25684	10	6		4	26138
SE	15	6			2						23
SI	3	7		6							16
SK	2	12	62	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	88
EU Total	609	2509	1755	661	60	29804	722	267	28	204	
% Of EU total	1.66307	6.851634	4.792594	1.805074	0.16385	81.3894	1.9717	0.7291	0.0765	0.5571	36619
* Member state sampled from 1115 holdings, but some were tested more than once (=1849 flocks tested)											
** Member state sampled a laying hen and broiler flock from the same holding, plus a second holding (ratites) (=2 flocks in total tested)											
	Positive H5										
	Positive Other LPAI										

Table 1 Total number of sampled and positive birds by MS and poultry category

POSITIVES

Two Member States sampled from poultry holdings, which tested positive for avian influenza, of subtypes H5 and Other LPAI. In Denmark, 5 holdings (ducks and geese) tested serology positive for subtype H5 (PCR negative); 2 breeder geese and 3 breeder ducks (Mallards) (2.1% of holdings tested by member state).

In Spain, 43 holdings tested positive for avian influenza; 4 laying hens tested serology positive for other LPAI; 24 backyard flocks tested serology positive for other LPAI (1 flock was also PCR tested and this result was negative for other LPAI); 2 'Other' holdings tested serology positive for H5, and 13 fattening duck holdings tested serology positive for H5 (2.61% of holdings tested by Member

State). Of the total holdings sampled between January and March 2007 (n=36619), only 0.13% tested positive for avian influenza.

ANNEX I

Abbreviation	Country
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CH	Switzerland
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
UK	United Kingdom

Table 2 Key to member state abbreviations

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