



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
**04- Veterinary Control Programmes**

**Doc. SANCO/10267/2007**

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING  
DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES**

**BRUSSELS, 21 February 2008**

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**Participants:**

**Representatives of Member States:** AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK, UK.

**Private Experts:**

- V. Palfi, HU (chairman of the Rabies sub-group);
- S. Sternberg-Lewerin, SE (chairwoman of the Tuberculosis sub-group);
- M. Madsen, DK (chairman of the Salmonella sub-group);
- E. Stifter, IT (chairman of the bovine Brucellosis sub-group);
- B. Garin Bastuji, FR (chairman of the sheep & goats Brucellosis sub-group).

**Commission (SANCO 04):**

- J. Moynagh – Chairman
- T. Cirasa
- P. Demetriou
- O. Dumitrescu
- S. Idei
- V. Piazza
- L. Vandenberghe

**Agenda:**

The proposed agenda was adopted. The Commission added point 2 on presentation by the representatives from the Slovak Republic on the follow-up to the Rabies sub-group and point 4 presentation by the representatives from Portugal on the follow-up to the bovine Brucellosis sub-group. No suggestion for new items were proposed by the delegations.

**1. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “RABIES” SUB-GROUP OF  
THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION.  
VELKY MEDER, SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 11 -12 MAY 2007**

V. Palfi, HU (chairman of the Rabies sub-group) presented the summary of the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting where the Slovak and Czech Republics rabies eradication programmes were presented and discussion was focussed mainly on vaccination campaigns.

- As regard the **Slovak Republic**, a well defined rabies eradication programme has been established and appropriate corrective measures have been taken in case of some shortcomings identified by Slovakia. There has been a significant improvement of the rabies situation. Surveillance and monitoring are appropriate and well organised.

The main recommendations were:

- to continue oral vaccination of foxes until the freedom of the disease is reached and well demonstrated;
- to formally establish a frequent exchange of information and coordination of programmes with the neighbouring Member states and, if possible, with neighbouring third countries;
- to organise overlapping of vaccination areas in border regions of Member States.

As regard **Czech Republic**, the rabies eradication programme proved to be very efficient. As a result, in 2004 the rabies free status according to OIE provisions was achieved.

- The main recommendation is to maintain the preventive oral vaccination of foxes along the border with Poland and Slovakia, according to EU recommendations until rabies elimination in common border regions of those countries is achieved.

## **2. INFORMATION ON THE RABIES SITUATION IN SLOVAK REPUBLIC AS FOLLOW UP OF THE TF SUB GROUP.**

R. Matejcik from Slovak Republic made a presentation on the actual situation of rabies following the implementation of the recommendations made by the Task Force (TF) sub-group, focusing mainly on the control of efficiency of the oral vaccination campaigns.

## **3. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION. PONTA DELGADA, PORTUGAL, AZORES, 12-13 JUNE 2007.**

As the chairman of the sub-group did not attend to the meeting, V. Piazza presented the summary of the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting where two main issues were discussed: situation in mainland and in Azores.

### **Mainland:**

Three differentiated areas were identified as regards bovine brucellosis epidemiology: i) zones with special plans, ii) Alentejo region, where there is a lack of in-depth epidemiological analysis aimed at identifying risk factors and enabling decision-making on measures to be implemented and iii) rest of the country where the situation is favourable.

The main recommendations focus on: urgent in-depth analysis of the situation in Alentejo and where a special plan should be drafted, a differentiated strategy should be applied in the low prevalence areas in the mainland to address the possible false positive reactors on the basis of proper investigations. In addition, rapid depopulation of infected herds in very low prevalence areas should be considered.

### **Azores**

The Task Force acknowledged the real progress on eradication with success in the reduction of prevalence. Rapid and good implementation of the measures of the programme, and in particular vaccination, led to more rapid progress in some islands.

The main recommendations are: to maintain all the measures of the programme and especially to increase the vaccination coverage until the whole population is covered, to maintain the pressure of vaccination until sufficient evidence demonstrates sustainable absence of infection in the island. In order to address the false positive reactions of MRT, the group recommends the use of indirect ELISA in bulk milk samples for replacing MRT or at least as a confirmatory test for MRT.

#### **4. INFORMATION ON BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AS FOLLOW UP OF THE TF SUB GROUP.**

F. Boinas from Portugal made a presentation on the actual situation of bovine Brucellosis following the implementation of the recommendations made by the Task Force (TF) sub-group, focusing mainly on the special vaccination plans in place in mainland.

#### **5. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE "FOODBORNE ZONOSSES – SALMONELLOSIS3 SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE (kick off meeting) HELD IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 20-21 SEPTEMBER 2007.**

M. Madsen , DK, (chairman of the sub-group) presented the summary of the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting explaining the meeting was the kick off one for a planned series of meeting with the scope of examining national Salmonella control programmes for poultry in EU Member States in order to share experiences, identify common obstacles as regards the implementation of programmes and to identify areas where further work and solutions would be needed. During the meeting were presented: the Austrian Salmonella control program, the Slovak Salmonella control program, the Italian situation of Salmonellosis, the Danish situation of Salmonellosis and the organization of vaccination in the UK.

The main conclusions and recommendations were on: biosecurity measures, exchange of national experiences, compensation models, vaccination experiences, logistics and data reporting, cleaning-up infected premises, trade in day-old chicks, antibiotic treatment and hatchery monitoring.

S. Idei explained to the Plenary delegates that in September 2007, the first regional meeting was organised in Vienna with the participation of those Members States who benefited from Community funds to implement their salmonella control programme in breeding flocks of *Gallus gallus* that were submitted on a mandatory basis and approved by Commission. The Commission intends to organize regular subgroup meetings for those Member States with approved co-financed salmonella control programmes as it provides a very powerful tool to encourage an efficient practical implementation of the *Salmonella* control programmes.

## **6. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINETUBERCULOSIS” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION. SEVILLA, SPAIN 14-15 NOVEMBER 2007.**

S. Stenberg-Lewerin, SE, (chairwoman of the sub-group) presented the summary of the situation focusing on the key points (substantial decrease in overall prevalence, ≈97% of herds officially free, higher prevalence in dry regions, higher prevalence in beef cattle and fighting bull herds than in dairy and complex administrative system that requires good co-ordination of efforts) and of the conclusions of the meeting:

- Results very promising, evident improvement since last meeting 5 years ago
- A lot of high quality data collected and stored, but not put to full use
- Lack of detailed data on slaughterhouse monitoring
- Good co-ordination efforts between veterinary authorities, but less clear for others
- Admirable work on wildlife
- Good work on particular testing problems

The consequent recommendations of the sub-group focus on:

- Improve epidemiology (basic organisation of data, training, special facility)
- Continue and intensify co-operation with authorities within meat hygiene, improve data on slaughterhouse monitoring
- Continue co-ordination efforts within and between all parties involved in programme
- Continue work on wildlife and special testing aspects and keep up the good work.

## **7. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT DECISIONS SANCO/10034/2007 AND SANCO/10522/2007.**

J. Moynagh introduced the two drafts:

- **SANCO/10034/2007 rev1**, laying down Community criteria for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses and repealing Decision 90/638/EEC
- **SANCO/10522/2007 rev1**, laying down standard requirements for the submission by Member States of national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses for Community financing and repealing Decision 2004/450/EC.

Then V. Piazza explained in details the main modifications made in relation to the previous drafts presented for the first time at the SCOFCAH on 6 February, following the comments received from some Member States and from other DG consulted in the framework of the inter-service consultation.

Several comments were made by Member States (FR, IE, FI, SE, SI, SK, UK, ES). The Commission responded and explained that they would be considered for inclusion in revised drafts to be presented for a vote at the next SCOFCAH on 5 March.

## **8. DRAFT DECISION REPLACING DECISION 2002/677/EC**

L. Vandenberghe explained the main modifications that will be introduced in the new Decision, laying down standard reporting requirements for national programmes of eradication control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses co-financed by the Community.

In particular Annex VII of draft Decision repealing Decision 2002/677/EEC would be amended to reflect the changes in SANCO/10522/2007 on the format of the programmes and new financial tables for the different diseases will added to Annex II. T. Cirasa distributed copies of the new financial tables to the Member States. In addition, revised declarations to be signed by Member States officials when declaring expenditure to the Commission will be incorporated in Annex VII of the above-mentioned draft.

L. Vandenberghe clarified that the Commission considers that the principle that payment should be made within 90 days after the animal is slaughtered, or after the presentation of the completed claim, is to be maintained.

Finally, L. Vandenberghe presented some aspects related to the audit of the eradication programmes and in particular focused on the fact that recurrent issues are payment delays, the non-declaration of revenue/salvage by the Member States and reporting errors. Some problems have been detected as regards possible over-compensation of animals, so it is essential that MSs have good market information on animal prices, in order to support their payment rates.

## **9. REALLOCATION AND REPORTING ON FINANCIAL ISSUES**

L. Vandenberghe explained that if the funding allocated is not spent in full during the financial exercise, then reallocating funding from programmes of Member States which are not using their full allocation to those that are exceeding it, is considered to be a tool to improve financial management. The re-allocation exercise will probably be repeated in 2008 optimising the use of the resources and solving individual problems as occurred in 2007.

The effectiveness of reallocation relies on accurate information being provided by the Member States in due course. A letter will be sent by the Commission requesting the Member States to provide updated information on the consumption of funds by 31/8/2008 and an accurate estimation of foreseen expenditure by 31/12/2008.

Repeated under-expenditure will likely result in a decrease in funds allocated to the programmes.

## **10. PROGRAMMES 2009: WD SANCO/10227/2008**

J. Moynagh presented working document SANCO/10227/2008 on priorities for 2009 and timing and V. Piazza explained in detail the document focusing mainly on recommending to MSs to submit multi-annual programmes for Rabies, Enzootic Bovine Leukosis and Aujesky's disease and on the timetable for submission, evaluation and approval of eradication, control and monitoring programmes. (see Annex I)

## **11. WORK PROGRAMME 2008 (WD 10012/2008)**

V. Piazza presented a preliminary proposal for the work programme for 2008; working document SANCO10012/2008. Further contact with certain delegations that are asked to organise certain sub-groups needed in order to agree an appropriate dates. (see Annex II)

## **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

J. Moynagh carried out a "tour de table" requesting views from MSs as to the policy on financing cleansing and disinfection of poultry premises affected with Salmonellosis outbreaks. The purpose was to know the real situation and at whose expense this is carried out in the various MSs as the Commission is considering whether or not MSs with an EU approved Salmonella programme should be reimbursed for any costs incurred on cleaning and disinfections performed on infected breeding or laying premises.

## ANNEX I



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
Unit 04 – Veterinary Control Programmes

Brussels 21/02/2008

**SANCO/10227/2008**

### **Animal disease eradication, control and monitoring programmes**

#### **Priorities for 2009 and timing**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the steps which will be followed when considering the programmes submitted by Member States (MS) for co-financing by the European Commission in the context of Council Decision 90/424/EEC, as last amended by Council Decision 2006/965/EC<sup>1</sup>.

The individual approval of the programmes follows a well-defined timetable according to the Council Decision 90/424/EEC (annex).

An overall budgetary increase on the programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases is foreseen for 2009, in particular as regard Bluetongue and Salmonella..

### **Submission and approval of the programmes**

Each programme has to fulfil the requirements (criteria) provided for by Commission Decision SANCO/10034/2007 (that should be voted at the SCOFCAH on 4-5 March 2008). Those criteria are specific for eradication programmes, monitoring/surveillance and control programmes..

The format to be used for the programmes to be submitted for 2009 is laid down in Commission Decision SANCO/10522/2007 (that should be voted at the SCOFCAH on 4-5 March 2008 and adopted by the Commission before the end of April 2008)

Programmes presented after the **deadline of 30 April 2008** will not be taken into account for financing the following year (Article 24 (2) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC).

Unit SANCO 04 (Veterinary Control Programmes) is responsible for the veterinary and financial assessment and management of the programmes. The unit will consult within the Directorate-General and the reports from SANCO F2 (Food and Veterinary Office) will be also considered.

The Commission can ask for additional information from the Member State if a programme proposed for co-financing does not contain all the requested information or if certain technical and financial amendments are necessary. The period for gathering all the information regarding the programmes shall end on 15 September 2008 [Article 24 (4) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC].

### **Monitoring the progress of the current programmes (2008)**

The Commission will monitor and evaluate the programmes based *inter alia* on the following information:

- The intermediate technical and financial report of the programme as foreseen by Article 24 (7) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC, to be presented before 1 June 2008 by the Member State (Article 21 ( c ) of Commission Decision 2007/782/EC, Decision approving the individual programmes);
- Information from the Member States presented in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health;
- Final reports, in accordance with Article 24 (7)(b) of Council Decision 90/424/EEC by 30 April 2009, on the technical execution of the programme accompanied by justifying

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 397, 19.12.2006, p. 22

evidence as to the costs paid by the MS (Requested by Article 21(f) of Decision 2007/782/EC;

- Final technical and financial report to be presented by 01.06.2008 on the execution of the 2007 programmes
- Reports based on on-the-spot inspections by the Food and Veterinary Office;
- Reports based on other on-the-spot inspections or audits;
- Reports based on the activity of the Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication.

In order to maintain transparency, the Commission makes the approved programmes available on the SANCO website.

## **PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR ERADICATION CONTROL AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOSES**

**2.1** In prioritising the programmes for the allocation of Community funding (see Annex 1) we are giving weight to diseases of public health importance and those that have major economic impact due to trade implications. We are also taking account of the need to ensure continuity and achieve progress as well as the interest of each programme for the Community and the volume of available appropriations. An example is represented by Bluetongue for which surveillance programmes in endemic or high risk area, due to the increased spread of the disease in the Community in 2007, will probably be necessary, including vaccination campaign.

Certain monitoring programmes are compulsory such as TSE monitoring and AI surveillance. It is also compulsory to submit multi-annual technical programmes for the control of zoonotic salmonella in certain animal populations; however the possibility for co-financing is furthermore based on annual submissions under 90/424/EEC by the Member States.

In addition, we recommend to submit multi-annual programmes for: Rabies, Enzootic Bovine leucosis and Aujeszky's disease.

**2.2** Community co-financing will not be granted for two particular situations:

- Programmes consisting of measures that are compulsory in Community legislation and not primarily aimed at eradication, such as those aimed at guaranteeing the health status of animals intended for trade.
- Programmes consisting of measures aimed at demonstrating the absence of a disease, aimed at obtaining the recognition of official freedom from the disease.

This approach is similar to that of recent years and is consistent with the approach to be outlined in the Communication on Community Animal Health Policy.

ANNEX

**Timetable for submission, evaluation and approval of eradication, control and monitoring programmes of certain animal diseases and zoonoses**

**Procedure for the approval of programmes for 2009**

**30 APRIL 2008** *Submission of the programmes by the Member States. The format to be used for the programmes is laid down in Commission Decision SANCO/10522/2007*

The electronic version of the programmes should be submitted to the following electronic address:

SANCO-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu

*Please send one e-mail for each different programme indicating clearly in the subject the disease and the Member State or Acceding State.*

No specific deadline: Request for additional information by Commission.

**15 September 2008:** End of the period for gathering information from MS.

**30 November 2008:** Commission to approve the programmes individually.

**Current programmes 2008)**

**1 JUNE 2008** INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS.

*First evaluation (technical and financial) of the programme by the Member States to be submitted to Commission. Commission Decision 2002/677/EC (under revision)) lays down standard reporting requirements for programmes of eradication and control of animal diseases co-financed by the Community*

**Quarterly (AI):** report the positive and negative results of surveillance of poultry and wild birds through the Commission on-line system every three months by forwarding it within a period of four weeks following the end of the months covered by the report. EG: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter: from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 March 2008: report by 30 April 2008 etc.

**Monthly (TSEs):** technical reports on the progress of the programme (TSE monitoring only)

**15 September 2008:** Deadline for MS to provide to the Commission updated reliable information (both financial and technical [e.g. number of test performed, number of animals culled etc.]) on eligible measures already taken during the year as well as those foreseen to be taken by the end of the year.. Based on this information the Commission will probably proceed, also this year, to the funding re-allocation with the aim of optimising the use of the resources and solving individual problems but taking into account the limitations as regards the number of transactions.

## Programme 2007

**1 JUNE 2008** *Final report (technical and financial) from the Member State (Article 19 of Commission Decisions 2006/875/EC and 2006/876/EC).*

*Commission Decision 2002/677/EC lays down standard reporting requirements for programmes of eradication and control of animal diseases co-financed by the Community*

**30 October 2008:** The Commission decides on the funding.

**November 2008:** Information to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on the financial Decision taken.

**Please, note that the documents (reports of the TF etc) and the legislation related to the programmes approved can be find**

under:[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/legisl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/legisl_en.htm)

## ANNEX II



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
04 – Veterinary Control Programmes

SANCO/10012/2008

Working document

### **TASK FORCE** for monitoring disease eradication in the Member States Working plan year 2008

<b>Month</b>	<b>Bovine brucellosis S.G.</b>	<b>Sheep/goat brucellosis S.G.</b>	<b>Bovine tuberculosis S.G.</b>	<b>Rabies</b>	<b>Salmonella</b>
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Plenary Task Force</b>				
<b>March</b>					
<b>Apr</b>		<b>IT (23-24/4)</b>		<b>LV (LT+EE)?</b>	<b>IT 16-18/04/08</b>
<b>May</b>					
<b>Jun</b>			<b>PL ?</b>		<b>CZ 26-27/06/08</b>
<b>Sept</b>					
<b>Oct</b>				<b>BG?</b>	
<b>Nov</b>	<b>ES ?</b>				
<b>Dec</b>	<b>Plenary Task Force</b>				