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FINAL REPORT OF A SPECIFIC AUDIT

CARRIED OUT IN

SLOVENIA

FROM 07 TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2009

IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THE CONTINGENCY PLANS AND ERADICATION PROGRAMMES FOR EPIZOOTIC DISEASES

IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL AUDIT

In response to information provided by the Competent Authority, any factual error noted in the draft report has been corrected; any clarification appears in the form of a footnote.

Executive Summary

The mission was carried out as part of the FVO's General Audit in Slovenia during 2009. It evaluated the implementation of official controls related to the eradication of certain animal diseases, notably rabies, and to the preparation of epizootic disease contingency plans.

Campaigns for the vaccination of wild foxes against rabies are generally well-organised and supervised.

Surveys intended to determine the level of immunity in the wild fox population are inconclusive, which is significant in the context of the recent rise in the number of cases of rabies in areas subject to repeated vaccination campaigns over several years.

The investigation of suspect cases of rabies in domestic and wild animals is performed thoroughly. Although national legislation makes provision for the testing of animal carcases found dead in the wild, the CAs do not ensure that foxes found dead in the forest from unexplained causes are subjected to laboratory examination, which may mean that some cases of the disease are missed.

Systems for the identification and registration of animals and holdings are well-established and are being further developed to meet emerging needs. They constitute a valuable tool to be used in the investigation and control of possible epizootic disease outbreaks.

Passive and active surveillance systems have been established and are functioning. However, shortfalls in the numbers of samples collected during disease surveys mean that the absence of these diseases cannot be established with the level of confidence foreseen in the surveillance and monitoring plans approved by the Commission.

The CAs are generally prepared to deal with possible outbreaks of epizootic disease and the CAs have demonstrated their ability to respond promptly to notifications of suspect epizootic diseases. However, deficiencies in the arrangements in place, particularly at regional level, limit the CA's ability to deal with medium or large epizootics.

The report contains a number of recommendations addressed to the CAs concerning the deficiencies identified.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and definitions used in this report

Abbreviation	Explanation
AHS	African Horse Sickness
AI	Avian Influenza
ASF	African Swine Fever
BT	Bluetongue
CA	Competent Authority
CCA	Central Competent Authority
CDB	Central Database
CP	Contingency Plan
CSF	Classical Swine Fever
CV	Contracted Veterinarian
EG	Expert Group
ELISA	Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay
FMD	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
LDCC	Local Disease Control Centre
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
MS	Member State
ND	Newcastle Disease
NDCC	National Disease Control Centre
NRL	National Reference Laboratory
NVI	National Veterinary Institute
OV	Official Veterinarian
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
RHO	Regional Hunting Organisation
RO	Regional Office of the Competent Authorities
SCAHAW	Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare

SFS	Slovenia Forestry Service
SIR	Animal Identification and Registration Sector
SVD	Swine Vesicular Disease
VARS	Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

1 Introduction

The specific audit formed part of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) planned mission programme and was carried out as a component of a general audit, as described in Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

This report focuses on the sector specific issues identified during the audit. The aspects relating to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 will be addressed in the General Audit report.

The mission took place in Slovenia from 7 to 11 September 2009. The mission team comprised two inspectors from the FVO and was accompanied during the whole mission by representatives of the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (VARS), which is the Central Competent Authority (CCA) within the scope of this mission.

2 Objectives Of The Mission

The objective of the mission was to verify that official controls are carried out in accordance with the multi-annual national control plan referred to in Article 41 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, and in compliance with Community law, specifically in relation to EU requirements concerning:

- The implementation of programmes for the eradication and control of certain animal diseases for which the Community makes a financial contribution. The evaluation was focussed in particular on the implementation of rabies eradication programmes in foxes, which account for the vast majority of the Community funds allocated to Slovenia for the eradication of animal diseases in recent years.

- The preparation of contingency plans (CPs) to be implemented in the event of outbreaks of epizootic diseases, with special regard to Foot-and-mouth Disease (FMD), Classical swine fever (CSF), Avian influenza (AI), Bluetongue (BT), African horse sickness (AHS), African swine fever (ASF), Newcastle disease (ND), and Swine vesicular disease (SVD).

In pursuit of these objectives, the following sites were visited:

Competent Authorities		**Comments**
Central competent authority	2	Initial and closing meetings
Regional competent authority	1	
Animal identification data centre	1	Animal Identification and Registration Sector (SIR)
Other authorities	2	Slovenia Forest Service (SFS); Agency for Medicinal Products and Devices of the Republic of Slovenia (JAZMP)
Sites visited		
Laboratory	1	National Veterinary Institute (NVI)
Vaccine distributor	1	For rabies vaccine
Slaughterhouse	1	
Animal holding	1	Bovine farm

3 Legal Basis for the Mission

The mission was carried out in agreement with the Slovenian authorities and under the general provisions of Community legislation and, in particular, Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Full legal references are provided in Annex 1. Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

4 Background

4.1 Rabies Eradication Programme

Programmes for the eradication of rabies in Slovenia have been approved and partly financed by the European Commission each year since 2004. The annual plans for 2008 and 2009 were approved by Commission Decisions 2007/782/EC and 2008/897/EC respectively and included biannual oral vaccination campaigns in wildlife reservoirs, and controls to monitor the efficacy of these campaigns.

The CCA provided details of confirmed cases of rabies and the total number of investigations (in brackets), which are summarised below:

Year	**Domestic carnivores**	**Other domestic animals**	**Wild animals**	**Total**
2006	0 (128)	0 (29)	2 (1 739)	2 (1 896)
2007	0 (90)	0 (49)	3 (1 936)	3 (2 075)
2008	1 (163)	1 (39)	53 (2 417)	55 (2 619)
2009	0 (72)	1 (67)	19 (991)	20 (1 130)

There have been no cases of human or urban rabies in Slovenia for several decades and sylvatic rabies was brought largely under control in the years leading up to Accession. During this period, confirmed cases occurred sporadically in the south-eastern part of the country and were generally attributed to incursions from unvaccinated areas in the neighbouring Third Country. Twice yearly vaccination was continued in this high risk part of Slovenia and in a wide surrounding area, from which only the northwestern part of the country was omitted. In 2008, the CAs established a multi-annual programme for the eradication of rabies, which was scheduled to run for five years. However, during that year, the number of confirmed cases in the border area increased and a case was also detected outside the vaccinated zone. In view of the worsening situation, the Slovenian CAs decided to extend the vaccination programme to cover the entire country from 2009.

4.2 CONTINGENCY PLANS AND EPIZOOTIC DISEASES

In recent years, missions covering contingency planning were carried out by the FVO in all Member States (MSs). Whilst it was found that MSs were aware of the threats posed by epizootic disease to the health status of their national livestock populations, and that all had contingency plans in place, deficiencies were detected and there was considerable variation in the level of preparedness in the various MSs.

Recent outbreaks of epizootic diseases such as AI, FMD and BT in previously unaffected territories of the European Union highlight the threat posed by the sudden and sometimes unexpected spread of such diseases, and further emphasize the need for well-developed and adequately resourced CPs in order to ensure that emergency measures can be applied immediately.

The latest reported occurrence of certain epizootic diseases in Slovenia is as follows:

Disease	**Year of last outbreak**
Avian influenza	2006 (in wild birds only)
Foot-and-mouth disease	1968
Classical swine fever	1996
Bluetongue	never recorded
Newcastle disease	1991
African swine fever	never recorded
African horse sickness	never recorded
Swine vesicular disease	never recorded
Vesicular stomatitis	never recorded
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer	never recorded
Peste des petites ruminants	never recorded
Rinderpest	1883
Lumpy skin disease	never recorded
Sheep and goats pox	never recorded
Rift Valley fever	never recorded

(source:CCA)

5 Findings And Conclusions

5.1 Rabies eradication programme

5.1.1 Legal requirements

Prior to 24 May 2009, Article 24 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC empowered the Commission to reimburse from Community funds the expenditure incurred by MSs in the course of implementing national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses, including rabies. Thereafter, Articles 25, 26 and 27 of Council Decision 2009/470/EC provide equivalent powers.

Annex III of Council Decision 90/638/EEC establishes the criteria that programmes for the control of rabies must satisfy in order to qualify for Community funding. These include:

- description of the epidemiological situation of the disease;
- detailed information regarding the vaccination programme, including the regions to be included and the vaccines to be used;
- information concerning the costs, benefits and duration of the programme;
- designation of the competent authorities responsible for supervising and coordinating the programme;
- details of the system in place to ensure the notification of all suspected or confirmed outbreaks of the disease;
- details of the control procedures and inspections carried out within the areas concerned.

Article 21 of Commission Decision 2007/782/EC and Article 19 of Commission Decision 2008/897/EC establish certain conditions that MSs conducting programme for the eradication of animal diseases during 2008 and 2009, including rabies, must satisfy in order to be eligible to receive payment. These include:

- implementation in accordance with the provisions of Community law, including rules on competition and on the award of public contracts;
- introduction of regulations and administrative provisions necessary for the implementation of the programme;
- submission of intermediate and final technical and financial reports covering each year of the programme;
- ensuring that the programme is implemented efficiently.

Prior to the establishment of the European Food Safety Authority in 2003, and in accordance with Commission Decision 97/579/EC, the Commission received scientific guidance from committees composed of independent scientists, including the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (SCAHAW). At the request of the Commission, SCAHAW issued a report in 2002 assessing the reasons for failures noted in the implementation of certain rabies control protocols within the EU and recommending actions that should be taken to bring about the eradication of rabies in the Community as soon as possible. A copy of this report may be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scah/out80_en.pdf. It contains recommendations intended to bring about the eradication of rabies in the Community as soon as possible, including the following, which are particularly relevant in the context of the Slovenian eradication programme:

- Monitoring rabies incidence, bait uptake and immunity in the fox population - this is

particularly important because a drop in the disease incidence allows the number of foxes to increase, diluting the overall level of population immunity. The report specifically recommends that foxes found dead and road kills should be investigated for evidence of rabies infection;

- All rabies virus isolates should be typed in areas where attenuated rabies virus vaccines are used, in order to distinguish between vaccine and field virus strains;
- Serological methods to be used for quantification of the antibody response in foxes following vaccination should be standardised;
- Vaccine titre in baits at batch release should be at least ten times the experimental 100% protective dose and the vaccine titre should not fall below the indicative 100% protective dose following exposure to 25°C for seven days. Each vaccine batch should be tested and approved for titre and stability and laboratories involved in the monitoring and evaluation of rabies programmes should monitor these titres before and during release into the field;
- The use of fixed-wing aircraft is only recommended for the treatment of uniform and large areas of low density inhabitation (e.g. large forests, mono-agricultural areas). Distribution by hand is the preferred system in urban and suburban areas, in combination with the use of an aerial distribution whenever possible;
- Homogeneous distributions of 18-20 and 20-30 baits per km2 are recommended for low and high fox population densities, respectively;
- When using the aerial method of bait distribution, flight line distance should not exceed 500 metres, dropping to 300m in areas of high fox population density.

5.1.2 Findings

Organisation

- The CCA has central responsibility for organising and implementing the rabies eradication programme. However, because the cooperation of hunters is vital to the success of the programme, the CCA works closely with:
    i. Regional Hunting Organisations (RHOs), which are non-governmental organisations that coordinate the activities of local hunting groups or 'families';
    ii. the Slovenia Forestry Service (SFS), which is a non-governmental public body charged with the task of monitoring wild animal populations and defining the annual hunting plans for each area;
    iii. the Hunting Inspectorate in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF), which enforces the hunting and breeding plans established under the Wild Game and Hunting Act, as well as food safety rules.
- The CCA submitted rabies eradication programmes containing the information specified in Annex III of Council Decision 90/638/EEC each year since 2004. Vaccination campaigns were conducted twice each year, with approximately 26 baits being distributed in each km ^{2} of land considered to be habitable by foxes during each campaign. The CCA considers that these campaigns successfully prevented the establishment or spread of rabies outside the high risk border area until 2008.
- The CCA delegates responsibility for the purchase, storage and aerial dispersal of oral baits to a private company by means of a legal contract or 'concessionary agreement'.

Vaccine used for oral immunisation

- The contract obliges the contractor to carry out vaccination in accordance with SCAHAW recommendations. However, the CCA did not require the contractor to demonstrate that the baits meet SCAHAW standards for the minimum concentration of vaccine virus and vaccine virus stability. Furthermore, the Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of the Republic of Slovenia does not require imported vaccine baits to be accompanied by certificates declaring their efficacy nor does it require them to undergo any post-importation efficacy trials.
- On the other hand, viral titration tests performed by the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) on samples taken from each batch (upon delivery and also at the point of use) indicate that SCAHAW recommendations concerning vaccine titres are satisfied in practice. It is also relevant that the vaccine currently in use has proved to be effective both in Slovenia and elsewhere.

Storage and distribution of oral vaccine

- The conditions of the contract and open tendering rules are established in national law. The contract establishes requirements for facilities (storage), equipment (distribution) and record keeping (flight records), personnel (at least one veterinarian), plans and reports. The contractor is also required to keep a stock of vaccine to be used in case of emergency.
- The most recent tender was awarded in October 2007 and the contract was established for six years. The length of the contract has enabled the contractor to make investments in the facilities necessary for its implementation.
- The CA audits the contractor at least once every two years and official veterinarians (OVs) based at airfields from which the baits are distributed routinely perform physical and temperature checks on each batch used during the campaign. Samples are collected and subjected to laboratory analysis to determine vaccine virus titres.
- The contractor's premises, records and emergency stocks of vaccine were inspected by the FVO audit team and found to be in order. The vaccination campaigns conducted during recent years have generally been concluded without technical difficulty, although the contractor reported difficulties gaining airspace access along the Third Country border.

Monitoring of vaccination

- The CCA carries out national surveys intended to determine both the rate of vaccine uptake and the level of immunity among wild foxes. In order to ensure adequate spatial and temporal coverage, the survey is based on shot foxes submitted by hunters throughout the year. The target is to take samples from 8 foxes per 100 km^2. The approved rabies eradication programme estimates the number of foxes that should be sampled at 1 600 per year.
- The CCA concludes contracts with each RHO setting the number of foxes to be collected, based on statistical information provided by SFS. A bounty is paid for each fox that is submitted. The CCA monitors the sample submission rate throughout the year and maintains regular contacts with RHOs and the SFS to encourage hunters to meet their targets.

- The following information, which was supplied by the CCA, indicates the number and outcome of the analyses performed:

	Vaccine uptake (biomarker assay)			Immunity (presence of antibodies)		
	Tested	Positive	% positive	Tested	Positive	% positive
2007	1 198	732	61.1	289	134	46.4
2008	929	617	66.4	155	84	54.2
2009 *(up to August)*	469	322	68.7	120	93	77.5

- The number of samples collected during these surveys was less than stipulated in the approved programme. The CCA explained that the programmed figure was an estimate that included both productive and unproductive hunting territories and territory outside the vaccination area, which were subsequently excluded from the surveys. However, no estimate of the land area covered by these surveys could be provided. It is therefore not possible to determine the sampling rate achieved.

- Relatively few (approximately 20%) of the foxes tested for vaccine uptake are submitted for immunity testing. A number of factors contribute to the shortfall, including:

  i. the popularity of weekend hunting, which is associated with delayed submission of samples;

  ii. the tendency among hunters to collect a batch of samples before submission;

  iii. the high ambient temperatures encountered when hunting in the summer;

  iv. the exsanguination of shot foxes, which makes the collection of blood difficult.

- The NVI determines the presence of antibodies using an ELISA test but does not determine the antibody titre. This is because the samples submitted from the field are frequently not suitable for titration. However, it means that the CAs cannot distinguish between seropositive animals with protective antibody titres and those with lower titres that are unprotected.

Investigation of suspect cases

- VARS regularly investigates reports of suspected cases of rabies received from the general public and from hunters.

- Several mechanisms ensure a high public awareness of the disease:

  i. cases of suspected rabies are reported widely in the media;
  ii. professional and amateur hunters are obliged to undergo formal training, including disease awareness. For example, rabies training sessions had been organised during 2006 and 2007 for hunting associations in the Regional Office of VARS (RO) visited by the FVO audit team;
  iii. SFS forest workers frequently remind the hunters they meet about the importance of the correct collection of samples.

- Point 1 of Article 9 of the Rules on the measures for the detection, prevention and suppression of rabies (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia 139/06, 67/07) makes provision for rabies testing of animals that are found dead. However, no arrangements have been made to encourage hunters to submit the carcasses of foxes found dead in the forest.

- The NVI routinely examines viruses isolated from confirmed cases using monoclonal antibodies in order to determine whether they belong to field or vaccine strains. Sequencing is used to rule out possible reversion of vaccine strains to wild forms, in cases that do not fit the normal epidemiological pattern.
- Suspect cases of rabies in domestic animals are subject to official veterinary investigation and supervision in quarantine. The FVO Audit Team saw evidence that these controls were carried out.

Control in domestic animals

- The identification, registration and vaccination of dogs against rabies is compulsory in Slovenia. Cat owners may opt to register and vaccinate their animals. Details of registered domestic carnivores are entered into a central register, which is accessible in the ROs.
- The CAs control the registration and vaccination of dogs in a number of ways:
    i. Review of the dog register (eg 32 dogs this year in the RO visited) and follow up visits;
    ii. Investigation of bite events (eg 50 such cases this year in the RO visited), animal welfare problems (20 such cases this year in the RO visited) and reports of illegal trade include checks on registration and vaccination;
    iii. On the spot checks on farm holdings to check the use of veterinary medicines include checks on the vaccination of dogs.
- It is worth noting that the number of confirmed rabies cases in domestic carnivores remains very low.

5.1.3 Conclusions

- Campaigns for the vaccination of wild foxes are generally well-organised and supervised, although the CA does not ensure that vaccines purchased by the contractor meet SCAHAW standards in terms of vaccine virus titre.
- Surveys intended to determine the level of immunity in the wild fox population provide inconclusive results due to the limited number of samples that are suitable for testing and the test methods applied. This is significant in the context of the recent rise in the number of cases of rabies in areas subject to repeated vaccination campaigns over several years.
- The investigation of suspect cases of rabies in domestic and wild animals is performed thoroughly. Although national legislation makes provision for the testing of animal carcases found dead in the wild, the CAs do not ensure that foxes found dead in the forest from unexplained causes are subjected to laboratory examination, which may mean that some cases of the disease are missed..

5.2 CONTINGENCY PLANS

5.2.1 Animal identification registration and movement control

5.2.1.1 Legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council defines the conditions for identification and registration of bovine animals. They must be individually identified with two ear tags , been issued an individual passport (with a possible derogation for national movements in a country with a database recognised as fully operational). Animal keepers

(except transporters) must keep a movement register of a format approved by the CA on their holding, and notify them within seven days to a computerised database, record movements in the passport. The formats of ear tags, passport and holding registers are further detailed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 lays down rules as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals, requiring at least 10% of holdings to be controlled in that framework (unless exception), selected following to a risk analysis.

Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 defines the conditions for identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals. They must be individually identified with an ear-tag and another means of identification. Animal keepers (except transporters) must keep a movement register of a format approved by the CA on their holding. All holdings must be registered by the CA, and movements must be either recorded in the computerised database (within seven days), or be accompanied by a movement document.The database must contain a data field where animal health information, for example restrictions on movements, or status, can be entered by the CA.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 lays down rules as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals, requiring at least 3% of holdings (comprising at least 5% of the animal population) to be controlled in that framework (unless exception), selected following to a risk analysis.

Council Directive 2008/71/EEC defines the obligation of identification for pigs (before they leave their holding of birth, with an eartag or tattoo making it possible to determine the holding from which they came), and requires the presence of a movement register on each holding, and a registration of all holdings by the CA. Commission Decision 2000/678/EC lays down detailed rules for the registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals.This Decision states that the database registering pig holdings must contain a data field where animal health information, for example restrictions on movements, or status, can be entered by the CA.

Commission Regulation (EC) Nº 504/2008 defines the rules for identification of equidae. The rules include the issuing of a passport, an electronic identification (or, by derogation, an alternative method of identification), and a database to record the identification of the equidae. This regulation applies from 1 July 2009. Beforehand, Commission Decisions 93/623/EEC and 2000/68/EC established the format of passport which had to be issued for every registered equidae, or equidae for breeding and production.

Article 11(2) of Council Directive 64/432/EEC requires the operator of assembly centres and Article 13(1)(b) of the same Directive require dealer to record information about the animals which they are responsible including the addresses or holding numbers of the holding of origin and of the holding of destination, the data of entry and exit to the centre (assembly centres), the data purchase (dealer), the registration number of the transporter and the licence number of the lorry delivering or collecting the animals.

Article 44 (1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 requires that the CA shall, with regard to the requirements or standards for which its responsible, carry out checks on at least 1% of all farmers submitting aid applications under support schemes established in Titles II and IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and for which the CA is responsible.

Article Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 establishes the general principle that all primary food business, including poultry farms producing meat and eggs to be placed on the market for human consumption, shall be registered with the CAs.

5.2.1.2 Findings

- Systems for the identification and registration of bovine animals are in place since 2001 and for sheep, goats and swine since 2004. Information on these animals is stored in the central database (CDB) maintained by the Animal Identification and Registration Sector (SIR).
- A new central equine register is currently being developed, based on the registers maintained by the Lipizzaner Stud and the Veterinary Faculty, which have been in place for several years. All equidae born after 1 July 2009 and older horses that were previously not identified must now be chipped. In addition, all horses that remain on Slovenian territory for more than 30 days will have to be registered.
- 68 veterinary organisations and 8 regional agricultural chambers have access to the CDB and enter most of the notifications made by animal keepers. The 7 regional units of the Veterinary Hygiene Service, which is part of the NVI, enter the details of fallen stock that they collect. Bovine slaughterhouses are obliged to notify the arrival of animals electronically, while hard copy notifications are still used for pigs.
- The data held in the CDB is controlled and used by the CCA, SIR, the Paying Agency, other MAFF inspectors and Border Inspectors. Other data users include the national statistics office, breeding organisations and the environmental authorities. On the spot controls are carried out by the CCA, the Paying Agency and other MAFF Inspectors. Together they ensure that the number of cattle, sheep and goat holdings inspected exceeds the minimum percentages established in Community rules.
- Data links have been established between the CDB and animal health information systems used by the CCA as well as other governmental data sources. These links improve the reliability of the data.
- Data quality is also ensured by:
    i. thorough administrative controls and cross checks built into the system;
    ii. on the spot checks (more than 10% of holdings have been inspected in recent years by the CCA, the Paying Agency and other MAFF inspectors);
    iii. keepers receive regular (every three months in the case of bovines and annually for other species) printed reports from the CDB providing information on the animals currently registered on their holdings;
    iv. contracted veterinarians (CVs), who are private veterinary practitioners contracted by the CAs to carry out certain official duties, preform annual advisory visits to the holdings within their practices. These visits provide opportunities to assist keepers to comply with the requirements.
- The main sources of information concerning poultry holdings are the register of laying establishments and the list of holdings included in the *Salmonella* monitoring programme. In addition, the number of poultry kept on all agricultural holdings is updated annually during routine checks by CVs.
- The records maintained on the farm holding visited by the FVO audit team were complete and generally consistent with the information recorded on the CDB.

5.2.1.3 Conclusions

Systems for the identification and registration of animals and holdings are well-established and are being further developed to meet emerging needs. They constitute a valuable tool to be used in the

investigation and control of possible epizootic disease outbreaks.

5.2.2 Disease surveillance

5.2.2.1 Legal basis

Annex I, Chapter II, B, to Regulation (EC) Nº 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council indicates that an OV is to perform an *ante mortem* inspection of all animals, within 24 hours of arrival, and less than 24 hours before slaughter, in order to detect any condition which might adversely affect human or animal health. Paragraph D of the same Chapter indicates that carcasses and accompanying offal are to be subjected without delay after slaughter to *post mortem* inspection, for the same purpose.

According to Article 3 of Council Directive 90/425/EEC, animals intended for intra-Community trade must also be subject to a clinical examination from an OV.

Article 4 of Council Directive 2005/94/EC requires the MS to carry out a surveillance programme on AI, in accordance with the criteria established in Commission Decision 2007/268/EEC.

Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) Nº 1266/2007 requires MS to carry out surveillance on BT, in accordance with the criteria detailed in Annex I to the same Regulation.

5.2.2.2 Findings

Passive surveillance

- Procedures have been established to ensure that animals presented for slaughter are subject to *ante mortem* and *post mortem* inspection and that animals intended for intra-Community trade are subject to a health inspection by an OV.
- The slaughterhouse visited by the FVO audit team had adequate facilities for the inspection (*ante* and *post mortem*) of animals and for the detention and restraint of suspect animals. The OV was aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a suspect case of epizootic disease.

Active surveillance

- Surveillance and monitoring programmes for AI, CSF and BT were approved by Commission Decision 2007/782/EC, for 2007, and Commission Decision 2008/898/EC, for 2009.
- The following table provides details of the numbers of samples included in the approved surveillance and monitoring plans for 2008 and the numbers of samples actually collected, according to the final reports submitted by the CAs:

	No. of planned samples	No. of samples collected
Avian influenza		
Poultry holdings	2 700	2 271*
Wild birds	800	916
Classical swine fever		
Domestic pigs	11 000	3 564
Wild boars	850	767
Bluetongue		
Susceptible animals	3 000	2 213
Insect vectors	640	182

* the number of samples collected is derived from the total number of analyses performed (4 542) – each sample being tested for H5 and H7.

5.2.2.3 Conclusions

Passive and active surveillance systems have been established and are functioning. However, shortfalls in the numbers of samples collected during disease surveys mean that the absence of these diseases cannot be established with the level of confidence foreseen in the surveillance and monitoring plans approved by the Commission.

5.2.3 Contingency planning

5.2.3.1 Legal basis

Council Directives 2005/94/EC (AI), 92/66/EEC (ND), 2003/85/EC (FMD), 92/119/EEC (certain animal diseases, including SVD), 2001/89/EC (CSF), 2002/60/EC (ASF), 2000/75/EC (BT), 92/35/EEC (AHS), require the MSs to draw up contingency plans specifying the national measures to be implemented in case of outbreaks, taking into account local factors. The plan should allow access to facilities, equipment, and personnel for a rapid and efficient eradication outbreaks.

The annexes of the Directives detail the criteria and requirements relating to contingency plans. They include legal powers, secured access to emergency funds, the establishment of a chain of command, measures to ensure that appropriate resources are available, an instruction manual giving full and detailed practical description of all procedures, instructions and measures to be employed. Training must be organised for the staff, both on veterinary and communication techniques.

Among the instructions and measures to be employed, all relevant Directives (except the ones for BT and AHS) require the disinfectants to be used and their concentration, to be approved by the CA, in order to ensure the destruction of the relevant virus. They must also be officially authorised and registered according to Directive 98/8/EC, concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market.

A fully functional national disease control centre (NDCC) and local disease control centres (LDCCs) must be immediately set up in event of outbreak.

The technical requirements for NDCCs and LDCCs are in particular detailed in Articles 76 and 77 of Directive 2003/85/EC (for FMD).

A permanently operational expert group shall be created in order to maintain the expertise needed

by the CA in ensuring disease preparedness. Directive 2003/85/EC specifies that the group is to be constituted of epidemiologists, veterinary scientists and virologists in a balanced way. However, MSs may arrange formalised agreements with other MSs on mutual assistance in regard of the expert group.

A detailed plan for emergency vaccination, and vaccine requirements needed in the event of emergency vaccination for CSF, FMD, BT, AI, ND must be indicated. In addition, Article 72 of Council Directive 2003/85/EC requires FMD CPs to set out the measures to be applied in a 'worst case scenario', in which the CAs must control a large number of outbreaks occurring within a short time and caused by several antigenically distinct serotypes or strains.

Regions with high density of livestock (for FMD), of pigs (for CSF) and poultry (for AI) must be identified in the relevant CPs. The CP for AI must give an indication of the number and location of all commercial holdings.

CPs should indicate the capability required for conducting tests, and the updating of swift transportation of samples and rapid diagnostic techniques for BT, AI and ND. National reference laboratories (NRLs) must be designated, to carry out the functions and duties detailed in the respective Directives. These include the use of tests and standards set in the legislation and collaboration with the Community Reference Laboratories (including participation to ring-tests). However, the CA may delegate these functions and duties to the NRL of another MS through a formal mutual agreement between CAs. The lists of NRLs for some diseases have already been published and, according to Directive 2008/73/EC, the details of all NRLs must be made available to other MS and to the public from 01/01/2010. Laboratories performing analyses in the context of official controls must comply with quality requirements listed in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

Diagnostic manuals have been formally adopted for some epizootic diseases (Commission Decisions 2002/106/EC for CSF, 2003/422/EC for ASF, 2006/437/EC for AI, 2000/428/EC for SVD, Annex XIII of Directive 2003/85/EC for FMD, Annex III of Directive 92/66/EEC for ND and Annex D to Directive 90/426/EEC for AHS).

The CP for FMD must indicate the arrangements to minimise damage to the environment in the event of an outbreak, in particular if it is necessary to burn or bury carcasses.

For ASF and CSF, alarm drills must be organised at least twice a year. Real-time exercises must also be conducted. For FMD, they should occur twice within a five years period (or in combination with an exercise in a neighbouring MS or another disease).

Contingency plans are approved by the Commission Decisions 2007/24/EC, for AI and ND; 2007/18/EC for FMD; 2007/19/EC for CSF. Significant modifications in the CP for FMD must be notified to the Commission. In any case, each MS must update its CP for FMD every five years and particularly in the light of experiences gained during real-time alert exercises.

5.2.3.2 Findings

Plans

- National Contingency plans (CPs) have been established for AI, ND, FMD and BT and are expected to be reviewed at least once every five years. The CP for ASF was in preparation and that for CSF was being revised. No CPs were yet in place for AHS or SVD.
- Each RO must prepare its own regional CP for each disease. The regional CPs contain additional information that is specific to that area. The regional CP in the RO visited included the contact details of local organisations, useful epidemiological information (such as the locations of whey feeding farms and established milk collection routes).

- The regional CPs should be revised regularly. However, the interval between updates had not been specified in the RO visited and there was no indication when the lists had last been revised.
- The NVI has also established its own epizootic outbreak CP, which specified the roles and responsibilities of personnel in the event of an outbreak.

Resources

- The CCA uses concessionary agreements to regulate its relations with diagnostic laboratories, veterinary organisations and the rendering industry during peacetime and in the case of epizootic emergencies. The CCA also has a written agreement with the Slovenian Veterinary Military Unit covering its role in the dealing with such emergencies.
- The inventory of emergency equipment maintained in ROs was typically limited to supplies of protective clothing and other non-perishable stocks. The CCA explained that sampling would, in most cases, be performed by staff from the NVI or CVs, who maintain their own stocks of sampling equipment.
- Officials in the RO visited had participated in a brainstorming exercise with other staff from the CCA to consider possible requirements in the event of an outbreak and had developed a list of external contractors who could provide the necessary vehicles and equipment. These included the regional Civil Protection Services, which have access to a wide variety of technical equipment and are legally obliged to assist in the event of extraordinary public need. However, no contracts or agreements had been signed in advance with any of these contractors or organisations. Furthermore, the RO did not have a budget to cover these costs as they might arise. All payments would have to be agreed centrally.
- The CAs use CVs as a network of veterinarians prepared to respond in the event of a disease emergency. All CVs undertake to assist the CCA in dealing with epizootic outbreaks within their practice area. In addition, some veterinarians have also signed an enhanced contract, which obliges them to provide sanitary services, including cleaning and disinfection services, over wider territories.
- On the other hand, as mentioned in the FVO Audit Team's report on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, continuing reductions in the numbers of fulltime OVs is underming the CCA's ability to perform official controls effectively, particularly in the event of an epizootic disease outbreak.
- The CCA and Veterinary Faculty organise training courses dealing directly and indirectly with the control of epizootic diseases and aimed at practising veterinarians and animal keepers.

Instructions and procedures

- Detailed instructions have been incorporated into the national CPs, making them the primary reference documents used by the CCA in the event of an outbreak. The NDCC has also prepared diagnostic protocols for SVD and CSF, which provide guidance for the CCA in cases where seropositive animals are detected in the absence of clinical signs.
- Some shortcomings were identified in the instructions manuals examined. For example, the AI manual did not specify who was responsible for the collection of samples on suspect holdings, the number of samples to be collected if there was more than one production unit on site, the production records that should be examined or whether antibiotics should be added to the samples. On the other hand, it should be noted that sample collection was handled appropriately during a recent suspected outbreak of AI in poultry.

Disinfection

- The Ministry of Health's Chemicals Office of the Republic of Slovenia has established a list of biocidal products that may be used. Disinfectants active against specific disease agents are identified in each CP. In the event of an outbreak, the NDCC or LDCC would select a commercial product containing an appropriate compound.

National and Local Disease Control Centres and Expert Groups

- Formally, the CVO has the final responsibility for confirming disease outbreaks and is supported by the NDCC, which has access to expert advice and geographic information systems. Regional CPs include details of LDCC's locations and the names of participants.
- Expert groups (EGs), including virologists, pathologists, and clinicians, have been established for diseases for which CPs are available. Arrangements are in place to ensure that the members of the expert group can be contacted at all times, to provide them with the equipment and mateials needed to investigate suspect outbreaks and to ensure that they can travel to suspect outbreak sites. The EG was mobilised in response to two suspect cases in 2009. Debriefing meetings afterwards concluded that adequate arrangements were in place to enable the EG to perform its functions.

Emergency vaccination plans and worst case scenarios

- An emergency vaccination plan for AI has been developed and is incorporated in the CP.
- No emergency vaccination plans have yet been established for FMD, CSF or BT.
- The FMD CP does not establish particular measures to be applied in a worst case scenario.

Laboratory capability and capacity

- The NVI laboratory performs ELISA and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for FMD, SVD and BT. In addition to these methods, the laboratory can also use virus isolation and neutralisation tests for the diagnosis of CSF and immunoblotting tests for ASF. For AI and ND haemagglutination, virus isolation and molecular methods are available
- Although many of the primary diagnostic techniques are not yet accredited, including all of the molecular techniques, isolation of BT virus and some CSF diagnostic techniques, the NVI does participate in the international ring tests organized by the Community Reference Laboratories covering these methods and has achieved satisfactory results.
- The NVI has an internal contingency plan and has been involved in recent real time exercises. The recent cases of AI in wild birds provided the NVI with an opportunity to perform tests on field samples. However, the capacity of the laboratory to deal with a large scale emergency has not been tested.

Disposal of carcasses

- The concessionary agreement between VARS and the Category I and II rendering plant establishes the operator's duty to process the carcasses of animals resulting from major disease outbreaks.
- The capacity of the rendering plant is significant (approximately 400 livestock units per day) and should be able to cope with a medium sized disease outbreak. It is currently operating at 40 % of its capacity.
- The rendering plant's operating procedures require the routine use of a broad spectrum bacteriocidal and virocidal disinfectant. The records of cleaning and disinfection are subject to official supervision.The only constraint on its possible use might be the ability of the CAs to transport carcasses to this location.

- The CPs foresee the possible diversion of animal carcasses to other animal by-product processing plants and the possible burial or burning of this material. An inter-sectoral group involving the CCA, the Veterinary Faculty and the Ministry of Environment met to determine the sites adequate for burying dead animal carcasses in the event of disease outbreaks. However, no firm arrangements have been made for any of these options.

Real time exercises and alerts

- Real time exercises for all of the major epizootic diseases are organized regularly, including CSF, in 2007, and AI, in 2009. Other government agencies were involved, including the NVI and the SFS, during in the 2007 CSF exercise.
- However, alert drills are not organized regularly to test the ability of each part of the chain of command, including the NDCC, LDCC, EG and laboratory services to respond rapidly to unexpected outbreaks of CSF and ASF.

Review of plans

- During recent real time exercises, participants were organized into workgroups, each of which presented their observations and conclusions afterwards. Based on these presentations, the CCA prepared summary conclusions and recommendations, which were taken into account during the subsequent revisions of the CPs.

5.2.3.3 Conclusions

The CAs are generally prepared to deal with possible outbreaks of epizootic disease. However, specific plans have not been prepared for AHS or SVD. Furthermore, falling staff numbers, minimal supplies of emergency equipment and the lack of emergency vaccination plans for several diseases limit the capacity of local disease control centres to fulfil their role in case of emergency, particularly if a large number of outbreaks occurred simultaneously. On the other hand, the CAs are supported by a capable laboratory network, which operates according to internationally recognised methodological and quality standards.

6 Overall Conclusions

Although the systems in place for the eradication of rabies have enabled the CAs to bring the disease under control, the rise in the number of reported cases in wild animals during 2008 calls into question the effectiveness of recent vaccination campaigns. The CAs have demonstrated their ability to respond promptly to notification of suspect epizootic diseases. However, deficiencies in the arrangements in place, particularly at regional level, limit the CA's ability to deal with medium or large epizootics.

7 Closing Meeting

During the closing meeting held in Ljubljana on 11 September 2009, the FVO audit team presented the findings and preliminary conclusions of the mission to the CAs.

8 Recommendations

The CCA is requested to provide the Commission services with an action plan, including a timetable for its completion, within one month of receipt of the report in order to address the deficiencies identified in the report and in particular, the following:

N°.	Recommendation
1.	To review the design and implementation of vaccine uptake and population immunity surveys conducted within the framework of the rabies eradication programme so as to improve the reliability of the information concerning the epidemiological situation, submitted in accordance with Article 1 of Council Decision 90/638/EEC.
2.	To consider the introduction of measures to ensure that wild foxes found dead in the forest from unexplained causes are investigated as suspected rabies cases, in line with the recommendation made by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare in 2002.
3.	To ensure that surveillance and monitoring programmes for avian influenza and bluetongue are designed and implemented in accordance with the criteria established by Commission Decision 2007/268/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007.
4.	To ensure that contingency plans are developed for use in the event of possible outbreaks of African horse sickness and swine vesicular disease, as required by Article 17 of Council Directive 92/35/EEC and Article 20 of Council Directive 92/119/EEC.
5.	To strengthen the contingency plans in place, particularly at regional level, so as to ensure ready access to the equipment, personnel necessary to execute the responsibilities assigned to local disease control centres in all Council Directives establishing measures for the control of epizootic diseases.
6.	To establish the measures to be applied in a large scale foot-and-mouth disease emergency, including vaccination plans, as required by Article 72 of Council Directive 2003/85/EC, and emergency vaccination plans for classical swine fever and bluetongue, as required by Annex VII to Council Directive 2001/89/EC and Annex III to Council Directive 2000/75/EC.
7.	To ensure that alert drills, intended to verify the operational nature of each link in the chain of command, are organised regularly, as required by Annex VII of Council Directive 2001/89/EC and Annex VI of Council Directive 2002/60/EC.

The competent authority's response to the recommendations can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/ap/ap_si_2009-8267.pdf

ANNEX 1 - LEGAL REFERENCES

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Animal identification and registration		
Reg. 1760/2000	OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1-10	Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
Reg. 1082/2003	OJ L 156, 25.6.2003, p. 9-12	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 of 23 June 2003 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
Reg. 1782/2003	OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1-69	Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 of 29 September 2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and amending Regulations (EEC) No 2019/93, (EC) No 1452/2001, (EC) No 1453/2001, (EC) No 1454/2001, (EC) 1868/94, (EC) No 1251/1999, (EC) No 1254/1999, (EC) No 1673/2000, (EEC) No 2358/71 and (EC) No 2529/2001
Reg. 21/2004	OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 8-17	Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC
Reg. 796/2004	OJ L 141, 30.4.2004, p. 18-58	Commission Regulation (EC) No 796/2004 of 21 April 2004 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of cross-compliance, modulation and the integrated administration and control system provided for in of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
		policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers
Reg. 911/2004	OJ L 163, 30.4.2004, p. 65-70	Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers
Reg. 1505/2006	OJ L 280, 12.10.2006, p. 3-6	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1505/2006 of 11 October 2006 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 as regards the minimum level of checks to be carried out in relation to the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals
Reg. 504/2008	OJ L 149, 7.6.2008, p. 3-32	Commission Regulation (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae
Dir. 64/432/EEC	OJ 121, 29.7.1964, p. 1977-2012	Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine
Dir. 2008/71/EC	OJ L 213, 8.8.2008, p. 31-36	Council Directive 2008/71/EC of 15 July 2008 on the identification and registration of pigs (Codified version)
Dec. 93/623/EEC	OJ L 298, 3.12.1993, p. 45-55	93/623/EEC: Commission Decision of 20 October 1993 establishing the identification document (passport) accompanying registered equidae
Dec. 2000/68/EC	OJ L 23, 28.1.2000, p. 72-75	2000/68/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 1999 amending Commission Decision 93/623/EEC and establishing the identification of equidae for breeding and production
Dec. 2000/678/EC	OJ L 281, 7.11.2000, p. 16-17	2000/678/EC: Commission Decision of 23 October 2000 laying down detailed rules for registration of holdings in national databases for porcine animals as foreseen by Council Directive 64/432/EEC

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Animal disease surveillance		
Reg. 854/2004	OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83	Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
Reg. 1266/2007	OJ L 283, 27.10.2007, p. 37-52	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007 of 26 October 2007 on implementing rules for Council Directive 2000/75/EC as regards the control, monitoring, surveillance and restrictions on movements of certain animals of susceptible species in relation to bluetongue
Dir. 90/425/EEC	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29-41	Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra- Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market
Dir. 2005/94/EC	OJ L 10, 14.1.2006, p. 16-65	Council Directive 2005/94/EC of 20 December 2005 on Community measures for the control of avian influenza and repealing Directive 92/40/EEC
Dec. 2007/268/EC	OJ L 115, 3.5.2007, p. 3-17	2007/268/EC: Commission Decision of 13 April 2007 on the implementation of surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds to be carried out in the Member States and amending Decision 2004/450/EC
Contingency planning		
Reg. 882/2004	OJ L 165, 30.4.2004, p. 1, Corrected and re-published in OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1	Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules
Dir. 90/426/EEC	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 42-54	Council Directive 90/426/EEC of 26 June 1990 on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Dir. 92/35/EEC	OJ L 157, 10.6.1992, p. 19-27	Council Directive 92/35/EEC of 29 April 1992 laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness
Dir. 92/66/EEC	OJ L 260, 5.9.1992, p. 1-20	Council Directive 92/66/EEC of 14 July 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease
Dir. 92/119/EEC	OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 69-85	Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17 December 1992 introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease
Dir. 98/8/EC	OJ L 123, 24.4.1998, p. 1-63	Directive 98/8/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market
Dir. 2000/75/EC	OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 74-83	Council Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November 2000 laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue
Dir. 2001/89/EC	OJ L 316, 1.12.2001, p. 5-35	Council Directive 2001/89/EC of 23 October 2001 on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever
Dir. 2002/60/EC	OJ L 192, 20.7.2002, p. 27-46	Council Directive 2002/60/EC of 27 June 2002 laying down specific provisions for the control of African swine fever and amending Directive 92/119/EEC as regards Teschen disease and African swine fever
Dir. 2003/85/EC	OJ L 306, 22.11.2003, p. 1-87	Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC
Dir. 2008/73/EC	OJ L 219, 14.8.2008, p. 40-54	Council Directive 2008/73/EC of 15 July 2008 simplifying procedures of listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields and amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 77/504/EEC, 88/407/EEC, 88/661/EEC, 89/361/EEC, 89/556/EEC, 90/426/EEC, 90/427/EEC, 90/428/EEC, 90/429/EEC,

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
		90/539/EEC, 91/68/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 92/35/EEC, 92/65/EEC, 92/66/EEC, 92/119/EEC, 94/28/EC, 2000/75/EC, Decision 2000/258/EC and Directives 2001/89/EC, 2002/60/EC and 2005/94/EC
Dec. 2000/428/EC	OJ L 167, 7.7.2000, p. 22-32	2000/428/EC: Commission Decision of 4 July 2000 establishing diagnostic procedures, sampling methods and criteria for the evaluation of the results of laboratory tests for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of swine vesicular disease
Dec. 2002/106/EC	OJ L 39, 9.2.2002, p. 71-88	2002/106/EC: Commission Decision of 1 February 2002 approving a Diagnostic Manual establishing diagnostic procedures, sampling methods and criteria for evaluation of the laboratory tests for the confirmation of classical swine fever
Dec. 2003/422/EC	OJ L 143, 11.6.2003, p. 35-49	2003/422/EC: Commission Decision of 26 May 2003 approving an African swine fever diagnostic manual
Dec. 2006/437/EC	OJ L 237, 31.8.2006, p. 1-27	2006/437/EC: Commission Decision of 4 August 2006 approving a Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza as provided for in Council Directive 2005/94/EC
Dec. 2007/18/EC	OJ L 7, 12.1.2007, p. 36-37	2007/18/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 2006 approving contingency plans for the control of foot-and-mouth disease pursuant to Council Directive 2003/85/EC
Dec. 2007/19/EC	OJ L 7, 12.1.2007, p. 38-40	2007/19/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 2006 approving contingency plans for the control of classical swine fever pursuant to Council Directive 2001/89/EC
Dec. 2007/24/EC	OJ L 8, 13.1.2007, p. 26-28	2007/24/EC: Commission Decision of 22 December 2006 approving contingency plans for the control of avian influenza and Newcastle disease
Animal disease eradication programmes		

Legal Reference	Official Journal	Title
Dec. 90/424/EEC	OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19-28	90/424/EEC: Council Decision of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field
Dec. 90/638/EEC	OJ L 347, 12.12.1990, p. 27-29	90/638/EEC: Council Decision of 27 November 1990 laying down Community criteria for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases
Dec. 2007/782/EC	OJ L 314, 1.12.2007, p. 29-39	2007/782/EC: Commission Decision of 30 November 2007 approving annual and multi-annual national programmes and the financial contribution from the Community for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses, presented by the Member States for 2008 and following years
Dec. 2008/897/EC	OJ L 322, 2.12.2008, p. 39-49	2008/897/EC: Commission Decision of 28 November 2008 approving annual and multi-annual programmes and the financial contribution from the Community for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses presented by the Member States for 2009 and following years
Dec. 2009/470/EC	OJ L 155, 18.6.2009, p. 30-45	2009/470/EC: Council Decision of 25 May 2009 on expenditure in the veterinary field (Codified version)