

ANNEX

**Response of the Competent Authorities of Bulgaria to the recommendations of Mission report ref. DG(SANCO)/2009-8110- MR carried out from 16 February to 20 February 2009 in order to evaluate measures concerning Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**

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Date received : 12 May 2009

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action proposed by Competent Authority</b>
1	To ensure that efficient and effective coordination and cooperation between different units of the CCA as well as between the CCA and the CAs at regional and local levels is established, as required by Art. 4 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.	A meeting was carried out between the Headquarters at the National veterinary service and all the chiefs of “Animal health” departments at the 28 regional veterinary services on which the outcome of the mission was discussed. Following the recommendations of the mission team the main problems to be solved were defined in order to have clear strategy for improvement. A new instruction was developed by the CCA and approved with an order of the director general which defines all the responsibilities of the different authorities involved in the BSE epidemic surveillance, including regular reporting of the BSE surveillance on central, regional and laboratory level, new reporting forms, deadlines for reporting, definitions of the different categories of bovines subject to monitoring etc! Regular meetings between the CCA and the CAs at regional and local levels will be carried out to ensure that efficient and effective coordination and cooperation between different units.

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No.	Recommendation	Action proposed by Competent Authority
2	To continue to develop the cattle database, so that it can become a useful tool for monitoring the implementation of BSE epidemio-surveillance required by Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	Up to date the firm responsible for upgrade of the database has prepared a technical project for upgrading the animal identification system. What is next is evaluation of the project and upgrading of the software. One of the scopes of the upgrading is to develop the cattle database, so that it can become a useful tool for monitoring the implementation of BSE epidemio-surveillance required by Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. At NVS's level laptops have been supplied for the local veterinary units and all the official municipal veterinarians who will have access to the database and update the information. The update of the information into the central database is being carried out in real time.
3	To reinforce the system of notification of BSE suspects, in order to guarantee compliance with requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	On the aforementioned meeting one of the main points discussed was the lack of clinical BSE suspects and it was ordered all animals defined as clinical suspects in accordance with the new instruction for monitoring of TSEs to be notified by the local and regional CA to the CCA in order to comply with Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001. In the instruction is given definition for "BSE clinical suspect". For March 2009 two "BSE clinical suspects" have already been notified.

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No.	Recommendation	Action proposed by Competent Authority
4	To verify that bovine animals slaughtered at farm level are subject to BSE monitoring, in line with the provisions laid down in Annex III (Chapter A, point 2) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	In order to verify that bovine animals slaughtered at farm level are subject to BSE monitoring, in line with the provisions laid down in Annex III (Chapter A, point 2) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 it was ordered the chiefs of “Animal health” Departments at the regional veterinary services to give penalties to the animal owners pursuant to art. 416 of the Law on veterinary activities for not notifying veterinarian in case of on farm slaughtering. All private veterinarians are obligated by a contract with the CA to sample bovines for BSE (including in case of on farm slaughter) and have to inform for this activity in three months reports.
5	To verify sampling bovine fallen animals are subject to BSE monitoring, in line with the provisions laid down in Annex III (Chapter A, point 3) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	In order to verify sampling bovine fallen animals are subject to BSE monitoring, in line with the provisions laid down in Annex III (Chapter A, point 3) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 it was ordered the chiefs of “Animal health” Departments at the regional veterinary services to give penalties to the animal owners pursuant to art. 416 of the Law on veterinary activities for not notifying veterinarian in case of dead animals on farm. All private veterinarians are obligated by a contract with the CA to sample bovines for BSE (including in case of on farm dead). Fallen stock can be sampled at the rendering plants as well where the official veterinarian has to check whether the bovine was sampled or not.
6	To take into account the criteria listed in Art. 3 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 for the organisation of official control of total feed ban.	The new annual 2009-2010 plan for official control of the total feed ban will be developed on the basis of risk analysis carried out by the respective regional veterinary service.

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No.	Recommendation	Action proposed by Competent Authority
7	To follow the recommendations of the Community Reference Laboratory, in particular in the case of samples from fallen stock, to comply with requirements laid down in Annex X (Chapter C, point 1) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	The NRL and the two regional diagnostic laboratories for TSEs will follow the recommendations of the Community Reference Laboratory, in particular in the case of samples from fallen stock and will tests all autholised samples.
8	To ensure that SRM produced as a result of home slaughtering of bovine animals, are collected, transported and disposed of in compliance with requirements laid down in Annex V to Regulation (EC) 999/2001.	This is the most difficult problem to be solved by the CA. It is foreseen amendment of the national legislation to be done to obligate all farmers to collect and send for disposal SRM as a result of home slaughtering in compliance with requirements laid down in Annex V to Regulation (EC) 999/2001.
9	To put in place the sampling plans required by Annex V (point 8) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001.	As a first step the director of the “public health” department at the HQ of the NVS has written and sent report to to director general of the NVS, which is proposed to entrust the National diagnostic and research veterinary institute to develop laboratory methods for testing for parts of the central nervous system of the edible meat from the head. As soon as such diagnostic procedure is developed NVS will put in place the sampling plans required by Annex V (point 8) to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001