

# ***Avian flu, an animal health crisis – is it coming back?***

# The pillars of the EU animal health response to avian influenza H5N1

- Animal health and food safety harmonised legislation
- Laboratory network co-ordinated by the Community Reference Laboratory
- Rapid communication and decision-making bodies

## The scientific bases for the EU measures

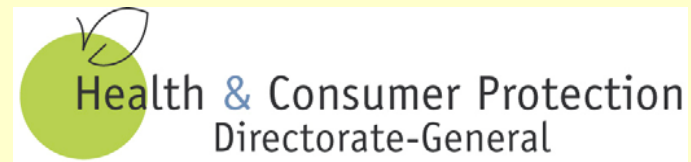
- Opinions of the Scientific Committee of 2000 and 2003
- Opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of September 2005
- EFSA Opinion on role of migratory birds of 12 May 2006
- “ad hoc” expert groups, also including EFSA and ECDC

# New Council Directive 2005/94/EC

- Routine surveillance in poultry and wild birds
- Possibility to derogate from stamping out in special cases (endangered species, zoo birds, etc.)
- New and more flexible provisions on vaccination of poultry and other birds (DIVA strategy)
- New provisions to ensure enhanced co-operation between veterinary and public health authorities
- Better tool to control all avian influenza viruses



# Additional measures for HPAI H5N1



## Surveillance, early detection, reporting

- Surveillance programmes co-financed by the Commission (~2.9 M€ in July 2005-Dec 2006, ~2.6M€ in Jan-Dec 2007)
- Notification to competent authorities of any abnormal mortality or significant disease outbreaks occurring in wild birds
- Notification to the Commission of HPAI H5N1 positive findings in wild birds
- systems for early detection and prompt reporting of avian influenza in poultry farms in high risk areas



# Additional measures for HPAI H5N1

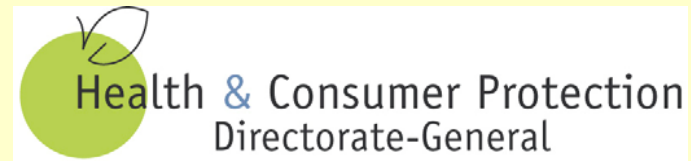


## Biosecurity in poultry farms

- Identification of HPAI high risk areas
- Appropriate measures to be taken to prevent contact between wild and domestic species, such as restrictions on keeping poultry outdoors, isolating water sources for poultry from wild birds, etc.
- continuous review of high risk areas by the Member States (migratory flows, season, lessons learned)



## Additional measures



## for HPAI H5N1

# Detection of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds

- Control and monitoring areas
- Strengthening of biosecurity and surveillance measures
- Ban on hunting, gatherings of birds at markets, shows and cultural events
- Restrictions on movements of poultry
- Slaughtering of poultry allowed, under certain conditions
- Measures revised on the bases of the experience gained in early 2006



# Additional measures for HPAI H5N1



## Further disease control measures - poultry

- Area A includes 3km protection & a 10km surveillance zone (higher risk)
- Area B (lower risk) – buffer zone around
- Movements of live poultry and hatching eggs restricted
- Requirements for dispatch of fresh poultry meat from these areas
- Provides for transparency to trading partners
- Measures revised on the bases of the experience gained in early 2006

# Additional measures for HPAI H5N1

## Vaccination

- preventive vaccination of zoo birds in 14 MSs
- vaccination of **poultry** in certain areas of Italy, France, Netherlands and Germany
- Pilot projects: still less than 0.1% of EU poultry vaccinated
- DIVA strategy



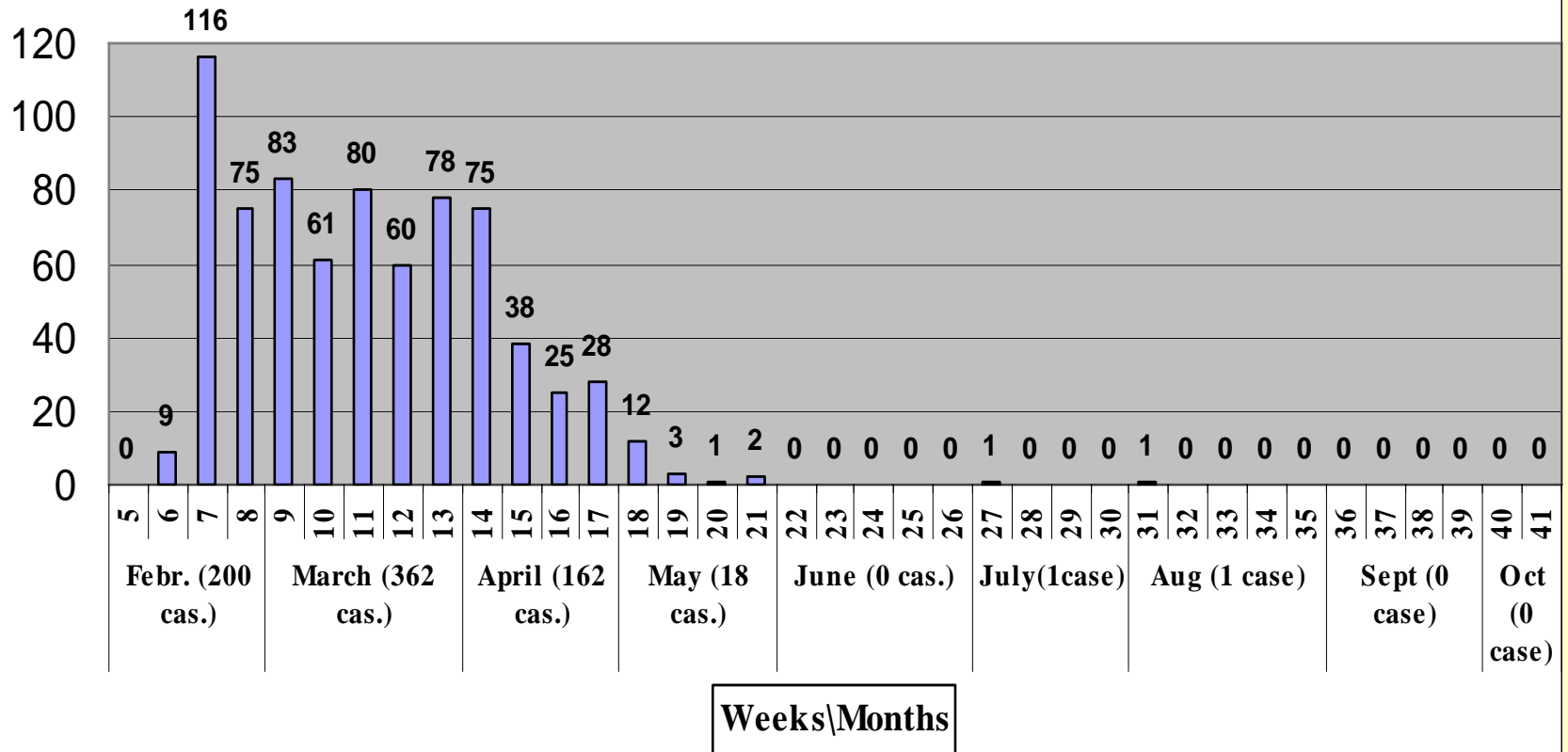
## HPAI H5N1 in the EU:



### what has happened in 2006

- Major HPAI H5N1 epidemic in wild birds in February-May
- Introduction related to “cold winter” migration of wild birds from eastern Europe – no introduction from Africa
- wild birds are capable of disseminating the virus over long distances
- outbreaks in poultry farms in five MSs: successfully eradicated
- a few findings in cats, a stone marten and a mink
- (apparently) disappeared in the last months!!!!

## HPAI cases in wild birds in the MSs - total 748 infected birds Cases notified to ADNS from 1 February to 11 October 2006

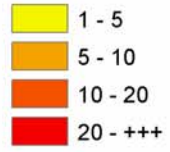


Outbreak position (if available) Infected ADNS regions

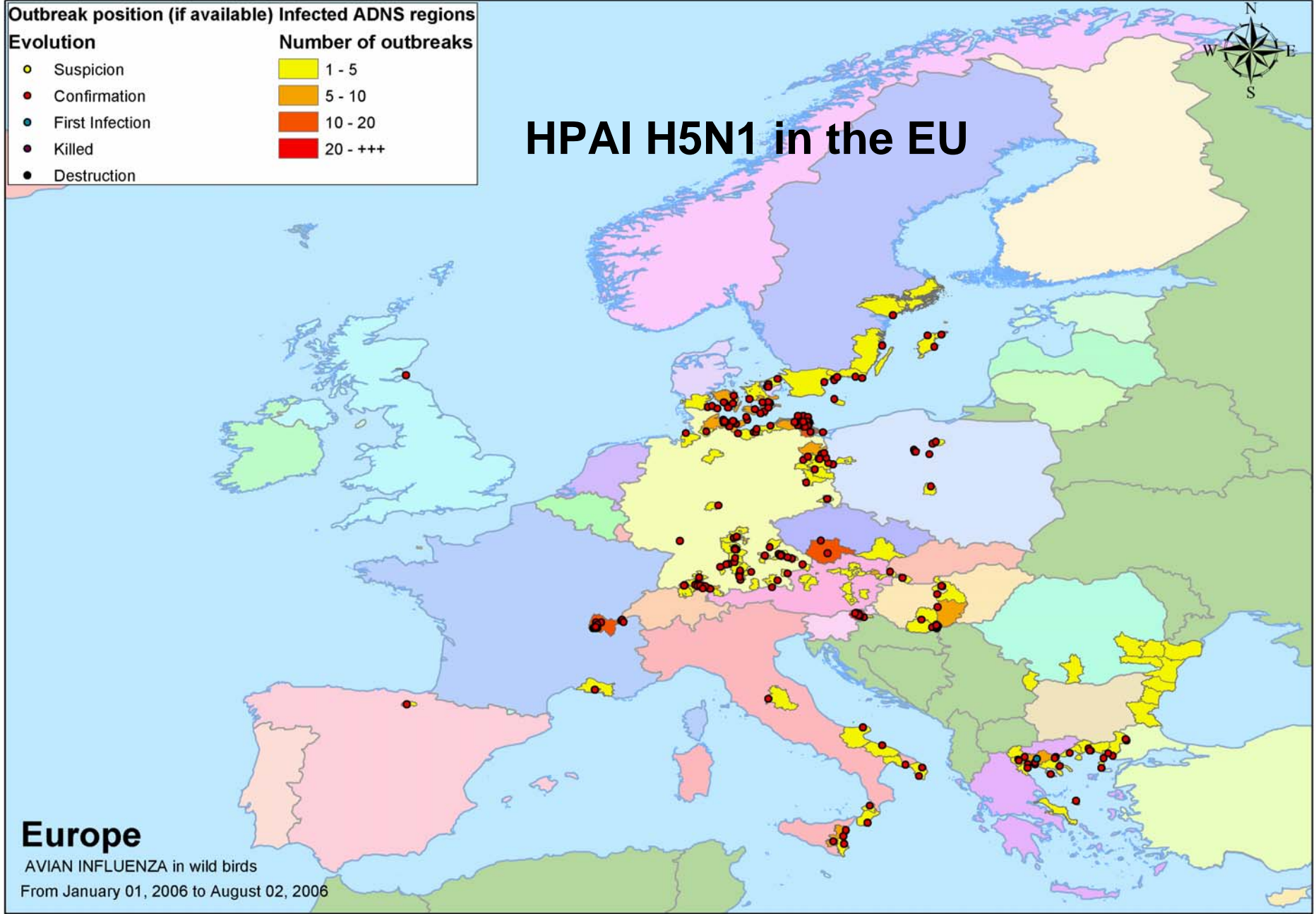
Evolution

Number of outbreaks

- Suspicion
- Confirmation
- First Infection
- Killed
- Destruction



# HPAI H5N1 in the EU



## Europe

AVIAN INFLUENZA in wild birds

From January 01, 2006 to August 02, 2006



# What next?



- Seasonal pattern of all influenza viruses
- HPAI H5N1 recently confirmed in North Africa and Asia
- Virus able to persist undetected for a long time in ducks and geese populations in Asia
- persistence in wild birds?
- likely to re-emerge in the EU: in wild birds? when? where?
- Other ways of virus introduction into the EU (such as illegal trade) should not be ignored

# Conclusions

- Major efforts have been made to prevent, detect early and contain HPAI H5N1 in the EU
- The measures taken have so far successfully reduced to a minimum the impact of the disease on animal (and public) health
- The system in place in the EU has made it possible to effectively coordinate MSs measures and to adapt them to the evolving situation
- In the next months the EU must be ready to effectively respond to this threat as it did in early 2006