

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS AND LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Response to HPAI outbreaks in EU Member States during 2014

Situation as of 31 December 2014

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Health and Consumers (SANCO)
Unit G2: Animal Health**

This document summarises basic information on the outbreaks of Avian Influenza (AI) in several EU Member States and related EU action. It focuses on the animal health aspects. The electronic version of this document is available on the [SANCO AI web pages](#).

For additional information, please refer to the Decisions in the Official Journal, the Commission's [avian influenza webpage](#) and associated [press releases](#). EU legal texts – Commission Decisions (CD) and Regulations (RG) can be accessed via the [EUR-Lex](#) webpages.

For more general animal health information, please refer to the [Commission's webpage](#).

For human health information, please refer to the [Commission's relevant webpage](#) and the website of the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#).

As regards international organisations please refer to the AI web [pages](#) of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), the AI web [pages](#) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the AI web [pages](#) of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Virtual faxes on AI occurrences in Member States (MS) and information on the Commission's work are sent to EU Member States and many third countries trading with the EU. These documents are referenced, starting each year with 001. Information on the first HPAI outbreak in the EU in 2014 starts with Fax 014. Please note that information on LPAI outbreaks in Member States is not included in this chronology.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Member States' authorities and stakeholders
WED 31/12	NL	Lifting of restrictions	Fax 048 to CVOs on information received from the Netherlands announcing the lifting of the protective measures in previously affected zones in relation to HPAI H5N8 outbreaks following completion of the activities required by Directive 2005/94/EC .
WED 23/12	UK	Lifting of restrictions	Fax 047 to CVOs on information received from the United Kingdom announcing the lifting of the protective measures in relation to the HPAI H5N8 outbreak in East Riding of Yorkshire following completion of the activities required by Directive 2005/94/EC. Those measures had been established by Commission Implementing Decision 2014/834/EU.
TUE 23/12	DE	Publication of CD 2014/945/EU	Fax 046 to CVOs informing about the publication of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/945/EU concerning certain protective measures in relation to the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of subtype H5N8 in Germany that relates to the first outbreak detected in Cloppenburg, Lower Saxony.
MON 22/12	DE	Update	Fax 045 to CVOs on information received from the German authorities describing the areas established as protection and surveillance zones around the infected duck holding in Neubörge, Emsland, Lower Saxony, where HPAI H5N8 had been confirmed on 20/12 (see Fax 44 of 21/12/2014). Given that this outbreak occurred in the same Land as the previous outbreak in Cloppenburg and that Germany applies the same control measures according to Council Directive 2005/94/EC in the described areas no protective measures will be adopted at this stage.
SUN 21/12	DE	Germany HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (3 rd outbreak)	Fax 044 to CVOs on information received from the German authorities on the official confirmation of a 3 rd outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a fattening duck holding kept indoors in the municipality of Neubörger, district Emsland, Lower Saxony. The authorities had already placed the holding under official restrictions on 19/12/2014 and the culling and safe disposal of the poultry was initiated. Poultry (36 laying hens) on holdings situated within a 1 km radius around the infected holding were also culled. Protection and surveillance zones were established and epidemiological investigations started.
FRI 19/12	DE	Germany Adoption of Commission protective measures	Fax 043 to CVOs informing about on the adoption of Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Germany (document SANCO/7149/2014 Rev.2).The measures relate to the confirmed outbreak in a fattening turkey holding in Cloppenburg Lower Saxony and are addressed to the Federal Republic of Germany. They will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 23/12/2014.
FRI 19/12	IT	Publication of CD 2014/936/EU	Fax 042 to CVOs informing about the publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/936/EU concerning certain protective measures in relation to the outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in Italy detected in Rovigo, Veneto Region on 16/12/2014 (fax 036 of 16/12/2014).
THU 18/12	DE	Update	Fax 041 to CVOs on updated information received from Germany on the finalisation on 16/12/2014 of killing of 17,887 fattening turkeys on the infected holding in Barßel and of the preventive culling of poultry in the contact holding in Garrel. The "standstill" of movements of poultry for the districts Cloppenburg, Ammerland and Leer is maintained until 19/12/2014, 18:00hrs (except for transport of day-old chicks). In the district of Cloppenburg a prohibition of restocking of poultry holdings was ordered in an area adjacent to the surveillance zone for 30 days following the removal of the poultry from their holdings.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Member States' authorities and stakeholders
THU 18/12	IT	Italy Adoption of Commission protective measures	Fax 040 to CVOs informing about the adoption on 17/12/2014 of Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Italy (document SANCO/7152/2014) relating to the outbreak confirmed on 16/12/2014 in a fattening turkey holding in Rovigo, Veneto Region (fax 037/2014 – 16/12/2014). The Decision will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 19/12/2014.
WED 17/12	DE	Germany HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (2 nd outbreak)	Fax 039 to CVOs on information received from the German authorities on the confirmation on 16/12/2014 of an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a fattening turkey holding in the commune of Barßel, district of Cloppenburg, Lower Saxony, Germany. Killing and safe disposal of the poultry started on 16/12/2014 and preventive culling will be carried out on two more poultry holdings in the vicinity and one contact holding in the commune of Garrel (district Cloppenburg). The measures according to Directive 2005/94/EC are implemented including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones. In addition, the competent authorities imposed a standstill for movements of poultry in the districts Cloppenburg, Ammerland and Leer except for transport of day-old chicks out of these districts.
TUE 16/12	IT	Update	Fax 037 to CVOs on further information received from the Italian authorities on the outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a turkey farm located in the municipality of Porto Viro, Province of Rovigo and informing about the favourable opinion obtained from the Standing Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Italy (document SANCO/7152/2014).
TUE 16/12		Meeting of the PAFF ¹	Italy: The draft text on a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Italy (document SANCO/7152/2014) was put for a vote and obtained a favourable opinion of Standing Committee.
TUE 16/12	IT	Italy HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (1 st outbreak)	Fax 036 to CVOs on information received from the Italian authorities on the confirmation of HPAI H5N8 in a fattening turkey holding located in the municipality of Porto Viro, Province of Rovigo, Veneto Region. Measures according to Council Directive 2005/94/EC are being implemented, including culling as well as cleaning and disinfection. The Commission intends to present at the meeting of the relevant Standing Committee a draft on Commission protective measures in relation to that outbreak.
MON 15/12		EFSA	EFSA publishes a Scientific Report on Highly pathogenic avian influenza A subtype H5N8.
MON 08/12	NL		Fax 033 to CVOs informing about a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/833/EU concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7126/2014) which obtained a favourable opinion at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed of 05/12/2014.

¹ Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Comitology Committee chaired by the Commission, including veterinary experts from all MS's governments (http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/index_en.htm)

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Member States' authorities and stakeholders
FRI 05/12		Meeting of the PAFF ⁽¹⁾	Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom report on their disease situation as regards HPAI H5N8. The Commission puts a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2014/833/EU concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7126/2014) for a vote and obtains a favourable opinion. Given the current epidemiological situation Member States agree on a Statement on Avian Influenza concerning precautionary measures.
TUE 02/12	DE	Publication of CD 2014/864/EU	Fax 031 to CVOs informing on the publication of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/864/EU of 28 November 2014 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Germany. The measures relate to the outbreak that had been detected in Germany on 5/11/2014 (see fax 014 of 6/11/2014). The restrictions for the protection zone established around the outbreak are now lifted and the measures of the surveillance zone continue to apply.
MON 01/12	NL	The Netherlands HPAI H5N8 detected in wild birds	The Netherlands inform about the detection of HPAI H5N8 in samples taken from two wild birds (widgeon: <i>Anas Penelope</i>) close to Kamerik (province of Utrecht).
MON 01/12	NL	The Netherlands HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (5 th outbreak)	Fax 030 to CVOs on information received from the Dutch authorities about the detection of a further outbreak of avian influenza of the subtype H5 in a layer farm in Zoeterwoude in Zuid Holland, close to Leiden, in the western part of the Netherlands. Within a radius of 1 km around the outbreak there is one broiler farm and within 3 km there is one further broiler farm.
FRI 28/11		Meeting of the PAFF ⁽¹⁾	Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom give an update on the disease situation. Germany and the UK report no further suspected or confirmed outbreaks. Following the 3 rd outbreak, the Netherlands have decided to split the country in four regions where movements of poultry and related activities (feed delivery, services, etc.) are limited to each region. Some Member States suggested broadening the scope of legislation applicable to HPAI H5N1 to HPAI H5N8.
FRI 28/11	NL/UK		Fax 029 to CVOs informing about the publication of Commission Implementing Decisions 2014/834/EU and 2014/833/EU
THU 27/11	UK	Publication of CD 2014/834/EU	Commission Implementing Decision 2014/834/EU of 25 November 2014 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the United Kingdom.
THU 27/11	NL	Publication of CD 2014/833/EU	Commission Implementing Decision 2014/833/EU of 25 November 2014 concerning certain protective measures in relation to recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the Netherlands.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Member States' authorities and stakeholders
TUE 25/11		Meeting of the Chief Veterinary Officers in the Council	The Commission briefly summarised the chronology of the recent HPAI H5N8 outbreaks, the control measures taken and informed on activities to be carried out by EFSA and EURL. The disease-affected Member States briefly reported on additional measures taken such as active surveillance of healthy live wild birds, additional zoning and ban of restocking. The challenge of making compatible strengthening biosecurity (i.e. keeping indoors) with labelling rules for organic/free range egg production was raised by Member States.
TUE 25/11	UK	Adoption of Commission protective measures	Fax 028 to MS CVOs informing about the formal adoption by the Commission of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the United Kingdom (document SANCO/7124/2014) and repealing Commission Implementing Decision 2014/807/EU. The Decision confirms the measures taken in relation to the confirmation of HPAI H5N8: The publication in the Official Journal of the European Union is scheduled for Thursday 27/11/2014.
TUE 25/11	NL	Adoption of Commission protective measures	Fax 027 to MS CVOs on the formal adoption by the Commission of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7115/2014 R2) and repealing Commission Implementing Decision 2014/808/EU. The decision confirms the measures taken in relation to the first HPAI outbreak in the Netherlands in Hekendorp and enlarges the zones taking into account the outbreaks in Ter Aar and Kamperveen. The publication of that Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union is scheduled for Thursday 27/11/2014.
MON 24/11	NL	Consultation on protective measures	Fax to MS CVOs consulting Member States by written procedure on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on protective measures in relation to the HPAI H5N8 outbreaks in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7115/2014 R2).
MON 24/11	NL	The Netherlands HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (3 rd and 4 th outbreak)	Fax 026 to MS CVOs on information received from the Dutch authorities concerning the situation as regards outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in the villages of Hekendorp, Ter Aar and Kamperveen and one outbreak of AI H5 in Kamperveen (the pathogenicity and N type are not yet confirmed).
FRI 21/11	DE	Germany HPAI H5N8 confirmed in a wild bird	The German authorities informed the Commission about the detection of HPAI H5N8 in wild ducks (common teal: <i>Anas crecca</i>) hunted on the island of Ruegen which is about 150 km north of the first HPAI H5N8 outbreak in Germany in poultry in the Land Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania.

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FRI 21/11	NL	The Netherlands HPAI H5N8 confirmed in poultry (2 nd outbreak)	Fax 025 to MS CVOs on information received from the Dutch authorities on a second outbreak of HPAI H5N8 confirmed in a laying hen farm in Ter Aar in the municipality of Nieuwkoop, province of Zuid-Holland, keeping 43,000 laying hens. In addition, a serious suspicion of avian influenza was also reported from a holding in Kamperveen, municipality of Hardenberg, province Overijssel, keeping 10,000 breeder poultry. The poultry is being culled. Measures according to EU legislation on the control of avian influenza were put in place and a complete temporary standstill for movements of all poultry, poultry products and manure from farms with commercial poultry was implemented for 72 hours for the territory of the Netherlands.
THU 21/11		ECDC	ECDC updates previous risk assessment in relation to the outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in poultry.
THU 20/11	NL	The Netherlands Avian influenza subtype H5 confirmed in poultry	Fax 024 to MS CVOs on information received from the Dutch authorities about the detection of an avian influenza virus of the subtype H5 in a laying hen holding in Ter Aar, municipality of Nieuwkoop, province of Zuid-Holland, in the western part of the Netherlands. Laboratory investigations are ongoing in order to determine, if it is a low pathogenic (LPAI) or a highly pathogenic (HPAI) virus and the Neuraminidase subtype (N). The Dutch authorities are applying the EU control measures as foreseen in case of the occurrence of a HPAI strain. The killing of the poultry is being prepared and zoning around the affected holding is established. In addition the Dutch authorities are taking a precautionary measure by implementing a temporary standstill for movements of poultry and certain poultry products throughout the country as was done in relation to the outbreak confirmed on 16/11/2014 (fax 017 of 17/11).
THU 20/11		Meeting of the PAFF ⁽¹⁾	Germany , United Kingdom and the Netherlands give presentations on the HPAI H5N8 situation in their countries. The EU Reference Laboratory for Avian influenza (EUURL) and the National Reference Laboratory for AI in the Netherlands give presentations on their laboratory findings and on findings in the Republic of Korea. The Commission intends to ask EFSA in collaboration with the EUURL and Member States to analyse the current epidemiological situation in order to assess possible entry routes and in particular the role played by wild birds in the transmission of infection. The Commission presents two draft Implementing Decisions on certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7115/2014) and in relation to the United Kingdom (document SANCO/7124/2014) for a vote that obtain a favourable opinion.
WED 19/11	UK NL		Fax 023 to MS CVOs on the publication of interim protective measures concerning HPAI H5N8 in the Netherlands (CD 2014/808/EU) and in relation to HPAI H5 in the United Kingdom (CD 2014/807/EU).
WED 19/11	NL	CD 2014/808/EU published	Decision on interim protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in the Netherlands published.
WED 19/11	UK	CD 2014/807/EU published	Decision on interim protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in the UK published.
TUE 18/11	UK	United Kingdom confirmation of N8 subtype	Fax 022 to MS CVOs on information received from the United Kingdom about the confirmation of the Neuraminidase subtype N8 for the HPAI H5 virus detected on 16/11/2014 in a duck breeder holding in the East Riding of Yorkshire, England.
MON 17/11	NL	Update	Fax 021 to MS CVOs on updated information received from the Dutch authorities on the HPAI H5N8 outbreak in a laying hen holding in Hekendorp in the municipality of Oudewater earlier today (fax 017/2014).

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MON 17/11		Midday press release	A press release is issued following the formal adoption of the two draft decisions in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Germany and HPAI H5 in the United Kingdom.
MON 17/11	UK	United Kingdom Adoption of CD on protective measures for HPAI H5	Fax 020 to MS CVOs informing about the formal adoption of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim protective measures in relation to HPAI H5 in the United Kingdom (Document SANCO/7114/2014). The Decision is to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on Wednesday 19/11/2014.
MON 17/11	NL	The Netherlands Adoption of CD on protective measures for HPAI H5N8	Fax 019 to MS CVOs informing about the formal adoption of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain interim protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in the Netherlands (document SANCO/7113/2014).The Decision is to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union on Wednesday 19/11/2014.
MON 17/11	UK	United Kingdom HPAI H5 in poultry confirmed (1 st outbreak)	Fax 018 to MS CVOs informing that on late evening of 16/11/2014 the Commission was informed by the UK authorities about the confirmation of a HPAI outbreak subtype H5 in an indoor duck breeding holding in North Yorkshire (reads later "East Riding of Yorkshire"), England. The determination of the N antigen is pending. Preliminary available information suggests that it is the same virus as detected in Germany and the Netherlands. The UK authorities are applying disease control measures as foreseen by Council Directive 2005/94/EC . The 6,000 breeding ducks present on the affected holding are being killed and protection and surveillance zone were established. The Commission envisages adopting an urgent interim safeguard measure, similar to the one already adopted for Germany and as also envisaged for the Netherlands.
MON 17/11	NL	The Netherlands HPAI H5N8 in poultry confirmed (1 st outbreak)	Fax 017 to MS CVOs informing that on the Dutch authorities have on Sunday 16/11/2014 informed the Commission of an outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a laying hen holding in Hekendorp, municipality Oudewater. The information available suggests that the virus strain is the same as that found 10 days ago in Germany in the Land Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Killing of the 150,000 birds present on the holding in Oudewater started on 16/11/2014. Measures according to Directive 2005/94/EC are implemented. The Netherlands ordered a temporary standstill for all movements of poultry and poultry products on the whole Dutch territory. This measure is subject to review in the next days on the bases of the evolution in the situation. The information available also points to wild migratory birds as a possible source of virus introduction in the Netherlands. Member States are urged to review and enhance their biosecurity measures in poultry holdings. The Commission envisages adopting an urgent interim safeguard measure, similar to that already adopted for Germany.
SAT 15/11	NL	The Netherlands Avian influenza subtype H5 suspected	The Dutch authorities inform the Commission about a very strong suspicion of AI (H5 confirmed) in a laying hen holding with 150,000 birds in Hekendorp, province of Utrecht. It is not known yet, if the infection is caused by a HPAI or a LPAI virus strain.

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FRI 14/11		ECDC publishes Rapid risk assessment	ECDC considers that the risk posed to human health by HPAI H5N8 following its detection in Germany is very low. To date, no human infections with this virus have ever been reported world-wide and the risk for zoonotic transmission to the general public in the EU/EEA countries is considered to be extremely low. Persons at risk are mainly people in direct contact or handling diseased poultry or their carcasses (e.g. farmers, veterinarians and workers involved in culling). The risk can be minimised by using appropriate personal protective equipment.
THU 13/11	DE	Meeting of the PAFF ⁽¹⁾	Germany gives a presentation on the H5N8 HPAI situation. The Commission tables a draft proposal for a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Germany which obtains a favourable opinion of the Committee (Document SANCO/7112/2014).
MON 10/11	DE		Fax 016 to MS CVOs informing about the publication on 08/11/2014 of Commission Implementing Decision 2014/778/EU in relation to HPAI H5N8 in Germany.
SAT 08/11	DE	CD 2014/778/EU published in OJ	Commission Implementing Decision 2014/778/EU of 6 November 2014 concerning certain interim protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5N8 in Germany
THU 06/11	DE	Adoption of CD on protective measures for HPAI H5N8	Fax 015 to MS CVOs informing about the formal adoption by the Commission of an Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to the HPAI H5N8 outbreak in Germany (document SANCO/7111/2014). The Decision will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union of 08/11/2014.
THU 06/11	DE	Update	Fax 014 to MS CVOs on informing on the HPAI H5N8 outbreak in a fattening turkey holding in the commune Heinrichswalde, Kreis Vorpommern-Greifswald, Land Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The German authorities are taking the EU measures foreseen in Council Directive 2005/94/EC to control the outbreak. The 3km protection and 10 km surveillance zones are established around the infected holding. Killing of all 31,000 turkeys present on the infected holding and of poultry in holdings located in the protection zone is carried out. A small part of the Land Brandenburg is also included in the surveillance zone. The Commission informs of its intention to rapidly adopt a Decision on interim protective measures in relation to this outbreak.
WED 05/11	DE	Germany Presence of HPAI subtype H5 confirmed	The German authorities inform the Commission of the presence of HPAI of H5N8 subtype in a fattening turkey farm in the commune of Heinrichswalde, Kreis Vorpommern-Greifswald, Land Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Official investigations were carried out due to increased mortality of the poultry on that holding. Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) are informed by e-mail of the confirmed outbreak.