Assessment *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2014

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BACKGROUND

Assessment of *Echinococcus multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted in 2014 by IE, FI, MT and UK

in the context of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 regarding preventive health measures for the control of *E. multilocularis* infection in dogs
None of the four MS has detected *E. multilocularis* through the surveillance activities reported in 2014.

Under the assumption of an unbiased representative sample (IE, FI, UK) and an unbiased risk based sample (MT) and considering the sensitivity of the tests applied, all four MS have fulfilled the requirement of Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 regarding detecting a prevalence of not more than 1 % with a confidence level of at least 0.95.
CONCLUSIONS

- A robust estimation of **test sensitivity** is required

- More detailed information on the fox and (raccoon) dog populations (e.g. the density and local distribution, age structure and gender distribution) would allow a **better assessment of potential bias** in the presented sampling strategies when comparing this information to the characteristics of the sample population.
CONCLUSIONS

- Considering that a risk-based approach implies a good knowledge on the relative risk between groups within the target population, scientific evidences underpinning the proposed relative risk values would minimise the potential impact of uncertainties around these estimations.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that each laboratory involved in a surveillance programme determines the sensitivity of each test used to diagnose *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

- Collaboration between epidemiologists and wildlife experts would facilitate data collection and subsequent estimation of wildlife population parameters.

- For risk-based approaches, it is recommended to identify or perform additional scientific studies on risk factors affecting the probability of host animal species being infected with *Echinococcus multilocularis*. 
UPCOMING EFSA OUTPUTS ON E. MULTILOCULARIS

- **End Feb 2015**
  scientific report on the assessment of *E. multilocularis* surveillance reports 2012 and 2013 submitted by Norway

- **End Oct 2015**
  scientific report on the assessment of *E. multilocularis* surveillance reports submitted by IE, FI, NO, MT and UK in 2015

- **End Nov 2015**
  scientific opinion on *E. multilocularis* infections in animals