



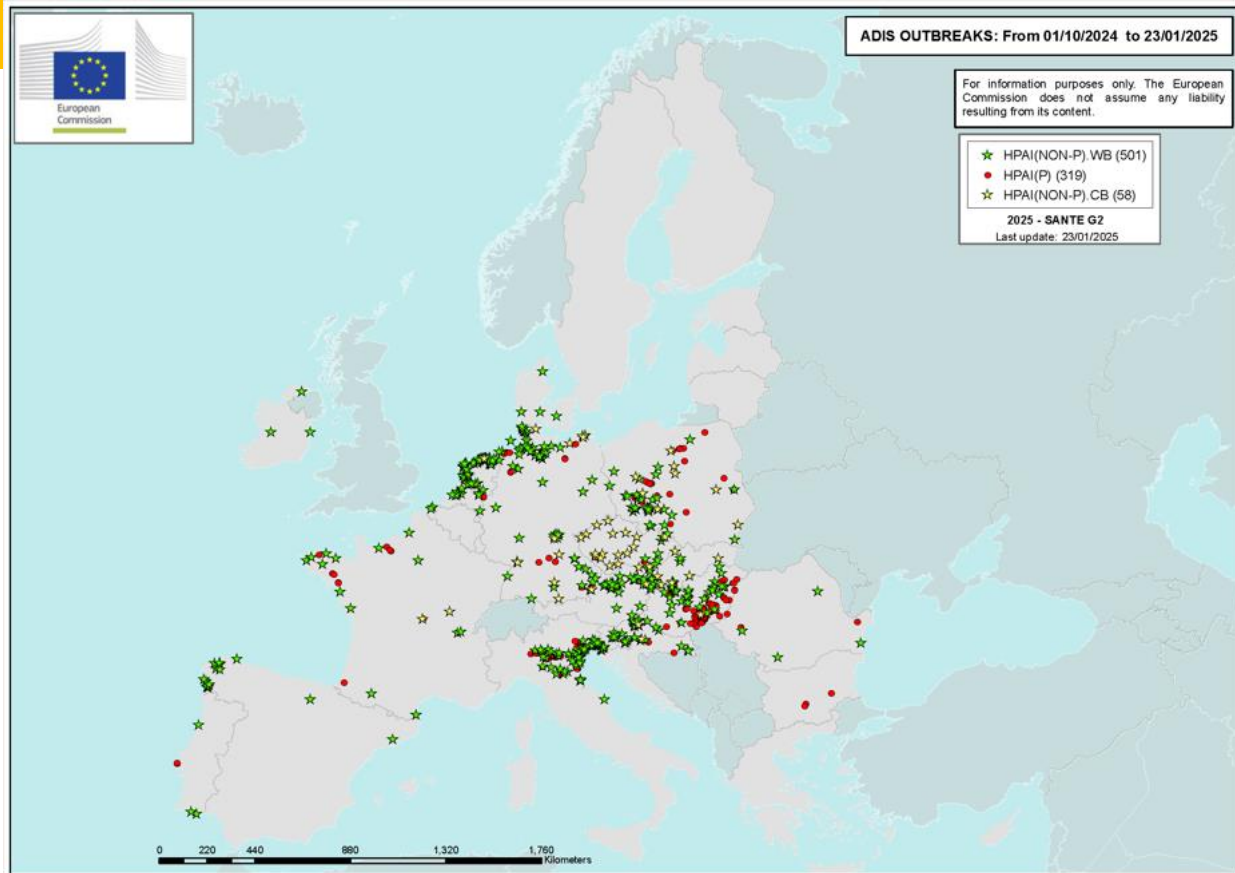
HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

DISEASE SITUATION

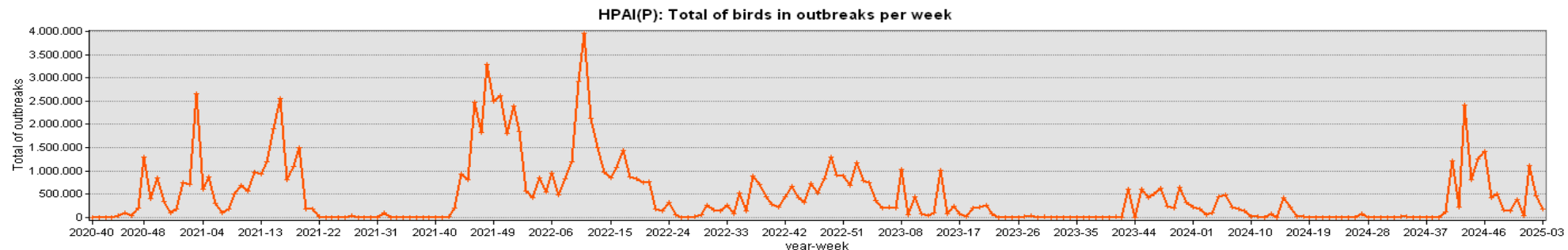
ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
24 January 2025

European Commission,
DG Health and Food Safety
Unit G2 – Animal Health

HPAI situation in 2024-2025 epidemic season



- 501 outbreaks in wild birds
- 319 outbreaks in poultry confirmed in: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Poland, Netherlands, Portugal
- >11 million poultry killed in the outbreaks
- In certain areas outbreaks again developing in clusters involving mainly ducks and turkeys



Summary of HPAI epidemic seasons in figures

2021-2022:

the most severe HPAI epidemic season ever experienced by EU with the highest number of outbreaks in poultry and affected poultry

2022–2023:

even with higher number of outbreaks in wild birds, less poultry outbreaks (improved biosecurity and preventive measures e.g. reduced density in high risk areas)

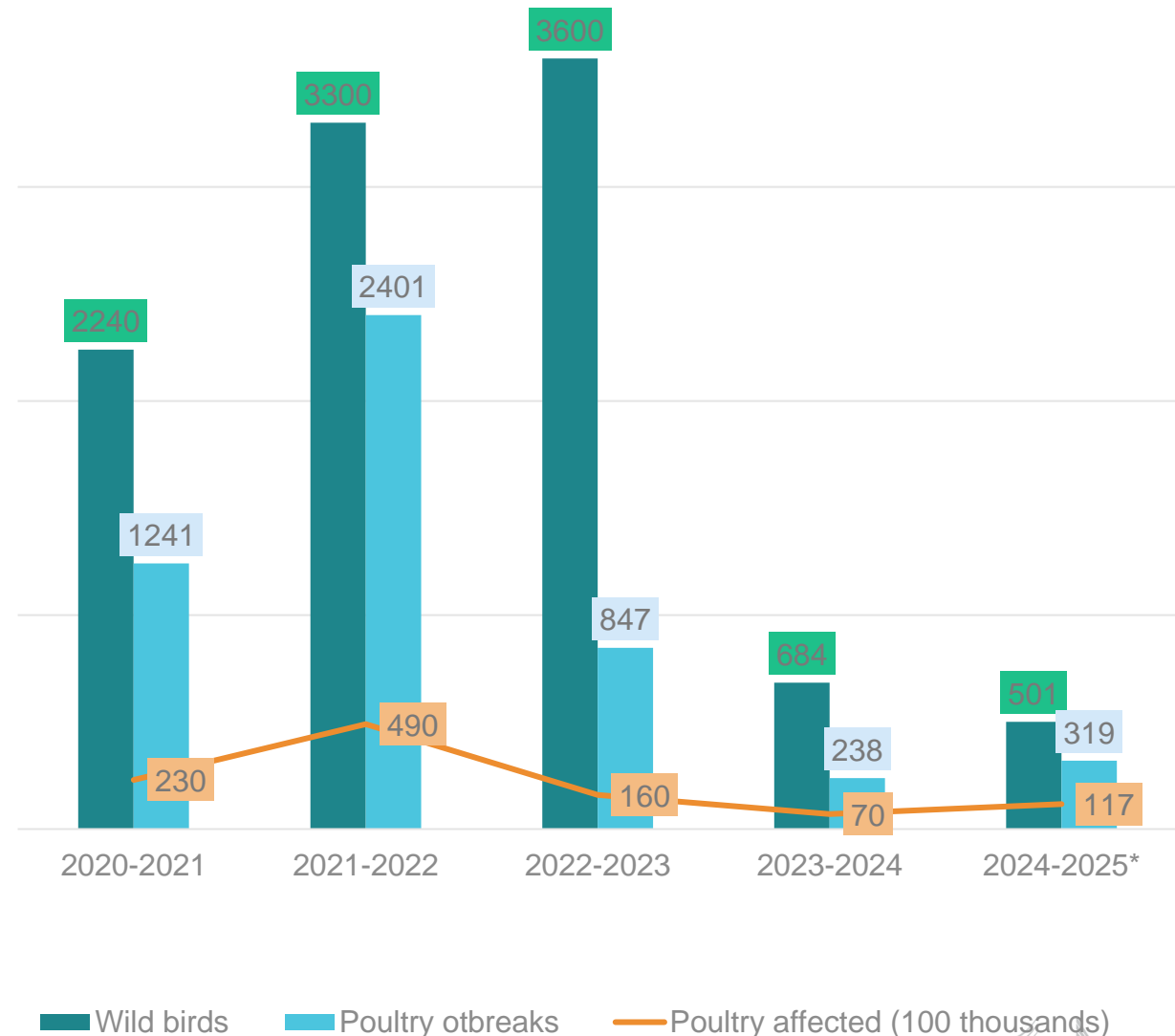
2023 – 2024:

less number of outbreaks in wild birds and poultry. Start vaccination campaign poultry (ducks) in France

2024 – 2025:

Earlier start of season, central part of EU more affected. Vaccination in France continues

- Highest number of outbreaks in duck farms (> 50 % of total)
- Highest number of affected birds in outbreaks – laying hens (birds in 3 outbreaks 30 % of total)



* Up to 23 Jan 2025

HPAI in the USA and Canada

Current situation

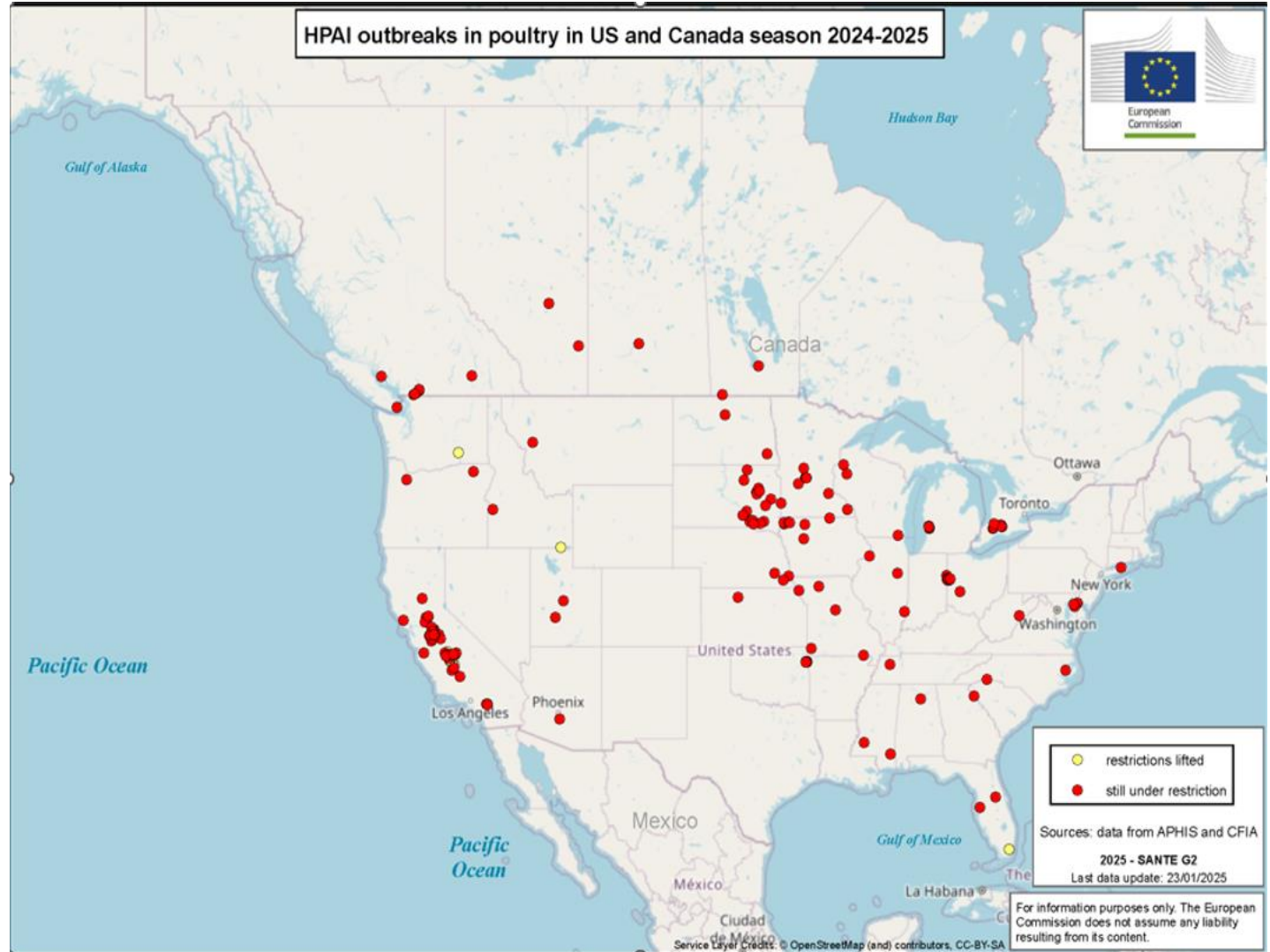
HPAI regionalisation in season 2024-2025:

USA

- 162 new HPAI zones
- Birds affected: 42 million
- Mainly affected states: California and South Dakota; Mainly affected type of poultry: turkey

Canada

- 19 new HPAI zones
- Birds affected: 443,000
- Mainly affected provinces: British Columbia and Ontario; mainly affected type of poultry: turkey
- In November 2024, 2 outbreaks of H5N2 in British Columbia



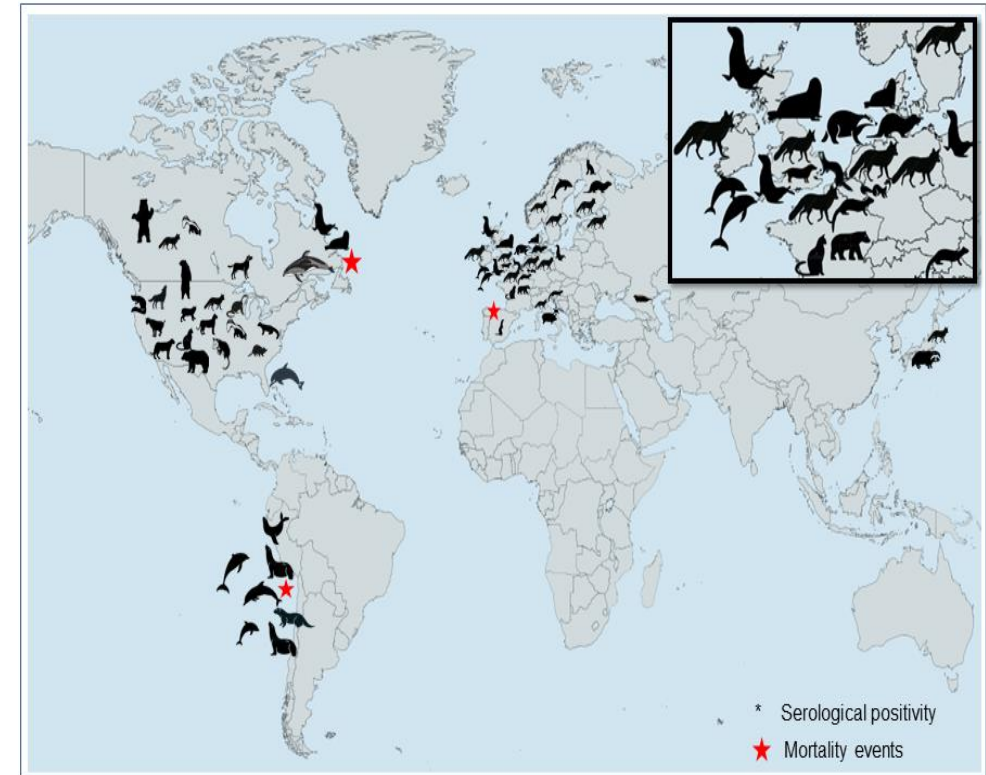
Current EU rules for HPAI in mammalian animals

SURVEILLANCE:

- part of the Union Surveillance Programme (USP) for avian influenza
- in all Member States when these animals may be a risk for animal and human health
- guidance of EU Reference Laboratory for avian influenza for sampling and diagnosis, including for genetic characterization of viruses

MEASURES:

- may be classified as **emerging disease (Art. 6 of AHL)**
- **immediately reported** to the Commission and other Member States (Art. 257 (2) of AHL)
- **emergency measures:** movement restrictions of animals and products from affected farms; surveillance and traceability; can go as strict as for HPAI in poultry (e.g. culling/disposal of all animals in the affected farm, restricted zone, etc.) (Art. 257 (2) of AHL)
- Commission safeguard measures possible if needed (Art. 259 of AHL)



Source EFSA 2023

EFSA work on risk from AI viruses in mammalian animals

Regular, ongoing task

- **Quarterly** reports
- Describe virus **spread**
- Temporal and spatial **pattern** of AI viruses in birds and mammals
- **Options** for adapting preparedness, prevention and control measures based on the risk identified

Scientific opinion on **preparedness, prevention, and control measures for zoonotic avian influenza in animals**

- **To be published on 29 January 2025**
- **Risk posed by AI viruses**
- **Factors that influence the mutation frequency** towards zoonotic virus
- **Most suitable surveillance** for addressing the zoonotic risks
- **Prevention, biosecurity and control measures** to reduce the risk of zoonotic avian influenza

Scientific report and opinion on the **risk posed by the HPAI virus H5N1, clade 2.3.4.4b. genotype B3.13, currently circulating in the US**

- **Scientific report, by 31 May 2025:**
 - summary of the **virological information** currently available on the virus and the measures in the USA
 - potential **pathways and timelines for entry** of the virus into the EU
- **Scientific opinion, by 30 November 2025:**
 - **Potential impact of infection in dairy cows in the EU**
 - **Measures to prevent introduction and spread** into dairy cows and poultry in the EU
 - **Likelihood of bulk milk contamination** with virus if dairy cows in the EU are infected with that HPAI virus
 - **Assess the level of viable virus** in raw milk and dairy products for consumption
 - **Critically review** the available **measures to mitigate** the estimated risk

EFSA opinion on preparedness, prevention, and control measures for zoonotic avian influenza in animals

Risk posed by AI viruses

Increased opportunities for evolution **due to widespread circulation** in birds and occasional cases/outbreaks in mammals

Factors that influence the mutation frequency towards zoonotic virus

Intrinsic virus mechanisms: genetic mutations, reassortment, selective pressure

Extrinsic drivers: human-related activities like, e.g. **farming** of poultry and other AI susceptible species **at high stocking density** and at **low biosecurity** or **mixed farming**

Most suitable surveillance for addressing the zoonotic risks

In **areas and periods** of recent AIV detection

Target species include wild carnivores, fur farmed animals, **domestic carnivores from HPAI outbreaks or from vicinity**, domestic ruminants exposed to infected birds

Prevention, biosecurity and control measures to reduce the risk of zoonotic avian influenza

At the farm level biosecurity is critical

regular staff training

audits

prompt reporting of dead wild birds near farms animal vaccination(poultry) strategies to reduce virus circulation

the **location and structure of animal production systems should be reconsidered as a long-term measure**

Thank you



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