



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate D - Animal health and welfare
Director

Brussels,
SANCO/D/AB/mb (07) D/412706

Dear,

The Commission is convening a "Conference on vaccination strategy against bluetongue" that will take place in Brussels on 16 January 2008.

As you will be aware, the bluetongue situation in the Community has considerably changed in the last years. I refer in particular to the recent incursions of new serotypes of bluetongue virus.

Vaccination is one of the veterinary measures that can be implemented in an infected territory. Several Member States have experience on the use of vaccination as a means to limit the effects of bluetongue. This experience and the opinion of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare of EFSA on vectors and vaccines were taken into account when drafting Commission Regulation (EC) No 1266/2007.

On the basis of the experience gained, and considering the new EU legislation as regards bluetongue, it is appropriate to discuss at Community level the strategy for the use of vaccination against bluetongue as a means of controlling the disease, taking also into account its importance vis-à-vis trade and the economical effects of the disease. For this reason the Commission is organising the above mentioned Conference. Please find attached a tentative agenda for your convenience.

Further information on the Conference, registration forms and final agenda will be available on the DG Health and Consumer Protection website via:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bluetongue_en.htm.

We would be very pleased if you could take part in this conference. In order to make the necessary arrangements we would appreciate it if you could confirm your attendance by filling in the registration form on the webpage.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Van Goethem

Encl.: tentative agenda of the Conference