



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**G5- Veterinary Programmes**

**SANCO/10920 /2012**

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING  
ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES**

**BRUSSELS, 1st March 2012**

**REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE (TF) FOR MONITORING  
ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES  
BRUSSELS, 1<sup>st</sup> March- 2012**

**Participants:**

**Representatives of Member States:**

AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK, UK.

**Private Experts:**

- S. Sternberger Lewerin, SE, (chair of the tuberculosis sub-group)
- E. Stifter, IT (chair of the bovine Brucellosis sub-group);
- J. M. Wernig, SI (chair of the Southern Rabies sub-group);
- E. NIIN, EE (chair of the North Rabies sub-group);
- V. Moennig, DE (chair of the Classical swine fever sub-group)

**Commission (DG SANCO G5):**

- **C. Bertrand (CB), Chair**
- **L. Vandenberghe (LV)**
- **V. Piazza (VP)**
- A. Blass Rico (ABR)
- P. Demetriou (DP)
- S. Idei (IS)

**Commission (SANCO A4 - Informatics tools IT)**

- A. Mathy,
- G. Serneels

C. Bertrand, Head of Unit G5, welcomed the delegations and the private experts. He made a short presentation of the purpose of the meeting and the main tasks (veterinarian and financial) of Unit G5 (former Unit 04). He underlined the importance of the Task Force and its subgroups meetings. The agenda was adopted (see detailed agenda-Annex I). No suggestions for new items were proposed by the delegations.

**1. INFORMATION ON THE FOURTH MEETINGS OF THE “CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER ” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN BELGRADE, SERBIA, on 6-7 APRIL 2011.**

Prof. V. Moennig, DE (chair of the Classical swine fever sub-group) presented the summary of the conclusions and recommendation of the fourth meeting held by the sub-group on Classical Swine fever (CSF).

This is the first time that the CSF-task force is organised in a non-EU MS, following the extension of the scope of the task force (SANCO/10418/2010).

Serbia had an outbreak of CSF in November 2010. During the last task force of the CSF subgroup in Budapest in December 2010, it was discussed the convenience of organising a meeting of the task force in Serbia. The proposal was very welcomed by the Serbian authorities who finally arranged to organise the meeting in April 2011.

The objectives of the meeting were twofold:

- Assessment of the CSF situation in Serbia
- Recommendations for improvement and future actions

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- The Serbian Veterinary authorities are very well structured, they are developing a good system for the control and eradication of CSF, which includes a contingency plan and they have taken steps to increase awareness for CSF
- Two presentations were given on laboratory capacities and capabilities, showing the high standard in this respect
- The response to the outbreaks in 2010 was efficiently managed
- CSF virus seems still to be circulating
- The role of (uncontrollable) swill feeding is critical to avoid further outbreaks
- There are certain shortages in personnel and equipment in case of eventual big outbreaks
- The categorization of pig holdings which is progressively being implemented by Serbia is seen as a useful instrument for the control of CSF
- The introduction of the national animal disease notification system is considered to be a very useful step.
- Compulsory vaccination of domestic pigs as a first phase of CSF eradication is a proven and useful step for disease control. However, there are problems in reaching a sufficient coverage of vaccination, e.g. there seem to be discrepancies between official number of vaccinated pigs and real number in small holdings.
- In general, the density of wild boar is low (90% of populations are <1 wild boar/km<sup>2</sup> .
- Seroconversion rates are relatively low (over several years); there seems not to be endemic CSF in wild boar populations. However, there was too little sampling in wild boar and insufficient information was supplied with the samples (i.e. age, sex, location)
- 90% of hunting grounds are managed by the National Hunting Organization
- There is a lack of cooperation in terms of disease control with veterinary authorities of neighboring countries

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The National Hunting Organization should be more engaged in the control of CSF in wild boar
2. Regional labs should improve their communication with the National Reference Laboratory. The bio-security level of laboratories handling CSF virus should be reviewed and updated if necessary
3. The weaknesses of the vaccination policy should be identified and solved (age of vaccination, interference with maternal antibodies, repeated vaccination, high coverage of the population)

4. When vaccination will be stopped, appropriate surveillance strategies must be in place
5. Sampling of wild boar should be intensified and samples should be accompanied by the necessary information
6. After the stop vaccination slaughtered backyard pigs should be investigated serologically (possibly in conjunction with testing for trichinella, using the meat juice of the samples)
7. For the control of CSF in wild boar it is recommended that Serbia joins the wild boar data base.
8. Attempts should be made to improve bio-security in farms. Employees of larger farms should not keep private pigs. Instead the farm could supply pigs for private consumption.
9. Control strategies of CSF in wild boar should be established depending on the density of the wild boar population and the results of sero-surveillance. Vaccination should only be employed when there is evidence for endemic CSF in a high density population.
10. Strengthen communication and cooperation between veterinary services in the Balkan region is essential for the control and eradication of CSF.

## **2. SUPPORT FOR THE CONTROL/ERADICATION OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS (ABR)**

A. Blass Rico presented this multinational project - financed by DG Enlargement (IPA Instrument for Pre-accession Funds) and managed by DG SANCO, unit G5 "Veterinary Programmes."

It comes to reinforce the already existing IPA national projects by enhancing regional and cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans.

The project focus mainly on rabies and Classical swine fever, due to their transboundary nature and the interest of the Commission to help the western Balkan countries to ensure that the control and eradication of animal diseases is harmonised in the region and coordinated reducing then the risk of spreading of these diseases into the EU.

The objectives of the project are to improve the performance and the cross border cooperation between veterinary services as regards the implementation of animal health programmes and the harmonisation and coordination of eradication and control activities at a regional level. Therefore it will complementary benefit to disease control and eradication systems in general.

After a call for selection, the contractor OPERA was selected. The contract was signed on 1 July 2011 and it will run for 2 years.

Main activities:

- Expert visits to each beneficiary country
- Report on regional disease status
- Regional workshops (1st in November 2011 -Zagreb)
- Country meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Training on cross-border epidemiology
- Guidelines on outbreak preparedness
- Classical swine fever simulation exercises in 2012 (one regional and two local)

Improvement of laboratory networking: report and workshop to be organised  
Training on wildlife surveillance

More info on the website: <http://www.ipawb-csf-rabies.eu>  
(Copy of the presentation in annex to the report)

### **3. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “RABIES” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN PLODVIV, BULGARIA, 15-16 March 2011.**

J. M.Wernig, SI (chair of the Southern Rabies sub-group) presented the main findings as regards the Bulgarian programme as well as the recommendations of the subgroup:

Bulgaria implements oral rabies vaccination since 2009. Rabies is present on the north of the Stara Planina mountain chain and in some regions on the south. The 2010 autumn campaign was not implemented.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

- Bulgaria made an important step towards rabies control by launching ORV in 2009. Since then, three ORVs have been carried out in the northern part of the country. Due to financial constraints autumn ORV in 2010 was not performed.
- Bulgarian authorities have established solid legal framework for the control of rabies following international guidelines, and collaboration between central/regional authorities and stakeholders.
- Bulgarian authorities together with NGOs have developed an impressive program for reducing stray dog populations by ABC including neutering and implementation of national dog register and electronic identification of dogs.
- Bulgarian authorities made considerable efforts to decrease the incidence of rabies in domestic animals by strengthening controls on the implementation of mandatory vaccination of dogs.
- In the case of detection of rabies mandatory vaccination of all domestic animals is implemented in the affected area.
- No human case of rabies has been reported for more than 40 years.
- NRL has established WHO/OIE recommended standard laboratory techniques for rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring.
- A new Agency for risk assessment has recently been set-up.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Bulgarian authorities should ensure long term financial backing for uninterrupted continuation of the ORVs even in times of financial difficulties especially considering availability of the EU co-financing at the rate of 75%.
2. Bulgarian authorities should be proactive and ensure flexible management of the program in order to react quickly to the epidemiological developments.

3. Because rabies surveillance is the key index for evaluation of ORV success the Bulgarian authorities should increase efforts to enhance rabies surveillance by focusing on indicator animals (suspect animals, road-kills, found-dead) across the country.
4. Measures should be taken to maximize sample collection in all target species including jackals for monitoring of ORV campaigns. Education and frequent information of hunters has shown to be effective to achieve cooperation.
5. Epidemiological analysis of rabies surveillance and ORV monitoring data should be given high priority. One of the basic preconditions is to set-up a national rabies database.
6. Frequent exchange of information, coordination of program and appropriate communication should be established with the neighboring countries.
7. Virus titer of all batches of rabies vaccine baits should be monitored before and during ORV campaigns.
8. To avoid persistence of rabies in large areas where aerial distribution is not possible arrangements for manual distribution should be considered.
9. Given the experience of other MSs Bulgaria should consider expanding ORV in altitudes above 1200 m.
10. In order to obtain reliable results in bait uptake detection, a training for tetracycline test analysis could be organized in the NRL

The Commission expressed its concerns on the non-implementation of campaigns as also the autumn 2011 campaign was not implemented due to insufficient funds for pre-funding. To resolve this problem faced by Bulgaria and other MSs, the payment of advances for rabies programmes has been made possible for 2012.

#### **4. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “RABIES” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN KALININGRAD, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 28 APRIL 2011.**

This is the first time that the Rabies task force is organised in a non-EU MS, following the extension of the scope of the task force (SANCO/10418/2010).

The objective was to improve animal disease eradication and the cost-benefit ratio of animal disease eradication by producing conclusions, recommendations and specific action proposals.

The EU funds oral vaccination in the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation since 2007. Since 2010 the activities were reinforced by implementing oral vaccination campaigns bi-annually, introducing aerial distribution in large scale and tripling the number of monitoring samples collected annually.

Following the introduction of oral vaccination in Kaliningrad a very significant improvement in the rabies situation in adjacent areas of Poland and Lithuania was observed. Inside Kaliningrad, the number of rabies cases has not yet reduced significantly.

E. Niin, EE (chair of the Northern Rabies sub-group) presented the Rabies situation update from participating countries and the main conclusions as regards the programme implemented in Kaliningrad as well as the recommendations of the subgroup.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- The Kaliningrad Region has implemented rabies eradication activities co-financed by EU since 2007. Over the course of the years these activities have been reinforced and intensified.
- Most substantial of improvements have been the implementation of two oral vaccination campaigns per year since 2010 and since autumn 2009 the application of aerial bait distribution and the increase of monitoring samples collected yearly. Also, a more extensive coverage of the pet dog population with parenteral vaccination since 2008 has been applied.
- Laboratory investigations carried out on samples collected cover three main aspects: rabies diagnosis, determination of the occurrence of a biomarker and the level of rabies neutralising antibodies in blood of target animals.
- Since the implementation of the oral vaccination in wildlife, the number of detected rabies cases in foxes has been decreasing whereas no such trend has been observed in dogs.
- Neighbouring EU countries, Poland and Lithuania, report a very significant improvement of the wildlife rabies situation in their regions directly bordering Kaliningrad. This is an indication of the effectiveness of oral vaccination in Kaliningrad in protecting these Member States from reintroductions of the disease.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To obtain a comprehensive overview about present situation and detect changes in it, it is indispensable to collect data on the monitoring and surveillance samples taken that would enable to stratify the results by their location (e.g. municipality) and the age of animal (juvenile or adult).
2. Effort should be made to further increase the monitoring samples collected.
3. The titer of each batch of oral vaccine should be verified before and during the distribution activities to perform direct quality control of vaccine-baits.
4. Rabies –positive isolates from OV area should undergo analysis of nucleotide sequences to identify the virus –strain(s) circulating in the region and distinguish field strain(s) from the vaccine strain.
5. WHO, OIE, EU reference laboratories situated in EU territory are co-operative to assist and collaborate with Veterinary Services of Kaliningrad Region in the field of genotyping of positive cases and evaluation of vaccinal-titer.

6. The bases for collaboration and exchange of information between the Kaliningrad Region, Lithuania and Poland have been established. It is appropriate to further expand this co-operation.

## **5. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION, HELD IN, NEWRY, NORTHERN IRELAND, UK, ON 6-7 DECEMBER 2011.**

Dr E. Stifter, IT (chair of the Bovine Brucellosis sub-groups) presented the summary of the implementation of bovine brucellosis eradication programmes and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting held in Northern Ireland.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The Bovine Brucellosis Task Force Subgroup recognises the significant efforts made by the NI Central Authorities and the substantial progress towards eradication of brucellosis. The group was particularly pleased to observe:

- The level of organisation, including the use of a dedicated management group with shared goals and strategies, operating from central to local level and
- The amount and quality of data collected and used to manage the programme. The Task Force was also pleased to see improvements made both in the programme and in the laboratory; almost all recommendations made by the subgroup in 2008 have been implemented.

The group noted however, that although the system of compensation has been reviewed, no changes have been implemented and no upper limit has been set as previously recommended. This may provide an important obstacle to achieve eradication.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Continue with the measures being employed, especially in the higher risk areas. Reduction of measures might be considered in free areas but current levels of surveillance should be rigorously maintained in the rest of the country. In higher risk areas, implementation of additional measures (*e.g.* testing of young animals, extended use of brucellin skin test, and use of parallel testing) might be considered but their impact on the sensitivity and specificity of the surveillance system should be assessed beforehand.
2. Since depopulation remains the best method to prevent latent carriers, careful consideration should continue to be given to any herd that is not depopulated.
3. An upper limit (cap) for compensation should be set. The compensation levels and systems in other MS should be taken into account to learn from their experience.



## **6. INFORMATION ON THE 5th MEETINGS OF THE "FOODBORNE ZOOSES – SALMONELLOSIS" SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE HELD IN CYPRUS, 6-7 OCTOBER 2011;**

In the absence of the chair, representatives, S. Idei presented the main activities of the subgroup meeting.

She outlined that the meeting encompassed presentations on experiences and challenges of the implementation of the *Salmonella* control programme in breeding, laying and broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* and in turkeys.

During the meeting adequate time was devoted to explore the role of biosecurity in the implementation of the *Salmonella* control programmes in flocks of breeding and laying hens.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Biosecurity:** Farm hygiene and farm management is an important part of any *Salmonella* control programme. Preventive measures outlining structural and management requirements for poultry farms were introduced in detail. Concern was expressed about the close proximity or urban location of some holdings or hatcheries, but this can be effectively managed with good biosecurity procedures.

**2. National Reference Laboratory:** A short tour of the facility for food testing and serotyping was carried out. The laboratory is very well organised with knowledgeable management and staff. Procedures are carried out according to specification and the laboratory has ISO17025 accreditation.

In cases where there is suspicion of poor performance of private laboratories, naturally contaminated samples which are dispatched under routine sampling procedures to different laboratories can often give a more realistic assessment than formal ring trials.

**3. Sampling and laboratory network:** The validity of surveillance data is crucial, and some efforts should be directed into an investigation of possible differences in *Salmonella* prevalence data between official samples and samples taken by the food business operators. Reporting of data on sampling carried out by operators should be facilitated via the network of private laboratories on behalf of the farmers.

**4. Stakeholder cooperation:** In general, it was felt that there is an improving cooperation among stakeholders along the food chain, i.e. amongst the veterinary, public health and poultry industry sectors. Training programme updates for all involved in *Salmonella* control programmes are valuable to maintain awareness.

**5. Feed:** Introduction of *Salmonella* via poultry feed is still an important risk factor. Interventions possibilities that can be enforced locally need to be further explored in the absence of harmonised EU requirements. It is the recommendation of the subgroup that in feed production, any process control based on HACCP principles implemented would contribute to improvement.

**6. Vaccination:** It is the recommendation of the subgroup that vaccination against *Salmonella* Typhimurium (as well as *Salmonella* Enteritidis) should be promoted under certain circumstances e.g. outdoor housing of birds on conditions necessary resources are available.

**7. Disinfection:** Further development of competencies for epidemiological investigations and decontamination measures should be encouraged. This is particularly important for the persistently infected holdings that are hindering progress, but also on the more general level of combining and analysing information from various points along the food chain, in order to identify and eliminate sources of *Salmonella* contamination.

## **7. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS” SUB-GROUPS OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN ZAGREB, CROATIA, ON 7 8 JULY 2011.**

This is the first time that the Bovine Tuberculosis task force is organised in a non-EU MS, following the extension of the scope of the task force (SANCO/10418/2010).

The meeting took place in the Veterinary Directorate in Zagreb, Croatia and was held at the request of the Croatian veterinary authorities. The objectives were:

- to get advice on how to improve the effectiveness of the TB control programme in place;
- to prepare for a potential future application for co-funding after becoming an EU Member State.

Dr S.Lewerin, SE, (chair of the tuberculosis sub-group) presented the summary of the situation as regard the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- The TB group was impressed by the hard work undertaken by the Croatian veterinary authorities and the good results achieved so far.
- The surveillance programme is very well designed and the use of the single tuberculin test as a primary test, along with severe interpretation of the test results whenever relevant, provides for a good overall sensitivity of the system.
- The case definition is also very well chosen at this stage, as it ensures thorough investigation of all suspicions and projects confidence in the tuberculin test. Moreover, the good collaboration with the public health authorities is impressive and presents a good example for other countries to follow.

The epidemiological work is also commendable, although still in the early stages.

Below are listed some recommendations that the group has compiled that may be useful for further improvements to the programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Test type, testing interval and test interpretation:** to use only the single test in herds where the infection has at some time been bacteriologically confirmed. Moreover, no inconclusive reactors should be left in these herds. Instead, all animals not testing negative should be treated as positive. The comparative test can be used either as a primary test or as a follow-up test for positive single test responders in areas where there has never been a bacteriologically confirmed positive herd. In areas with confirmed positive cases, testing twice a year with the single test is recommended.
2. **Slaughterhouse surveillance:** the slaughterhouse submission rate is too low. Thus, efforts to increase the sensitivity of this monitoring and promote submission of samples from non-restricted herds are recommended.
3. **Common pastures:** the use of common pastures is already recognised as a risk factor and it is recommended that the suggested biannual pre-movement testing of animals before and after they move to/from common pastures be introduced already this autumn.
4. **Wildlife monitoring:** at the moment the risk of wildlife reservoirs cannot be estimated and an optimal wildlife surveillance system cannot be designed. However, hunters involved in collecting samples for CSF from wild boar could be asked to send in retropharyngeal lymph nodes from the same animals for bacteriological examination
5. **Laboratory work:** while recognising the high quality of the work performed in the national veterinary laboratory, it is recommended to seek advice from the EU reference laboratory.
6. **Quality assurance of tuberculin testing performance:** the accreditation programme should include all aspects of tuberculin testing (e.g. calibration of callipers, storage of tuberculin, syringes...). If there is not already a ready training package available at central level, developing such a package is recommended.
7. **Animal markets:** When the first stage of testing has been completed and all herds that can easily obtain T3 status have done so, mixing of animals from herds with different status should not be allowed.
8. **Compliance with movement restrictions:** it would be very useful to include some automatic signal in the database when an illegal animal movement has occurred. If not already in place, a network or some other form of systematic communication with farmers is recommended.
9. **Fattening herds:** It is recommended to check if movements of livestock from fattening herds other than to slaughter occur. If there are indications that animals are moved from fattening herds to other types of herds, such movements should be prohibited
10. **Small ruminants:** Goats kept for milk-production in herds that have cattle must be tested regularly, according to EU legislation. It is however recommended that all small ruminants kept together with cattle be included in the regular testing, when the cattle are tested.

**8. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ”  
SUB-GROUPS OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE  
ERADICATION HELD IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, ON 22-23 NOVEMBER 2011.**

Dr S. Lewerin, presented also the summary of the situation as regard the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme in Ireland.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- The commitment to the goal of final eradication of bovine TB and the comprehensive approach to the problems are applauded.
- The submission rates for lesions detected at routine slaughter and the continuous use of data collected in the programme for identifying issues, analysing results etc. is appreciated.
- The use of performance indicators allows for follow-up and actions as problems arise. These activities should continue so that any problems are identified early and the efficiency of actions is ensured.
- The quality control activities are to be commended and should also continue and be developed as they are essential for the efficiency of the programme.
- The IT support systems that have been developed are excellent.
- The routine for reactor herds, with “desktop epidemiology” investigations and visits from department staff for field quality control and epidemiology is also commended and should be maintained.
- The decision to impose a movement ban on intermediate reactors is also encouraged.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The different risk categories to be used in a more hierarchical manner so that all herds in high risk areas are defined as high risk.
2. It is also recommended that the current testing strategies (as regards higher frequency and more severe test interpretation) in high risk herds and contiguous herds be maintained.
3. The badger studies should be carried out as planned and the activities as regards badger control continued and monitored.
4. Animal movements between free herds of different risk categories should be monitored to detect any emerging risks that need to be dealt with.
5. To protect the free herds in low risk areas, the introduction of some type of “high risk pre-movement testing” (when moving animals from non-restricted high risk herds to low risk herds) could be considered.

6. The slaughterhouse submission rates are satisfactory but it is recommended to look into the details of slaughterhouse submissions to determine what lesion rate would be the baseline (in the absence of TB).
7. Paratuberculosis situation to be monitored continuously to ensure that the prevalence of this infection does not affect the sensitivity of tuberculin testing in the future.
8. The continuous evaluation of testing data is encouraged as this will provide a solid basis for any changes in test interpretation or test application.
9. The general principle is to use the same testing strategy (e.g. ancillary tests, severe interpretation, single (test) in the entire epidemiological unit. It is recommended that the principle of applying investigation measures to the entire epidemiological unit be enforced, while still allowing for differential handling of subsets of the herd that are determined to be at different levels of risk, based on the investigations.
10. It is also recommended that the case of the explosive outbreak with zoonotic spread - be described in publication so as to emphasise the zoonotic aspects of TB. This may be very useful in awareness campaigns for farmers and veterinarians.

#### **9. PRIORITIES FOR 2013 AND TIMING 2012-2013 AND PROVISIONAL WORKING PLAN FOR TASK FORCE SUBGROUPS IN 2012 (WD SANCO/10497/2012) VP**

V. Piazza presented shortly working document SANCO/10497/2012 on priorities for 2013 and timing 2012-2013 (Annex II) and a preliminary proposal for the work programme for 2012. Very important that TF meetings will continue to be organised in some Third Countries (as agreed in 2010 with the extension of the scope of the TF).

Further contact with certain delegations that are asked to organise certain sub-groups needed in order to agree an appropriate dates. (see Annex III).

#### **10. DRAFT DECISION (SANCO/13013/2011) MODIFYING DECISION 2008/425/EC LAYING DOWN STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBMISSION BY THE MEMBER STATES OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION, CONTROL AND MONITORING OF CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOSES FOR UNION FINANCING (SI)**

Document SANCO/13013/2011 has been discussed in details including presentation on the use of standard templates for on-line submission.

S. Idei presented to the Member States the scope of the document already for the third times as it has been already on the agenda of the SCoFCAH meetings on 7 and 22 of February. She also informed that the aim is to introduce it for discussions on 8-9 of March in the SCoFCAH AHW section and for an opinion at one of the subsequent meetings of the SCoFCAH end of March.

It was pointed out that the the goal is to simplify the submission of the programmes for EU funding and make the revised annexes consistent with the modified relevant Union legislation.

The Commission underlined that the file is still under internal consultations and subject to editorial changes.

The Commission emphasized that this draft decision is updating annexes I,II,II and mainly annex IV of Commission Decision 2008/425/EC. Annex V stays the same.

Slight amendments concern mainly annex IV (AI) annex III and annex II and the fact that online submission will be compulsory, preferable for the programmes for 2013.

Commission invited Member States for round table discussions about the document.

Countries with federal system expressed reservations about making the on-line templates mandatory for the submission of programmes for 2013.

The Commission answered that this on-line submission system has been used already by the majority of Member States in the previous two years and is going to completely replace the submission of programmes by e-mail to the SANCO-VET-PROG mailbox from the submission of programmes.

Even if e-mail submissions might still acceptable for the 2013 programme submissions, however Commission strongly recommends to use the online system already from this year.

Other Member States made a few editorial observations on different annexes.

Finally, The Commission emphasized that the use of Pdf is "strongly recommended" and in case the use of Pdf is not possible this year, there should be 1 document per programme.

## **11. PRESENTATION OF THE MODIFIED PDF TEMPLATES TO SUBMIT VIA ONLINE SYSTEM (PD)**

D. Panayiotis, with the technical support of G. Seernel, provided information on the PDF templates for the online submission of programmes. New versions of the templates will need to be used for the submission of 2013 programmes (deadline 30 April 2012). These templates are in the final testing stage and will be sent to the CVOs within the second week of March.

## **12. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON AMENDMENTS TO DECISION 2008/940/EC LAYING FOWN STANDARD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ERADICATION, CONTROL AND MONITORING OF CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASE AND ZOOSES CO-FINANCED BY THE COMMUNITY AND ON THE NEW PDF TEMPLATES TO BE USED TO SUBMIT ONLINE INTERMEDIATE AND FINAL REPORTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES AND FOR THE RE-ALLOCATION EXERCISE (PD)**

D. Panayiotis explained that, since the adoption of Decision 2008/940/EC, a number of changes have been introduced in the veterinary programme cofinancing such as the eligible measures and the way they are calculated (lump sums). In addition, a number of improvements have been identified and also the online submission of reports for the programmes will be introduced for the coming years. Finally, it has been decided that the submission of information for reallocation (currently sent in September) will be integrated with the requirement for submitting intermediate report by the 30 July.

For these reasons the Commission intends to draft a proposal for amending Decision 2008/940/EC to be presented at the Standing Committee before summer, to look after those issues.

For the reallocation for the 2012 programmes, Excel tables are being prepared for each programme to be sent to the MS by the beginning of April. These tables will include information on the calculation of the allocated amount and Member States will have to fill in the amount of performed activities (number of tests, number of culled animals etc.) for the first semester, the estimation for the whole calendar year the corresponding average unit costs. These tables will have to be sent to the Commission by the 30 July.

### **13. INFORMATION ON THE "CALL OF INTEREST" FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMMES SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES (LV)**

L. **Vandenberghe** explained that, each year, the Commission shall assess the programmes, submitted by the Member States, from the veterinary and the financial angle and, in order to provide for additional tool, the Commission is looking for external, technical assistance to carry out a pre-assessment of the programmes for 2013. A "call for interest" for the external evaluation of the programmes, has been launched and published on the Official Journal on 29 March.

This call should allow the service of the Commission, after examination of the application submitted, to set up a list of experts that will be used to select evaluators to carry out the pre-assessment of the eradication, control and monitoring programmes for which a Union financial contribution is seek.

Then LV shortly explained the selection criteria that have been set up to select the candidates amongst the applicants.

The work is envisaged to be done from second half of June 2012 to first half of July 2012 due to a specific, legal deadline for the final evaluation and approval of the programmes by the Commission.

### **14. INFORMATION ON THE ON-GOING STUDY ON THE EVALUATION OF THE ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION, MONITORING AND CONTROL PROGRAMMES IN THE MEMBER STATES EU CO-FINANCED (VP)**

V. Piazza shortly updated the MSs on the state of play: a contractor have been selected to carry out the study on cost-effectiveness of the eradication, control and monitoring programmes co-financed by the Union (article 41 of Council Decision 2009/470/EC).

A steering group with representatives from other DGs and from four Member States has been set up in order to support Unit G5 on the evaluation of the different steps of the study.

The study is planned to be finalised by end of summer 2012.

## **15. MISCELLANEOUS (VP).**

V. Piazza informed the Plenary that from 2012 the two brucellosis task force subgroups will be merged in one subgroup dealing with both: bovine and sheep and goats brucellosis, in order to optimise the resources.



## **ANNEX I**

### **TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION**

**Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force**

**Thursday, 1st March 2012- 9.30 H – 18.00H**

Conference Centre A. Borschette – Rue Froissart 36 – Bruxelles – AB 2D

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Introduction, opening by Christophe Bertrand: Head of Unit G5, Veterinary Programmes**
- 2. Reports of the Task Force subgroups:**
  - Classical swine fever: Serbia (Chair)
  - Support for the control/eradication of animal diseases in the Western Balkans
  - Rabies: Bulgaria and Kaliningrad (Chair)
  - Tuberculosis : Croatia and Ireland (Chair)
  - Salmonellosis: Cyprus (Commission)
  - Bovine brucellosis: UK (NI) (Chair)
- 3. Priorities, timing 2012-2013 and work programme for Task Force subgroups in 2012 (WD SANCO/10497/2012)**
- 4. Draft Decision (SANCO/13013/2011) modifying Decision 2008/425/EC laying down standard requirements for the submission by the Member States of national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal diseases and zoonoses for Union financing.)**

**5. Presentation of the modified pdf templates to submit programmes *via* on-line system**

**6. Preliminary information on amendments to Decision 2008/940/EC laying down standard reporting requirements for national programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain animal disease and zoonoses co-financed by the Community and on the new PDF templates to be used to submit *on-line* intermediate and final reports on the results of the implementation of the programmes and for the re-allocation exercise.**

**7. Information on the "call for interest" for the external evaluation of the programmes submitted by Member States.**

**8. Information on the on-going study on the evaluation of the animal disease eradication, monitoring and control programmes in the Member States EU co-financed.**

**9. Miscellaneous**



**ANNEX II**  
**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
**Unit G5 – Veterinary Programmes**

**Working document**

**SANCO/10497/2012**

**Animal disease eradication, control and monitoring programmes**

**Priorities for 2013, timing 2012-2013 and provisional working  
plan 2012**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the steps which will be followed when considering the programmes submitted by Member States (MS) for co-financing by the European Commission in the context of Council Decision 2009/470/EC.

The individual approval of the programmes follows a well-defined timetable according to the Council Decision 2009/470/EC. (Annex I).

### 1.1. Submission and approval of the programmes

Each programme has to fulfil the requirements (criteria) provided for by Commission Decision 2008/341/EC. Those criteria are specific for eradication programmes, monitoring/surveillance and control programmes.

The format to be used for the programmes to be submitted for 2013 is laid down in Commission Decision 2008/425/EC, as amended by draft Decision SANCO/13013/2011 (that will be presented for vote at the SCOFCAH before end of March 2012)

Programmes presented after the **deadline of 30 April 2012** will not be taken into account for financing the following year (Article 27(2) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC).

Unit SANCO G5 (Veterinary Programmes) is responsible for the veterinary and financial assessment and management of the programmes. The unit will consult within the Directorate-General and the reports from SANCO F (Food and Veterinary Office) will be also considered.

The Commission can ask for additional information from the Member State if a programme proposed for co-financing does not contain all the requested information or if certain technical and financial amendments are necessary. The period for gathering all the information regarding the programmes shall end on 15 September 2012 [Article 27 (4) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC].

### 1.2. Monitoring the progress of the current programmes (2012)

The Commission will monitor and evaluate the programmes based *inter alia* on the following information:

- The intermediate technical and financial report of the programme as foreseen by Article 27 (7) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC, to be presented by 31 July 2012 by the Member State (Article 3 of Commission Decision 2008/940/EC and Article 19(c) of Commission Decision 2009/883/EC (Decision approving the individual programmes));
- Information from the Member States presented in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health;
- Final reports, in accordance with Article 27 (7)(b) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC by 30 April 2013, on the technical execution of the programme accompanied by justifying evidence as to the costs paid by the MS (Requested by Article 19(f) of Decision 2009/883/EC);
- Final technical and financial report to be presented by 30.04.2012 on the execution of the 2011 programmes
- Reports based on on-the-spot inspections by the Food and Veterinary Office;

- Reports based on other on-the-spot inspections or audits;
- Reports based on the activity of the Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication.

In order to maintain transparency, the Commission makes the approved programmes available on the SANCO website.

## **2. PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR ERADICATION CONTROL AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOSES**

**2.1.1** The prioritisation of the funding is decided and adjusted on an annual basis to ensure that it is fully appropriate to the situation actually prevailing and the Commission defines the priorities on the basis of its own internal assessment and evaluations of the situation in the Member States as well as at EU level.

**2.1.2** The main objective for 2013 is to boost, with the appropriate financial support, - the positive trend for - the co-financed eradication, control and monitoring programmes.

### **Basic priority criteria:**

- The public health impact of the disease,
- The economic impact (eg: production losses) and trade implications of the disease.

### **Additional elements taken into account in prioritisation are:**

- The need to ensure continuity and achieve progress.
- The benefit for the Union and for the Member States to co-finance the programmes and the volume of available appropriations.
- Diseases and areas where increased efforts are still needed to achieve further progress.
- The epidemiological evolution of the disease at national and EU level.
- The transboundary implications of the diseases which implies the involvement of Third Countries.
- The compulsory nature of certain measures under the Union legislation (TSE, AI).
- The existence of Union regulatory framework.

The final decision to co-finance and the extent of support to be provided in the programmes for each disease is based on the availability of funds, manageability of the measures of the programmes and the weighting in accordance with priority criteria mentioned-above.

**2.1.3** The cost of some programmes, in particular for Avian Influenza and Bluetongue, has been significantly reduced in the latest years due to a favourable epidemiological situation linked to the proper implementation of the monitoring and control programmes.

Administrative burden both for MS and the Commission for the management of programmes for which EU contribution is below 10.000 € are not proportionate to the benefits. The Commission encourages MS to reconsider the submission of such programmes for co-financing taking into account the need of a more efficient use of limited human resources.

**2.2.** Union co-financing will not be granted for two particular situations:

- Programmes consisting of measures that are compulsory in Union legislation and not primarily aimed at eradication, such as those aimed at guaranteeing the health status of animals intended for trade.
- Programmes consisting of measures aimed at demonstrating the absence of a disease, aimed at obtaining the recognition of official freedom from the disease.

This approach is similar to that of recent years and is consistent with the approach to be outlined in the Communication on Community Animal Health Policy.

## ANNEX I

### **Timetable for submission, evaluation and approval of eradication, control and monitoring programmes of certain animal diseases and zoonoses**

#### **Procedure for the approval of programmes for 2013**

**30 APRIL 2012** *Submission of the programmes by the Member States. The format to be used for the programmes is laid down in Commission Decision 2008/425/EC*

The electronic version of the programmes should be submitted to the following electronic address:

**SANCO-VET-PROG@ec.europa.eu**

*Please send one e-mail for each different programme indicating clearly in the subject the disease and the Member State or Acceding State.*

**However,**

Member States are **strongly recommended** to submit the 2013 programmes *via the on-line system*

**The modified pdf templates to be used to submit the programmes will be send to all MSs by the first week of March.**

**From May 2012:** Request for additional information by Commission.

**15 September 2012:** End of the period for gathering information from MS.

**October/November:** Decision approving the programmes voted at SCOFCAH

**By 30 November 2012:** Adoption of the Decision approving the programmes.

#### **Current programmes 2012**

**31 JULY 2012**

**INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RE-ALLOCATION SHEET.**

*Based on standard templates, provided by the Commission, first evaluation (technical and financial) of the programme implemented by the Member States to be submitted to Commission.*

Based on the information (both financial and technical [e.g. number of test performed, number of animals culled etc.]) on eligible measures to be taken by the end of the year) as well on the information of the intermediate report/re-allocation sheet provided by the MSs, the Commission will proceed to the funding re-allocation with the aim of optimising the use of the resources.

**Programme 2011**

**30 APRIL 2012**

*Final report (technical and financial) from the Member State (Article 15 of Commission Decisions 2010/712/EC).*

*Commission Decision lays down standard reporting requirements for programmes of eradication and control of animal diseases co-financed by the Community (Commission Decision 2008/940/EC)*

**30 October 2012:** The Commission decides on the reimbursements and information are given later to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on the financial Decision taken.

**Please, note that the documents (reports of the TF etc) and the legislation related to the programmes approved can be found at:**

[http://s-sanco-europa/food/animal/diseases/eradication/taskforce\\_en.htm](http://s-sanco-europa/food/animal/diseases/eradication/taskforce_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/legisl\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/legisl_en.htm)



**Provisional Working plan year 2012**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Bovine and Sheep/goat brucellosis</b>	<b>Bovine tuberculosis</b>	<b>Rabies</b>	<b>Salmonella</b>	<b>Classical Swine fever</b>
<b>Feb</b>					
<b>March</b>		<b>UK 28-29</b>			
<b>Apr</b>					
<b>May</b>					
<b>Jun</b>				<b>PT Dates tbc</b>	
<b>Sept</b>					
<b>Oct</b>		<b>ES Dates tbc</b>	<b>PL Dates tbc</b>		
<b>Nov</b>					
<b>Dec</b>					

**NB: Other meetings of the TF sub-groups are under discussion with the interested MSs/TC.**