

EU harmonized strategy for bluetongue vaccination

Alberto Laddomada
DG SANCO- D1

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



NEED FOR AN HARMONIZED VACCINATION STRATEGY IN THE EU

Why?

- Bluetongue has become a major EU animal health problem
- Vaccination has demonstrated to be an efficient veterinary tool to fight against bluetongue
- Trade aspects of vaccination
- Financial assistance to the MS



WHAT DOES THE EU LEGISLATION ESTABLISHES FOR VACCINATION AGAINST BLUETONGUE?

Council Directive 2000/75/EC (OJ L327, 22.12.2000, p.74):

- Member States can take the initiative of starting a vaccination programme informing the Commission.
- Vaccination is prohibited in the surveillance zones and in the free zones.

Regulation 1266/2007 (OJ L 283, 27.10.2007, p. 37-52).

- Vaccinated animals can be moved without authorisation of the Member State of destination (60 days after vaccination or 30 days if subjected to PCR, or after the onset of immunity protection if inactivated vaccine used, or within the immunity period if re-vaccinated).



HARMONIZED VACCINATION STRATEGY IN THE EU

Previous steps:

Working Groups Member States-Commission

- *Agree on the targets, approach of vaccination strategy , criteria for the vaccination programmes*
- *Estimation of needs for vaccine to the MS*

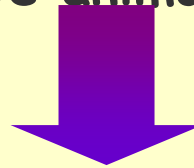
Contacts with vaccine producers: clear message to the industry on the strategy agreed and the need of availability of vaccine in due time and in enough quantity to carry out mass vaccination

Documents can be found:

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

Objectives of the EU strategy on vaccination against bluetongue (WGs on an EU harmonised strategy on vaccination against Bluetongue)

- To reach a common EU approach (harmonized criteria for vaccination plans) leaving flexibility to MS for adapt to their situation.
- Goals: i) reduce clinical disease and losses; ii) contain the spread of the disease protecting free Member States; facilitate safe trade in live animals.



Best option to achieve the objectives:
Mass vaccination.

Mass vaccination means (WGs on an EU harmonised strategy on vaccination against Bluetongue)

- Vaccination of all susceptible and reachable animals (at least 80 % coverage according to previous experiences)
- Use of all available vaccines: inactivated and MLV (modified live attenuated vaccines). Advantages and disadvantages (cost-benefit analyses and risk assessment). Depends also on vaccine availability and local epidemiological situation
- Long-term programmes (several years to achieve eradication are to be envisaged)



Key issues for vaccination programmes

- **Geographical scope:** only restricted areas; surveillance zone?
- **Calendar:** MLV (animals should be preferably protected before starting of the vector activity period: late winter-early spring)
- **Responsibility for the implementation** (ensure/guarantee that the necessary coverage is achieved and proper vaccination is carried out)
- **Financial issues:** Bluetongue vaccination should be addressed in an economical context
- **Financial sustainability of the vaccination programs:** limit the cost to a manageable level for everybody without compromising effectiveness
- **Monitoring and evaluation of vaccination programmes**
- **Identification and movements of vaccinated animals**

What do we expect?

- Vaccination will keep the disease under control already in 2008

To achieve this:

- Full commitment of all parties.
- Good vaccination programmes from concerned MS
- Vaccination must be accompanied by all other existing tools to control the disease
- Vaccination programs must be revised/updated whenever necessary.



Thank you for your attention