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Working Group on an EU harmonised strategy on vaccination against Bluetongue, Brussels 3 December 2007

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Annexes:

- Estimations on vaccines against bluetongue submitted by the Member States
- Draft Criteria for bluetongue vaccination plans 2008

Outcome of the meeting

1. Conclusions:

- Some Member States suggested that the Commission could establish a vaccine bank for bluetongue. This is not the option preferred in principle. The preferred option is that the Member States draw up national plans in accordance with Directive 2000/75/EC and Art 3 or 24 of Decision 90/424/EEC.
- The Member States agreed to allow the Commission to make public information on the data submitted by them as regards the situation of the Call for Tenders and estimation on the doses needed for vaccination plans for 2008.
- Preliminary criteria for the vaccination plans of the Member States were discussed and the agreed minimum requirements will be presented at SCoFCAH.
- A reflection on the key issues for establishing vaccination programmes has to be made by the Member States at local/regional level, in particular as regards the establishment of the surveillance zones and the control measures to monitor the implementation of the programme (to assure mass vaccination is carried out).

- Member States agreed that the deadline for submitting their vaccination plans for 2008 to the Commission could be 31 January 2008.
- It was agreed that an evaluation of the vaccination plans and strategy at EU level implemented in 2008 would be necessary in order to refine or review the future strategy. This evaluation should be carried out at the end of the 2008 campaign (in the beginning of 2009)
- The Member States presented the criteria they apply in order to establish when the bluetongue seasonally free period starts and ends. Most of the Member States have already established the criteria and decision trees. They are more or less the same as those used last year.

2. Discussion:

- **Presentation of the conclusions of the meeting between DG SANCO and vaccine producers**

The main conclusions of the meeting were that the vaccine producers have a strong commitment and the capability to supply vaccines in enough quantity to support a mass vaccination strategy against bluetongue in the EU. Vaccine producers insisted on the need that Member States launch their call for tenders as soon as possible in order to have the vaccine in due time to start vaccination programmes in 2008 and in enough quantity to carry out mass vaccination.

At the request of the Commission the Member States provided information on the state of play of the launching of Call for Tenders for the purchase of the vaccine.

- **Possibility to establish a bluetongue vaccine bank at EU level.**

To establish a vaccine bank at EU level was suggested by several Member States in order to establish a harmonised vaccination strategy in the EU. Another reason for establishing such a vaccine bank highlighted by them was the need to make sure that vaccine will be available also for the buffer zones on time (as these areas represent a small share of the market for the vaccines producers they fear that they will prioritise the supply for the affected areas).

A possible further advantage of purchasing the vaccine at EU level is that the quantity of vaccine ordered will be much larger and therefore there will be a better bargaining position vis a vis the producers. This option would also imply less administrative burden for the national administrations as the Commission would directly purchase the vaccine.

- **Preparation of vaccination plans**

The Commission concluded that the preferred option would be for each Member State to establish its own national vaccination plan, which will better take into account the local situation.

3. Next steps:

The next forum where a vaccination strategy against bluetongue will be discussed at EU level is the "Conference on vaccination strategy against bluetongue" organized by the Commission in Brussels on 16 January.

During 2008, a meeting of this working group will again be organized by the Commission to further discuss and evaluate the vaccination campaigns against bluetongue. During that meeting special attention will also be given to surveillance programmes put in place where vaccination is carried out.

Annex I Estimations on bluetongue vaccine needs submitted by Member States

**MEMBER STATES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES ON VACCINE NEEDS AGAINST
BLUETONGUE**

BTV-1

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Total animals	Total doses	Comments
ES	2429434	4858868	9271934	18543868			
FR	751888	1503776	907599	907599			Provided buster needed for cattle
IT						900000	
PT			1975776	3951552			Cooperating with the Spanish authorities to obtain it
Total	3.181.322	6.362.644	12.155.309	23.403.019	21.699.275	41.920.972	

BTV-2

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Total doses	Comments
IT					1921100	
HU*	716000	250000	1400000	500000		Assuming animals are vaccinated once a year
Total*					2.671.100	
Total					1921100	

BTV-4

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Total animals	Total doses	Comments
ES	2.000.745	2.400.894	7.605.557	9.126.668			
HU*	716.000	250.000	1.400.000	500.000			Assuming animals are vaccinated once a year
IT						1921100	
PT					2.064.776	2.459.931	Vaccine already ordered
Total*	2716745	2650894	9005557	9626668	14373196	21283119	
Total	2000745	2400894	9670333	11586599	14071972	23657826	

BTV-8

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Others	doses others	Total animals	Total doses	Comments
AT*	1,800.000	1,800.000	300.000	300.000	10.000	10.000			
BE	2800000	5600000	400000	400000					
CZ	650000	1391393	50000	196000	5000	10000	650000	1391393	
DK	580000	1160000	120000	120000					Animals included in the Danish restricted zone Provided booster needed for cattle
DE	12152054	24304108	3002189	3002189	55530	111060			Cattle and others vaccinated with two doses, sheep and goats with one dose Vaccination will protect for one year
FR	19366508	38733016	10133005	10133005					Provided booster needed for cattle
HR*	300000	300000	600000	600000					
HU*	716000	250000	1400000	500000					Assuming animals are vaccinated once a year
IR*	7000000	14000000	4000000	4000000 or 8000000					Based on total population
LT*	850000	850000	50000	50000	200	200	850000	850000	Based on all susceptible population
LU	180000	360000	18000	36000					
LV*	400000	400000	80000	80000	400000	400000	80000	80000	
NL	3500000	7000000	3000000	3000000					
PL*	6000000	1200000	350000	700000					Vaccination twice a year
PT*	984804	1969608	2801464	5602928					Considering all the animals because of the high risk of introduction
RO*	500 000	1000000 (350000MLV+ 650000inact)	940000	1840000					Estimations made simulating bt outbreak
SE*	1119745	2239490	272731	477609					Provided booster needed for cattle and first vaccination of sheep and goats at six months
UK	10300000	20600000	33600000	33600000					Provided booster for cattle Worst-case scenario
Total*	66899111	118997615	61117389	68841731	106730	131260	128123230	187970606	
Total	49528562	97988517	50323194	50691194	96530	121060	99948286	148800771	

BTV-9

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Total animals	Total doses
RO*	500000	1000000	940000	1840000		
IT						690100
HR*	300000	300000	600000	600000		
Total						690100
Total*	800000	1300000	1540000	2440000	1440000	900000

BTV-16

MS	N cattle	N doses cattle	N sheep/goats	N doses sheep	Total animals	Total doses
HR*	300000	300000	600000	600000		
HU*	716000	250000	1.400.000	500000		
Total	1016000	550000	2000000	1100000	3016000	1650000

* MS currently free from the serotype

Total Excluding Member States not affected

Total* Including Member States not affected

NO NEED FOR VACCINE:

Estonia

Finland

Greece

Annex II Draft Criteria for bluetongue vaccination plans 2008

The vaccination plans submitted by the Member States shall contain at least the following:

- (1) If appropriate, a description and data on the epidemiological evolution of the disease in the last years. If it is a case, in wildlife as well.
- (2) A description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative area, in particular the surveillance zone, including maps, in which the plan is to be applied;
- (3) The likely duration of the plan, and the objective to be attained by the completion date of the plan;
- (4) An analysis of the estimated costs of the plan and a description of the national finances involved (i.e. funds, regional/national budget)
- (5) Identification and designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the plan;
- (6) Full description of the departments, services or other means to be used for implementing the plan
- (7) A system for identification/registration of vaccinated animals involved in the plan and traceability systems in place.
- (8) Where necessary, rules for adequate compensation to farmers for losses due to vaccination accidents.