Schmallenberg virus: Risk Management and Control Strategy in the EU

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EU management: Coordination – Timeline (1/3)

December 2011:

- **First raised by Germany in SCoFCAH**
- **ECDC → Risk Assessment**

January 2012:

- **Creation of SBV dedicated SANCO web page**
- **SCoFCAH→ Joint Statement**
- **WG with MS for deciding on the strategy**
- **CVO Council meeting → Information Note**
- **Commission requested EFSA for technical assistance**

EU management: Coordination – Timeline (2/3)

February 2012:

- **EFSA → preliminary analysis published**
- **SCoFCAH→ Endorsement of Guidance Document on the Priority Actions**
- **WG with MS for defining priorities for scientific studies → MS submitted proposals**
- **WG with MS to agree on common position → Joint Statement**
- **Formal consultation with stakeholders via the AHAC**

EU management: Coordination – Timeline (3/3)

March 2012:

- **SCoFCAH**
- **Coordination WG with MS**
- **CVO Council meeting**
- **EFSA → Analysis of the epidemiological data**

April 2012

- **Scientific seminar**
- **SCOFCAH**

May 2012

- **SCOFCAH**
- **EFSA → Analysis of the impact of SBV**
- **OIE**

General principles of EU Response to Animal Diseases

- Harmonised Legislation
- Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)
- Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH)
- Clear definition of roles of Member States and Commission

EU Tools for Animal Disease Control

- Harmonised standards (legislation) at EU level
- Regionalisation/zoning
- Contingency plans, EU veterinary Emergency Team
- Surveillance
- Diagnostic tools
- Traceability: Identification & registration of animals
- Vaccines: EU vaccine banks
- EU Reference laboratories network
- Eradication programmes
- Scientific progress (research, EFSA)
- Financial instrument: veterinary fund

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Harmonised standards (legislation) at EU level

- **Horizontal legislation in place (e.g. sharing of competences, general rules on only healthy animal movements, no financial support)**
- **No specific legislation on SBV**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Regionalisation (zoning)

- **Implies reliable determination of freedom of zone**
- **Based on:**

  - sound epidemiological knowledge:

  Disease prevalence, spread, natural immunity, vector distribution …
- **- measures and tools (movement restrictions, vaccine, etc.) to contain the disease agent in the infected zone**
- **Cost/effectiveness analysis**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Contingency plans, EU veterinary Emergency Team

- **Horizontal provision in EU legislation for emergency measures (safeguards) if justified**
- **No national contingency plans**
- **EU veterinary Emergency Team expertise could be used to shape the EU policy on SBV**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Surveillance

- **Prerequisite for taking any informed decision**
- **Tailored to the needs: objective?**
- **Syndromic surveillance coordinated with Member States is already in place**
- **EFSA centralises harmonised data collection and provides updates on epidemiological situation**
- **Not an EU notifiable disease: case definition**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Diagnostic tools

- **SN, IF, PCR, virus isolation already in place**
- **Golden standard?**
- **ELISA is on the way**
- **Validation procedure: which one? OIE?**
- **Sensitivity and specificity of different methods?**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Traceability: Identification & registration of animals

- **Individual identification already in place (EU legislation)**
- **All SBV-susceptible species are covered**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Vaccines: EU vaccine banks

- **Valuable tool to control infectious diseases**
- **No vaccine exists**
- **Preliminary scientific research required to allow for informed decisions**
- **Cost/effectiveness analysis to be performed**
- **Consider sero-prevalence data to asses natural immunity**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

EU Reference laboratories network

- **Not for this virus**
- **The network built for other diseases is already being used**
- **Currently working on pushing forward rapidly research on SBV**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Eradication programmes

- **Further scientific data needs to be obtained**
  - Role of natural immunity to be clarified
  - Overwintering capabilities
- **It is an option depending on the epidemiology of the disease but needs an assessment of <u>feasibility</u>**
- **Cost/effectiveness analysis needs to performed**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Scientific progress (research, EFSA)

- **Noteworthy scientific research already initiated, and ongoing, by the network of the EU laboratories**
- **EU co-funded studies already started**
- **EFSA key player for collecting and analysing epidemiological data. Can provide technical assistance or scientific opinion**
- **Transparently sharing with OIE and third countries**

Which are the Right Tools for SVB?

Financial instrument: veterinary fund

- **Work in progress but limited to technical and scientific measures: draft financial decision based on 2009/470/EC**
- **Not available for control/eradication**
- **Not available for emergency measures**

Which would be then the Right Tools for SVB?

Any measure needs to be

- **Scientifically based**
- **Relevant**
- **Necessary**
- **Proportionate to the risks**
- **Proportionate to the impact**
- **Acceptable**
- **Affordable**
- **Sustainable**
- **Cost-effective**

SBV and international trade

- **Science based: sanitary restrictions can only be justified if they effectively mitigate the risks of disease spread. They cannot be maintained without sufficient scientific evidence.**
- **Targeted: sanitary measures shall be only applied to the extend necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health**
- **Proportionality: the impact of SBV in the EU is very limited despite that the virus entered in a fully susceptible population**
- **Non discrimination: SBV is very similar to other infections rather common worldwide for which no international trade standards are in place and for which very limited disease control measures are applied within the affected countries**

DG SANCO web page

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/schmallenberg_virus/index_en.htm