Avian influenza

Statement from the AHAW Panel

17 January 2017
PAFF meeting, Brussels

efsa
European Food Safety Authority
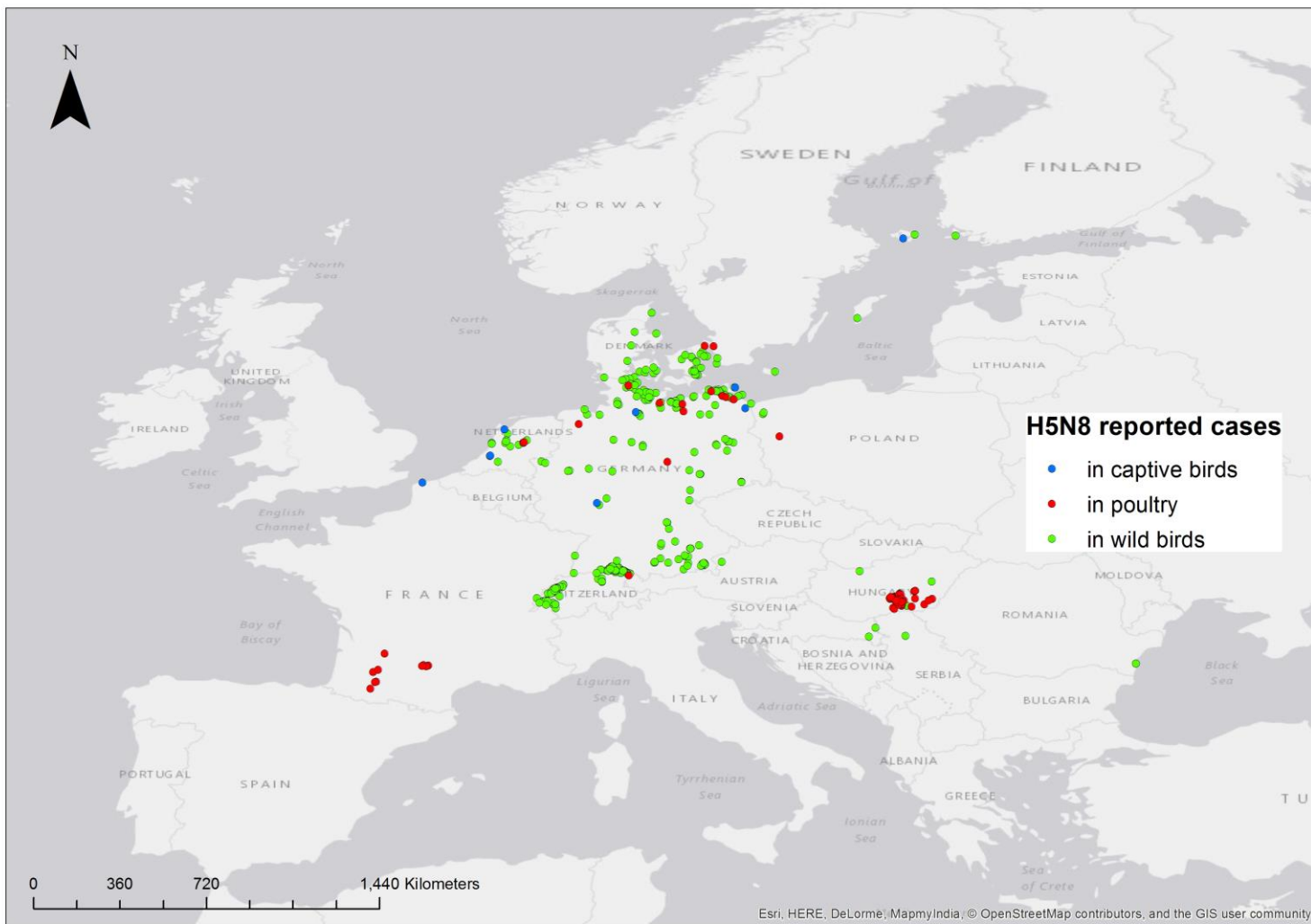
Data obtained via ADNS and directly from affected Member States

The vast majority of the primary outbreaks have been detected based on a **clear clinical manifestation** of the disease and a rapidly increasing **mortality**.

It is important to consider morbidity and mortality **at the flock level**, not at the farm level.

Passive surveillance is the most effective means of early detection of the current HPAI H5N8 2016 in wild birds as well as in poultry.

During an epizootic of HPAIV in wild birds, it is recommended to test samples from **new species** and **non-previously reported areas**.

To prevent introduction of HPAIV H5N8 from wild birds into poultry holdings, **strict biosecurity implemented and maintained** by the poultry farmers is the most important measure.

Providing **holding-specific biosecurity guidance** is strongly recommended

Key biosecurity measures are:

- Separating poultry species, in particular ducks and geese from other poultry

- Preventing direct wild bird contact via indoor housing or via fences and nets

- Preventing direct contact with faecal droppings from glying wild birds by using a roof or canvas cover

- Restricted access of persons

- Hygiene lock to production unit

Establishment of **control and in particular monitoring areas** for poultry associated with positive wild bird findings are

- recommended **when an H5 or H7 HPAI** is detected in wild birds

- best based on knowledge of the **wider habitat and flight distance** of the affected wild bird species.

In the established control and monitoring area, it is recommended to **increase awareness** among poultry farmers in order to **enhance passive surveillance** and to implement **enhanced biosecurity** measures including poultry confinement.

Hunting and other leisure activities on water can disturb wild birds.

Live decoys should not be moved in/out control areas.

The protection measures could be applied to infections with **any H5 or H7 HPAI viruses**.

VERY LOW RISK OF HPAI H5N8 TO HUMANS

ECDC has assessed the risk of zoonotic transmission to the general public in EU/EEA countries to be **very low.**

This is based on a review of the epidemiological, virological and environmental information relating to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus subtype A(H5N8) in Europe up to 15 November 2016.

Analysis of the current outbreaks is important to assess:

- early detection (mortality)
- risk factors for entry and spread
- impact of biosecurity

EFSA suggests to continue collaboration with MSs to collect data

- use of ADNS
- affected/susceptible population at house level, commercial or backyard, outdoor access (as done for Statement)
- biosecurity and entry/spread pathways

Data will be used for the scientific opinion (adoption foreseen in Sep 2017)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS