



Mission of the Community Veterinary Emergency Team to Greece

SCOPE of the mission: Lumpy skin disease in
cattle in Greece

(03 – 05 November 2015)



1. The expert should provide assistance to the scientific, technical, managerial and practical on-the-spot aspects required for the development and refinement of the control strategy for lumpy skin disease (LSD) under local conditions taking into account sound scientific basis (including the recent EFSA report on LSD) and within the framework of Council Directive 92/119/EEC.
2. The expert should report exclusively to the Commission services and the Greek competent authorities. Daily reports should be produced and continuous contact should be guaranteed between the team, the Commission services and competent authorities. A final report should be produced by the expert; this report should include recommendations to the competent authorities.

CVET experts and DG SANTE officials

- Dr Eeva Tuppurainen - UK
- Dr Joseph Domenech – FR
- Dr Kris De Clercq - Be
- Dr Nicolas Krieger (DG SANTE)

Recommendations

1. Stamping out all infected herds
+ combination with vaccination campaign
= basic method for control

2. Vaccination:
 - 2.1. Obtaining sufficient vaccine in timely manner:
 - vaccine purchase procedure should be urgently simplified
 - internal or external funding for obtaining sufficient vaccine should be made available



2. Vaccination:

2.2. The collaboration between public and private veterinary sectors: should be enforced particularly in regard vaccination and awareness campaigns.

2.3. Implementation of the vaccination campaign: urgent need for availability of internal or external funds -> to employ sufficient numbers of public and private veterinarians, vehicles and to cover other running costs.



- 2.4. The combined radius of protection and surveillance zones:
should be increased to a total of 25 to 50 km.

- 2.5. The completion of the vaccination campaign:
should be prioritised in Central Macedonia,
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, particularly in
critical areas, posing a high risk to neighbouring
countries.

- 2.6. Cattle should be vaccinated annually.



2.7. Post-vaccination monitoring and evaluation:

verification of:

- absence of outbreaks and virus circulation;
- vaccine coverage;
- vaccine cold-chain;
- post-vaccination immunity (serology surveys).

2.8. Buffer zone(s) by preventive vaccination:

- in the high risk areas at close proximity to affected regions in Greece and neighbouring countries
- the legislative requirements to authorize the use of live LSDV vaccine in these buffer zones should be confirmed well in advance



3. The stamping out policy in vaccinated herds 28 days after vaccination:
should be debated in order to address the issue of the current obligation of stamping out the whole vaccinated herd in case of an outbreak

4. Establish a national and/or EU LSDV vaccine bank:
to enhance the preparedness of affected and high risk areas/countries

5. Enforce biosecurity measures at the farms



6. Analyse comprehensively the value chain:
to understand trends in animal movement and trade
7. Perform detailed epidemiological surveys in affected regions :
to investigate source of infection and modes of transmission, particularly in case of long distance spread
8. Animal movements: enforce
 - strict animal movement control
 - registration of animal traders and facilities where animals are kept during trade



9. Perform thorough cleaning and disinfection after total stamping out.

10. Restocking:

Introduce sentinel cattle and monitor for 28 days (except introduction vaccinated animals)

11. Diagnostics:

Implement (real-time) PCR to differentiate the vaccine strain from virulent strain



12. Strengthen effective passive and active surveillance: in affected country and extend to the neighbouring countries
13. Continue cooperation and exchange of information with Turkish veterinary authorities.
14. The possibility to move vaccinated animals:
Clarify the possibility to move vaccinated animals from areas where vaccination was applied to other areas in the country, including areas where vaccination was not applied, after a defined period without LSD outbreaks.

Thank you for your attention!

