

AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) IN THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND GERMANY – CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS AND LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION¹

*Situation as of 29 August 2003 12.00 - Previous update 7 August 2003 12.00
DG SANCO.E2: Animal health and welfare, zootechnics*

	Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Action by the Member States	Miscellaneous
FIRST WEEK	FRI 28/2	The NL authorities become aware of a serious suspicion of avian influenza in 6 poultry farms – They inform the Commission services by phone the same day at midnight		Directive 92/40/EEC² implemented in the NL	
	SAT 1/3	The NL continued to inform the Commission of the situation – inform and discuss with the Commission services of the measures to be taken	The Commission recommends applying a standstill of poultry throughout the Netherlands. (see website of the Dutch Ministry) The Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of all Member States are informed during the morning (via GSM/SMS). Member States are officially informed by fax of the AI suspicion and of the measures taken by the NL – An overview of the epidemiological situation is also given	NL blocks all exports of live poultry and hatching eggs. Movements in live poultry is also banned all over the NL	
	SUN 2/3	First laboratory results confirm the suspicion of AI in 12 farms	A Community expert is requested to go on mission in the NL to support the NL authorities Member States are kept informed by GSM/SMS and fax on the evolution of the situation.		
	MON 3/3	The AI virus strain is identified as H7N7 – a total of 17 farms are found infected or suspected of AI – most of them are in a single area in Gelderland	Decision 2003/153/EC³ is adopted by the Commission to confirm at the EU level the measures taken by the NL - The Community expert starts working with the NL authorities - The MSs are requested to provide technical tools for humane slaughter of poultry in the NL in order to help	Culling of poultry in infected farms started	Press release IP/03/305

¹ This document summarises very basic information on the current outbreak of Avian Influenza in the Netherlands. For more detailed and precise information please refer to the Decisions on the Official Journal, to the Commission's [press releases](#) and to the [Animal Health](#) Web-pages.

² Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza, Official Journal L 167, 22.06.1992, p.1. This Directive includes all basic provisions to be applied in case of an outbreak of FMD.)

³ Official Journal L 59, 4.3.2003, p. 32

FIRST WEEK	TUE 4/3	Definitive confirmation of AI			Movements within the NL of poultry for slaughter and of day-old chicks may be authorised under strict bio-security measures
	WED 5/3	Meeting of the SCoFCAH⁴	Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on the draft Decision 2003/156/EC for the prolongation of measures adopted with Decision 2003/153/EC until 13 March 2003 and issues a statement on AI in the NL	Culling of poultry in farms located in the 1-Km radius around highly suspected holdings started	Press release IP/03/312
	THU 6/3		Adoption by the Commission of Decision 2003/156/EC prolonging the measures until 13 March 2003 (see SCoFCAH of 5/3)		
	FRI 7/3	A total of 36 farms are found either AI positive or AI suspected		Culling of poultry in a total of 24 farms	
SECOND WEEK	MON 10/3	Meeting of the SCoFCAH A total of 44 farms are found infected or suspected. All confirmed cases are in Gelderse Vallei	Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on the draft Decision 2003/172/EC for the second prolongation of measures adopted with Decision 2003/156/EC until 14 March 2003 and issues a new statement on AI in the NL.	Culling of poultry in 39 farms, a total of about 750.000 birds A nation wide serological survey starts to possibly detect low pathogenic avian influenza	
	TUE 11/3	Suspicion of AI in Zeeland (outside Gelderse Vallei) is reported, but most likely not AI.			

⁴ Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health - It is a Regulatory Committee, chaired by the Commission, including veterinary experts from all MS's governments

SECOND WEEK	WED 12/3	Strong suspicion of AI in a broilers farm in Belgium at the border with NL	<p>Netherlands: The Commission adopts Decision 2003/172/EC on AI in NL (see SCoFCAH of 10/3)</p> <p>Belgium: Member States are informed by the Commission about development of the situation and measures taken in Belgium. The Commission adopts Decision 2003/173/EC on AI in Belgium.</p>	Belgium blocks export of live poultry and hatching eggs to other Member States or third countries	Press release IP/03/366
	THUR 13/3	<p>Meeting of the SCoFCAH Total of: 67 AI suspected or confirmed farms in the NL – 1 AI suspected farm in Belgium</p>	Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH for the draft Decision 2003/186/EC prolonging the measures of Decision 2003/172/EC until 20 March 2003	Culling of poultry: in the NL in 90 farms, with a total of about 1 625 000 birds – in BE in the suspected farms (12 000 birds) and in a few very small neighbouring farms	
	FRI 14/3		The Commission adopts Decision 2003/186/EC on AI in NL (see SCoFCAH of 13/3)		Press release (Midday-express)
THIRD WEEK	TUE 18/3	<p>Meeting of the SCoFCAH</p> <p>NL: - 51 confirmed outbreaks in the “Gelderse Valleï” - 1 serological positive farm - 36 more suspected farms - No AI in the farm at Laren</p> <p>BE: - No AI in the farm at Ravels</p>	<p>Netherlands: Unanimous opinion of the SCoFACH for draft Decision 2003/191/EC prolonging the protective measures in relation to avian influenza in NL of the earlier Decision 2003/186/EC until 27 March.</p> <p>Belgium: Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH, and adoption by the Commission of Decision 2003/187/EC repealing Decision 2003/173/EC concerning protective measures in relation to a strong suspicion of AI in Belgium. The Commission and the Belgian authorities issue a statement about this issue.</p>	<p>Netherlands: - Controlled movements of day-old chicks, hatching eggs, poultry for immediate slaughter and pullets outside the surveillance zones is allowed</p> <p>- Culling of poultry in the NL: 157 holdings and 2.4 Million poultry are culled</p> <p>Belgium: The Belgian authorities maintain the buffer zone around the municipality of Ravels until the results of the last virological test is known</p>	<p>In NL, a nation-wide monitoring discovered 3 holdings with low-pathogenic AI in the West of Noord-Brabant -Preventive measures for personnel closely involved in the culling and farmers were taken after human cases of conjunctivitis</p> <p>Discussion on the AI situation at the AGRI Council and AGRI Committee of the European Parliament (speech Commissioner Byrne)</p> <p>Press release IP/03/398</p>

	WED 19/3	NL: - 59 confirmed outbreaks - 40 more suspected farms	The Commission adopts Decision 2003/191/EC on AI in NL (see SCoFCAH of 18/3)	Culling of poultry in the NL: 229 out of the 352 holdings and 3.5 million poultry are culled	
FOURTH WEEK	MON 24/3	NL: - 96 confirmed outbreaks - 43 more suspected farms		Culling of poultry in the NL: Performed on 254 holdings containing approximately 4.9 million heads of poultry.	
	TUE 25/3	Meeting of the SCoFCAH AI suspicion on farm in Berkens (outside Gelderse Vallei) is ruled out – A new suspicion is raised in 1 farm in Beneden-Leeuven outside Gelderse Vallei	Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on the draft Decision 2003/214/EC replacing Decision 2003/191/EC and prolonging the measures in the Netherlands until 10 April. It is further agreed to empty 30 farms in 2 areas north and south of "Gelderse Vallei" to create buffer zones to avoid further spread from the infected area. Controlled movement of hatching eggs can be allowed outside surveillance zones within the Netherlands in view of possible derogation for the dispatch of day-old chicks to other Member States and Third countries. This derogation could only be granted after further review of the AI situation by the SCoFCAH.	Results of the serological survey are presented at the SCoFCAH indicating that out of 1224 holdings sampled 3 holdings have shown positive for low pathogenic AI. The 3 farms have been depopulated.	AI suspicion on farm in Berkens (outside Gelderse Vallei) is ruled out – A new suspicion is raised in 1 farm in Beneden-Leeuven outside Gelderse Vallei
	WED 26/3	NL: - suspicion in Beneden-Leeuven positive in the PCR		Culling of suspected farm in Beneden-Leeuven and establishing of restriction zones around suspected holdings	Epidemiological investigations have detected another suspicion at Opeusden Press release IP/03/437
	THUR 27/3	NL: - 109 confirmed outbreaks - 45 more suspected farms	In co-operation with the Commission services: NL establish a "compartmentalisation" of the country dividing the NL into 5 areas to prevent spread of disease. All activities in relation to the poultry sector (e.g. movements of poultry, movement of trucks for feed and egg collection) will only be allowed within the compartment (see website of the Dutch Ministry) Decision 2003/214/EC is adopted by the Commission (see SCoFCAH of 28 March 2003).	Culling of suspected farm in Opeusden and establishment of restriction zones	

	FRI 28/3	No suspicion of further outbreaks since the previous day (27/3)	In co-operation with the Commission services: NL extend the buffer zones taking into account the situation in Beneden-Leeuwen and Opheusden	Culling of suspected farms and in the buffer zones	
FIFTH WEEK	MON 31/3	NL: - 145 confirmed outbreaks - 37 more suspected farms		Culling of poultry in buffer zones finalised (total of 58 farms)	
	TUE 1/4			Regulation for compartmentalisation is implemented	
	THU 3/4	NL: 1 serious suspicion south of the surveillance zone in Teeffelen (NW of Oss)		Culling of the poultry on affected farm - enlargement of the surveillance zone	NL decide to cull poultry on all farms including hobby farms in the 3 km zone (protection zone)
	FRI 4/4	NL: 1 serious suspicion in Limburg on a turkey farm - 146 outbreaks confirmed - 42 suspicions		NL re-impose a total standstill on all movements of poultry as from 13.30 BE imposes as a preventive measure a standstill on all movements of poultry in an area with a radius of 20 km next to the Dutch border	First results of the PCR are positive meaning a new province becomes infected - close co-operation with German and Belgian authorities
SIXTH WEEK	MON 7/4	NL: -177 confirmed outbreaks - 29 suspicions of which 5 on turkey farms in the province of Limburg	The Commission favours the preventive measures taken in BE at the border with the Dutch province Limburg	NL decides to cull all poultry in the 3-km radius and all turkeys on farms within a radius of 10 km around the strong suspicions in the province of Limburg	

SIXTH WEEK	TUE 8/4	<p>AGRI Council in Luxembourg: the Dutch Minister updated the Council on the situation regarding avian influenza in the Netherlands. The German and Belgian ministers informed the Council about the precautions their countries have taken. Commissioner Byrne emphasises the good collaboration between the Netherlands, bordering Member States and The Commission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting of the SCoFCAH</p>			<p>Press release MEMO/03/82 Results of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 8 April 2003</p>
	WED 9 /4	<p style="text-align: center;">NL: -197 confirmed outbreaks - 21 suspicions No new suspicions were notified since 8/4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting of the SCoFCAH</p>	<p>Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on the draft Decision replacing Decision 2003/214/EC. The SCoFCAH voted in favour of a EC proposal to extend until Friday, April 25 the restrictions put in place after outbreaks of avian influenza in the Netherlands. No live poultry, hatching eggs and fresh, unprocessed poultry manure or litter may be dispatched to other Member States or third countries and, with some derogations, no live poultry and hatching eggs may be transported within the Netherlands. Stringent bio-security measures to apply in the whole poultry and egg sectors are enforced.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In line with the discussions at the Agricultural Council yesterday in Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany have also taken strict bio-security measures in the regions bordering the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Press release IP/03/525 Avian influenza in the Netherlands: restrictions extended</p>
	THU 10/4	<p style="text-align: center;">NL: -new strong suspicion in the municipality of Koningsbosch near the German border - new strong suspicion in the municipality of Ravenstein</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Commission adopts Decision 2003/258/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NL: - establishment of a new surveillance zone due to the suspicion in Koningsbosch - extension of the surveillance zone of Teeffelen/Beneden Leeuwen due to the suspicion in Ravenstein</p>	

SIXTH WEEK

**FRI
11/4**

NL:
- 203 confirmed outbreaks
- 28 suspicions
New strong suspicion in Kelpen (province of Limburg) near the Belgian border

DE:
- the surveillance zone due to the suspicion in Koningsbosch (NL) extends on the German territory
- the concerned Land Nord-Rhein-Westfalia has implemented per regulation protective measures in the provinces bordering the affected areas of Dutch Limburg
- preventive culling of poultry in the 3-km zone will be carried out

BE:
- the surveillance zone due to the suspicion in Kelpen (NL) extends on the Belgian territory
- preventive culling of poultry in the 3-km zone will be carried out

**SUN
13/4**

NL:
- 210 confirmed outbreaks
- 26 strong suspicions, 4 of them near the Belgian border

DE: measures applicable for the whole German territory are issued authorising transports of live poultry and hatching eggs only after clinical examination and cleaning and disinfection of the means of transport. Further measures are being taken in relation to notification of duck/geese and hobby holdings and register keeping.

SEVENTH WEEK	MON 14/4	NL: - 212 confirmed outbreaks - 29 strong suspicion - 1 new suspicion in the municipality of Roggel (Neer) - 13,6 million poultry culled		NL decides to cull preventively all poultry farms near the Belgian border in an area in the province Limburg in order to protect Belgian poultry farms	
	TUE 15/4	The BE authorities inform the Commission during the night between 15 and 16 April of a serious suspicion of avian influenza in a poultry farm in the municipality Meeuwen (province Limburg) situated in the previously established surveillance zone.		Directive 92/40/EEC ⁵ implemented in BE.	
	WED 16/4	BE applies a national stand-still of all birds and hatching eggs. Supplementary bans apply amongst other to transport of table eggs (see website of the Belgian Food Security Agency).	The Commission informs all Member States of the suspicion in Belgium. The Commission recommends applying a standstill of poultry in Belgium. Decision 2003/275/EC is adopted by the Commission to confirm at the EU level the measures taken by BE.	BE applies culling of all poultry farms within the 3-km area around the suspected farm.	Press release IP/03/552: Avian Influenza in Belgium: Commission adopts control measures
	FRI 18/4	BE confirms the outbreak of AI in the municipality of Meeuwen.			
	SAT 19/4	NL announces that a 57-year-old veterinarian died after a serious pneumonia. Because avian influenza-virus was found in the lungs and no other possible cause could be found, it is assumed that there are strong indications that death followed an infection with avian influenza. The deceased did not take preventively antiviral drugs.	The Commission informs all Member States of the death of a Dutch veterinarian, probably linked to AI.		
	SUN 20/4	BE: 2 further suspicions in the municipality of Kinrooi, located in the restricted zones.		BE takes additional measures to prevent AI for people at risk.	

⁵ Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza, Official Journal L 167, 22.06.1992, p.1. This Directive includes all basic provisions to be applied in case of an outbreak of FMD.)

EIGHTH WEEK

<p>TUE 22/4</p>	<p>NL: - 230 confirmed outbreaks - 23 more strong suspicions - 18 million poultry culled</p>	<p>The Commission organizes a meeting with experts of the Member States and Accession Countries on the risks from avian influenza following the death of a Dutch veterinarian.</p>		
<p>WED 23/4</p>	<p>BE: - 3 outbreaks after confirmation of the suspicions in the municipality of Kinrooi - 1 further suspicion in the municipality of Bree, situated in the existing surveillance zone - 1 further suspicion on a turkey farm in the municipality of Westmalle (province of Antwerpen). In the evening the PCR-test shows a positive result.</p> <p>Meeting of the SCoFCAH</p>	<p>Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on: - the draft Commission Decision prolonging Decision 2003/258/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands; - the draft Commission Decision prolonging Decision 2003/275/EC concerning protection measures in relation to a strong suspicion of avian influenza in Belgium.</p> <p>The two Decisions: - prolong the measures already in force respectively in the Netherlands and in Belgium until 12 May; - prescribe the two Member States also to take appropriate precautionary measures as regards the prevention of influenza infections in poultry workers and other persons at risk; - impose a serological survey on pigs kept on poultry farms, where an avian influenza outbreak is notified.</p> <p>Unanimous opinion of the SCoFCAH on Commission Decision laying down requirements for the prevention of avian influenza in susceptible birds kept in zoos in Belgium and the Netherlands. The two Member States may decide to apply emergency vaccination against avian influenza to susceptible birds kept in zoos, which are considered to be at risk from the disease, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Annex to this Decision.</p> <p>Commissioner D. BYRNE informs the Commission on the situation of the avian influenza outbreaks in BE and NL (see information note)</p>	<p>BE establishes a buffer zone of 15 km around the suspected farm in Westmalle with movement restrictions. The turkeys on the suspected farm are culled preventively.</p> <p>BE decides to empty preventively all commercial farms in the established surveillance zone around the 3 outbreaks</p> <p>NL decides to empty preventively all commercial farms in an extended buffer zone close to the Belgian border.</p>	<p>Press Release IP/03/564: Update on avian influenza in the Netherlands and Belgium</p>
<p>THU 24/4</p>	<p>BE: - 7 confirmed outbreaks (4 in the province of Limburg and 3 in the province of Antwerpen) - 1 strong suspicion</p>		<p>BE applies the strategy of culling all poultry within a 1 km radius and all commercial poultry farms within a 3 km radius around an outbreak</p>	
<p>FRI 25/4</p>		<p>The Commission adopts : Decision 2003/289/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in Belgium Decision 2003/290/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands Decision 2003/291/EC laying down the requirements for the prevention of avian influenza in susceptible birds kept in zoos in Belgium and the Netherlands</p>		

NINTH WEEK	MON 28/4		Commissioner David Byrne meets with Dutch Agriculture Minister Veerman and Dutch State Secretary of Health Ross-van Dorp at the crisis centre in Stroe. Mr Byrne also participated in a roundtable with local farmers and regional and local representatives in Barneveld.		Press Release IP/03/580 : Byrne visits crisis centre in the Netherlands
	TUE 29/4	NL: - total of 243 confirmed outbreaks - total of 15 strong suspicion pending confirmation - 21 million poultry culled		NL prohibits all import – this was previously still allowed in a small area - of day-old chicks and hatching eggs as part of the attempt to lower the poultry population in the Netherlands.	Upon invitation of the Dutch authorities, experts of the Member States and the Commission meet at the Crisis Centre in Stroe (NL) to discuss practical aspects related to the implementation of the measures taken to prevent and combat Avian Influenza and to see the application of those measures in practice.
	WED 30/4	BE: - total of 8 confirmed outbreaks (4 in the province of Limburg and 4 in the province of Antwerp) - 1,4 million poultry culled		BE applies a supplementary compartmentalisation strategy. All activities in relation to the poultry sector (e.g. movements of poultry, movement of trucks for feed and egg collection) and some other agricultural activities are only allowed within the compartment.	
	THU 01/5		The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) carries out a 5 day mission to the NL in order to examine the implementation of the measures		

TENTH WEEK	MON 05/5		The Commission meets with experts of the Member States to discuss the role of pigs in the current epidemic.	BE and NL complete the preventive culling to empty poultry farms. BE: in total 2,7 million poultry are culled on 118 farms. NL: in total 25,4 million poultry culled on 1242 farms and on 8397 back yard flocks	
	TUE 06/5	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	The SCoFCAH votes in favour of: - the draft Commission Decision prolonging Decision 2003/290/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands; - the draft Commission Decision prolonging Decision 2003/289/EC concerning protection measures in relation avian influenza in Belgium. The two Decisions prolong the measures already in force respectively in the Netherlands and in Belgium until 16 May. The buffer zone in Belgium is adapted.		
	WED 07/05	BE: total of 8 outbreaks – last outbreak recorded on 27/4 NL: total of 250 outbreaks – last outbreak recorded on 02/5 11 remaining suspicions			
	THU 08/05		The Commission adopts: - Decision 2003/317/EC of 8 May 2003 amending Decision 2003/289/EC concerning protection measures in relation to avian influenza in Belgium. - Decision 2003/318/EC of 8 May 2003 amending Decision 2003/290/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands.		

TENTH WEEK	FRI 09/05	The DE authorities inform the Commission in the late evening of 8 May of a serious suspicion of avian influenza in a poultry farm, situated near the Dutch border, in the municipality Schwalmthal in the Land North Rhine-Westphalia.	The Commission informs all Member States of the suspicion in Germany. The Commission recommends applying a standstill of live poultry and hatching eggs in North Rhine-Westphalia.	The German authorities implement immediately all measures foreseen by Directive 92/40/EEC ⁶ . In addition a standstill of live poultry and hatching eggs in North Rhine-Westphalia is implemented and trade and export banned of this region. DE applies culling of all poultry farms within the 3-km area around the suspected farm.	
	SAT 10/05			BE decides to cull preventively 10 poultry farms, which had indirect contact via a feed lorry with the suspected farm in DE.	
	SUN 11/05	BE and NL: no new suspected farms. The total number of outbreaks remains for BE 8 outbreaks and NL 250 outbreaks. DE: PCR positive result of suspected farm in Schwalmthal.			
ELEVENTH WEEK	MON 12/05	AI confirmed in the suspect holding of Schwalmthal in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) -Germany	The Commission adopts Decision 2003/333/EC to confirm at the EU level the measures taken by DE.		Press release: IP/03/366

⁶ Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza, Official Journal L 167, 22.06.1992, p.1. This Directive includes all basic provisions to be applied in case of an outbreak of FMD.)

ELEVENTH WEEK	WED 14/5	Meeting on vaccination against AI in the Netherlands with representatives of NL, B, DE and Italy			
	THU 15/5	<p>Morning: Meeting on vaccination against AI in the Netherlands with all Member States representatives</p> <p>Afternoon: Meeting of the SCOFCAH</p> <p>NL: 252 outbreaks confirmed 6 holdings under suspicion 29/4- last outbreak in commercial flock 3/5 last outbreak in backyard flock 28 Million culled birds</p> <p>Belgium: no outbreak since 28 April (total 8)</p> <p>Germany: 2 suspicions raised in Straelen (NRW)</p>	<p>The SCOFCAH votes in favour of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the draft Commission Decision 2003/357/EC prolonging for the second time Decision 2003/290/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands; - the draft Commission Decision 2003/356/EC prolonging for the second time Decision 2003/289/EC concerning protection measures in relation avian influenza in Belgium. - the draft Commission Decision 2003/358/EC concerning protection measures in relation avian influenza in Germany. - the draft Commission Decision 2003/359/EC laying down requirements for the prevention of avian influenza in susceptible birds in certain Member States. <p>The Decisions prolong the measures already in force in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany until 30 May.</p> <p>Belgium: If no further outbreak occurs until 26 May the restriction measures for Belgium will be limited to the provinces of Antwerp and Limbourg. (regionalisation).</p> <p>Germany was granted a further derogation for movements of day-old chicks and slaughter poultry from the eastern part of NRW to the rest of the country under strict official supervision</p>		

ELEVENTH WEEK	FRI 16/5	<p>Late evening: Information by German authorities on negative laboratory results for the 2 suspected cases in Straelen (NRW)</p>			
TWELFTH WEEK	MON 19/5- THU 22/5	<p>71^o tGeneral Session of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) in Paris</p> <p>NL, BE and DE: No new outbreaks or suspicions since 16 May.</p>	<p>General discussion on the OIE chapter for avian influenza</p> <p>Presentation on Avian influenza given by the National Reference Laboratory of Italy also recognised as an OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza</p>		
THIRTEENTH	THU 27/5	<p>Belgium: Restrictions apply only to the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg, rest of the country may resume exports of live poultry and hatching eggs</p>			Midday express

FRI
28/5

Meeting of the SCOFCAH

The SCOFCAH votes in favour of:

- the draft [Commission Decision 2003/387/EC](#) prolonging for the third time [Decision 2003/290/EC](#) concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands;
- the draft Commission [Decision 2003/388/EC](#) prolonging for the third time [Decision 2003/289/EC](#) concerning protection measures in relation avian influenza in Belgium.
- the draft Commission [Decision 2003/386/EC](#) prolonging [Decision 2003/358/EC](#) concerning protection measures in relation avian influenza in Germany. Please see also [corrigendum](#).

The Decisions prolong the measures already in force

- in the Netherlands until 17 June
- in Belgium until 11 June by allowing under specific provisions movements of day-old chicks and slaughter poultry out of the restricted area of Limburg and Antwerp
- in Germany until 24 June by foreseeing the lifting of restrictions for the part of NRW east of the Rhine as from 3 June.

The safeguard Decisions for Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands are adopted the same day.

The SCOFCAH votes further in favour of a draft Commission Decision laying down additional measures to be carried out before lifting of restrictions applied in accordance with Council Directive 92/40/EEC in relation to avian influenza can take place. Certain requirements have to be fulfilled before restocking of poultry holdings can start.

[Press release IP 03/775](#)

FOURTEENTH WEEK	TUE 3/6	Germany: reports no outbreaks or suspicions of AI	Restrictions for the area east of the Rhine are lifted, restrictions are maintained for the area of North-Rhine Westphalia located west of the Rhine		
	WED 11/6		<p>Belgium: restrictions are limited to the established surveillance zones, the rest of the country is released and may dispatch live poultry and hatching eggs</p> <p>Formal adoption of the draft Commission Decision 2003/428/EC laying down additional measures to be carried out before restrictions applied in accordance with Council Directive 92/40/EEC can be lifted in the surveillance zones. Certain requirements have to be fulfilled before restocking of poultry holdings can start.</p>		
FIFTEENTH WEEK	FRI 13/6	Meeting of the SCOFCAH	<p>The SCOFCAH votes in favour of the draft Commission Decision 2003/443/EC prolonging for the fourth time Decision 2003/290/EC concerning protective measures in relation to avian influenza in the Netherlands;</p> <p>The Decision prolong the measures already in force - in the Netherlands until 11 July and foresees a regionalisation as of 18 June , provided no outbreaks occur and no suspicion of AI is raised Restrictions and in particular ban of exports of live poultry and hatching eggs remain in place for 5 provinces Flevoland, Gelderland, Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Utrecht</p>		Press release IP03/837

SIXTEENTH WEEK	TUE 17/6	NL: report no outbreaks or suspicions of AI	Commission Decision 2003/443/EC formally adopted		
	WED 18/6	Regionalisation for NL applicable	Export restrictions lifted for the territory of the NL except for the 5 provinces of Flevoland, Gelderland, Limburg, Noord-Brabant, Utrecht		
SEVENTEENTH	TUE 24/6	Germany: all safeguard measures and national measures are lifted as of midnight			Press release All investigations carried out in relation to the requirements of Commission Decision 2003/428/EC have given negative results. Normal restocking of holdings starts.

EIGHTEETH WEEK	TUE 1/7	Meeting of the SCOFCAH	DE,B and NL present their situation No further Decision taken DE: all EC and national restrictions lifted since 25 June 2003 B: restrictions only apply to surveillance zones NL: restrictions for the 5 provinces of Flevoland, Gelderland, Limburg, Noord-Brabant and Utrecht will elapse on 11 July		Press release
NINETEENTH WEEK	TUE 8/7	Belgium : as the sentinel birds placed in the affected holdings in the province of Limburg demonstrate that the virus is no longer present, the restrictions in the surveillance zone in this province are lifted. The restrictions in the remaining surveillance zone in the province of Antwerpen shall be lifted once the sentinel birds demonstrate that the virus is no longer present.			
	FRI 11/7	The Netherlands: as no new outbreaks nor suspicions have been reported in the Netherlands since 3 May, all restrictions are lifted as of today. The restrictions in the remaining surveillance zones shall be lifted once the sentinel birds placed in the affected holdings demonstrate that the virus is no longer present.			Press release

TWENTYFIRST WEEK	TUE 15/7	<p>Belgium: Following the negative results for the investigations of the sentinel birds according to Decision 2003/428/EC Belgium lifts the restrictions for the surveillance zones in the province of Antwerp as from 12.00 hours. This means that there are no more restrictions in relation to avian influenza in the whole territory of Belgium.</p> <p>However, heightened vigilance and biosecurity measures continue to apply.</p> <p>Netherlands: The restrictions in the surveillance zone "Zundert" established at the border to Belgium in relation to the Belgian outbreaks in the province of Antwerp are lifted accordingly as from 15.30. hours.</p>			
	WED 23/7	<p>Following the negative results for the investigations of the sentinel birds according to Decision 2003/428/EC. The Netherlands lift the restrictions for the surveillance zone called "Echt" around Koningsbosch in the province of Limburg as from 16.00 hours.</p>			
THU 24/7	<p>Following the negative results for the investigations of the sentinel birds according to Decision 2003/428/EC, the Netherlands lifted the restrictions for the surveillance zone called "Nederweert Noord" established in parts of the provinces of Limburg and Noord Brabant as of 15.30 hours.</p>				

TWENTYFIFTH WEEK	THU 14/8	Following the negative results for the investigations in sentinel chickens according to Decision 2003/428/EC, the restrictions for the surveillance zone “Beneden Leeuwen”, established in parts of the provinces of Gelderland and Noord Brabant, have been lifted at 19.00 hours.			
	WED 20/8	Following the negative results for the investigations in sentinel chickens according to Decision 2003/428/EC, the restrictions for the surveillance zone “Nederweert Zuid”, established in parts of the provinces of Limburg and Noord Brabant, have been lifted at 17.00 hours.			
FRI 22/8	Following the negative results for the investigations in sentinel chickens according to Decision 2003/428/EC, the restrictions for the surveillance zone “Gelderse Vallei”, established in parts of the provinces of Utrecht and Gelderland, have been lifted at 17.00 hours.	<p>The “Gelderse Vallei” was the last surveillance zone still in place. This means that there are no more restrictions in relation to avian influenza in the whole territory of The Netherlands.</p> <p>NOW THAT ALL RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED, THE OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE NETHERLANDS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS ERADICATED.</p>			