



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

 Ref. Ares(2013)724603 - 19/04/2013

Directorate G – Veterinary and International Affairs
Unit G5: Veterinary programmes

SANCO/10857/2013

**REPORT ON THE
MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL
DISEASE ERADICATION IN THE MEMBER STATES**

Brussels, 1st March 2013

TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force

Friday, 1st March 2013- 9.30 H – 17.30 H

Participants:

AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK, UK.

Private Experts:

- Dr. S. Sternberger Lewerin, SE, (chair of the tuberculosis sub-group)
- Dr. F. De Massis, IT (chair of the bovine and sheep and goats Brucellosis sub-group);
- Dr. J. M. Wernig, SI (chair of the Southern Rabies sub-group);
- Dr. E. Niin, EE (chair of the North Rabies sub-group);
- Dr. M. Madsen, DK (chair of the Salmonellosis sub-group)

European Commission (DG SANCO)

Unit G5:

- C. Bertrand (CB), Chair
- L. Vandenberghe (LV)
- V. Piazza (VP)
- A. Blass Rico (ABR)
- P. Demetriou (DP)
- S. Idei (IS)
- C. Pinna (CP)
- T. Cirasa (TC)

Unit F6:

F6: F. Perez

Unit G4:

G4: K. Kostenzer

C. Bertrand, Head of Unit G5, welcomed the delegations and the private experts. He made a short presentation of the purpose of the meeting and the main tasks (veterinarian and financial) of Unit G5. He underlined the importance of the Task Force and its subgroups meetings. The agenda was adopted (see detailed agenda-Annex I). No suggestions for new items were proposed by the delegations.

1. INFORMATION ON THE 6th MEETINGS OF THE "FOODBORNE ZONOSSES – SALMONELLOSIS" SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE HELD IN PORTUGAL, 31 MAY- 1st JUNE 2012.

Dr M. Madsen (DK), chair of the Salmonella subgroup, presented the outcome of the meeting held in Portugal, Tomar on 31 May-1 June 2012

He gave an overview about topics that the meeting encompassed, such as experiences and challenges of the implementation of the Salmonella control programme in breeding, laying hens and broiler flocks of *Gallus gallus* as well as in turkeys

The prerequisite role of biosecurity in the implementation of the Salmonella control programmes in poultry flocks has been highlighted.

The chair recalled presentations given by the host on overview of the active involvement of the Food Business Operators in the own-checks of *Salmonella spp* under the programmes.

The chair emphasized that the co-ordinated approach between bodies involved in the implementation of the programmes such as DGAV, industry, associations, producers contributed to the efficient implementation of the programmes resulted in improvement of the disease situation compared to the previous years.

Other important components are the development of Producers' Handbooks and a coordinated training of key players involving producers.

Also the specific activities of the National Reference Laboratory Salmonella on detection, serotyping and antimicrobial sensitivity determinations, proficiency testing trials were presented briefly.

During the subgroup meeting, potential obstacles to successful implementation of *Salmonella* control programs in poultry were discussed in details that led to conclusions and recommendations that were introduced in details by the chair in the plenary meeting.

Finally, the Commission explained that most recently the Salmonella subgroup meetings focus only on the programmes of the hosting country, while at the beginning more than one country presented their programmes during these subgroup meetings.

Full report of this subgroup meeting is publicly available at https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/diseases_foodborne_zoonoses_salmonellosis_portugal_062012_en.pdf

2. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE AND SHEEP AND GOATS BRUCELLOSIS” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION, HELD IN HALKIDIKI, GREECE, ON 14-15 JUNE.

Dr F. De Massis, IT (chair of the bovine and sheep and goats Brucellosis sub-groups) presented the summary of the implementation of sheep and goats brucellosis eradication programmes and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting held in Halkidiki, Greece.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The structure of national and local veterinary services has not been improved as suggested by the European Commission and substantiated by the recommendations of the Task Force (*i.e.* Ioannina 2002).
2. There is still no vertical chain of command in the Veterinary Services, which weakens the communication and coordination between central and local level and may compromise the implementation of the programme.
3. The quantity of data collected and its validity is not sufficient to support a correct epidemiological analysis and the adequate planning of the programme. Data management needs improvement both at central and local levels. In particular, a national database and Information Technology (IT) system for animal movements and disease control has not been fully implemented yet.
4. Current official resources are inadequate and no evident efforts have been made to increase the staff, materials and equipment dedicated to the activities to be carried out in the framework of the brucellosis programme and, in particular, the inclusion of private veterinarians or the turn-over of retired officials.
5. The programme, as approved by the Commission for year 2011, has not been implemented as foreseen. The targets indicated in the programme for 2011 have not been met.
6. The communication and collaboration between the human sector and the animal health sector show weaknesses and this could contribute to an underestimation of the actual number of brucellosis human cases.
7. In the context of the mass vaccination programme (mainland), the current practice of leaving non-vaccinated males in vaccinated flocks for monitoring purposes may pose the risk of these animals further transmitting the disease within infected flocks and to other flocks, if sold.

8. The testing coverage in islands (eradication programme) is not sufficient to demonstrate the freedom from disease in these areas. Moreover, in recent years, the presence of the disease has been disclosed in several islands by the occurrence of human cases.

9. Resources allocated to laboratories are not sufficient to fulfil the tasks foreseen in the EU legislation. Regional laboratories are not yet accredited according to ISO 17025 standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The increase of the human resources available for the programme should be urgently considered by central and local authorities as the primary key for any progress of the epidemiological situation. In particular should be created flexibility for temporary reallocation of staff and involvement of private veterinarians in the activities carried out in the framework of the programme;

2. To better organize the work in advance, both at local and national level, taking into consideration putting additional efforts in critical areas.

3. Within the mass vaccination programme, the benefit of leaving non vaccinated males for monitoring purposes should be weighed against the possibility these animals transmitting further the disease.

4. Increasing current vaccination coverage (percentage of vaccinated animals within farms and proportion of vaccinated farms) is essential for the success of the programme

5. Within the eradication programme, in islands in which the infection has been confirmed either by the presence of positive flocks or the occurrence of human cases, vaccination of young replacement animals should accompany the current test-and-slaughter policy.

6. In infected flocks, animals positive to RBT should be slaughtered regardless to their testing with CFT. If possible, testing should be carried out in parallel, *i.e.* animals positive to either RBT or CFT should be slaughtered.

7. The use of bacteriological confirmation should be improved as a complementary tool to identify infected flocks. However, in flocks already confirmed as infected, it is not necessary to submit further samples for bacteriological confirmation.

8. Any animal deemed to be infected or to pose a risk of spreading infection should be slaughtered under the programme and the owner should be compensated.

9. Efforts should be made to maintain sufficient budget, as well as permanent and well trained staff, at the NRL, to fulfil the tasks foreseen in the EU legislation (*e.g.* ring trials, training, reagent and vaccine control, as well as *Brucella* strain confirmation and typing). In addition, efforts should be made towards accreditation of laboratories according ISO 17025, as well as the revision of relevant SOP.

10. Identification of animals is a key tool in eradication programmes, therefore, efforts should be made for improvement of livestock identification and registration, as well as the electronic identification system

The Working Document SANCO/6095/2009 should be taken into due consideration when designing, planning and implementing the measures foreseen by the programme. The document can be found at the following web address:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/diseases_erad_bovine_sheep_goats_brucellosis_en.pdf

3. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “RABIES” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN ZAGREB, CROATIA, 29-30 NOVEMBER 2012.

Dr. J. M. Wernig (SI), chair of the southern Rabies subgroup, presented the outcome of the meeting in Zagreb held on 29-30 November 2012 that reviewed the results of the rabies programme in Croatia funded through the EU enlargement fund (IPA).

The Commission expressed its satisfaction for the successful introduction of oral rabies vaccination in Croatia since 2011 and the subsequent benefits to the epidemiological situation in bordering areas of neighbouring Member States. As Croatia is acceding the EU on the 1st July 2013, from 2014 on the Croatian rabies programme will be funded under the EU Veterinary Fund and a Croatian expert will become a member of the subgroup.

4. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “RABIES” SUB-GROUP OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN WARSAW, POLAND 11-12 DECEMBER 2012.

Dr. E. NIIN (EE), chair of the northern Rabies subgroup, presented the outcome of the meeting in Warsaw held on 11-12 December 2012 that reviewed the results of the rabies programme in Poland.

The Commission commented that despite the problems that were faced in recent years the Polish programme remains a very successful programme which, by 2009, achieved the

disappearance of sylvatic rabies from the whole territory of the country with the exception of areas bordering infected third countries. Unfortunately due to some failure in the vaccination in the disease was able to re-enter establish in certain regions. Poland was urged to closely follow the recommendations of the subgroup in order to ensure the continuation of the successes towards the aim of eliminating rabies from the country.

5. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS” SUBGROUPS OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN WORCHESTER (UK), 27-28 MARCH 2012.

Dr S. Lewerin, SE, (chair of the Tuberculosis sub-group) presented the summary of the situation as regard the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following main conclusions and recommendations were made:

- Appreciate efforts made, holistic approach and statement of eradication goal
- Lack of political consensus and commitment, current wildlife strategy lacks scientific basis
- Improved testing strategy, could be improved further
- New computer system and plans for removing links between holdings in different geographical areas will improve programme
- Slaughterhouse submission rates are too low
- Need to deal with wildlife but retain focus on cattle, use epidemiological indicators
- Clarify calculations of incidence and prevalence, different methods for different purposes
- Improve test sensitivity for pre-movement tests from high-prevalence to low-prevalence areas
- Re-evaluate differentiation between OTFW and OTFS herds
- Increase slaughterhouse submission rates
- Remove links between holdings in different geographical areas (handle all linked herds as one unit but register movements) and clarify hierarchy in database
- Take paratuberculosis into account when testing, ban vaccination
- Improve knowledge about situation in 2-yearly and 4-yearly testing areas
- No movement of animals from restricted herds.

6. INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE “BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS” SUB-GROUPS OF THE TASK FORCE ON MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION HELD IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, SPAIN, 4-5 OCTOBER 2012

Dr S. Lewerin, SE, (chair of the tuberculosis sub-group) presented the summary of the situation as regard the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme and the conclusions and recommendation of the meeting.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The subgroup appreciates the tremendous work that has been done in Spain. The progress of the eradication programme during the last decade is impressive and the results are gratifying. The commitment to the programme is seen on all levels of the veterinary services, centrally as well as in the regions. The farmers' collaboration and commitment has also been ensured and farmers are now beginning to appreciate the benefits of the programme.

The previous recommendations of the subgroup have all been taken on board, adapted to the situation and used very well.

There is a hope that the programme will be able to keep its momentum until the final eradication, although it soon enters a difficult stage, when prevalence has come down but progress will be slower and some stakeholders may be inclined to sit back and relax.

The group once again, pointed out that the next phase of the eradication will require hard measures to achieve the final goal. It is important that all involved understand the need to keep going so as not to waste all the resources and efforts that have been invested so successfully.

MS welcomed the results of the different TF sub-groups, their technical support and recommendations to improve the implementation and the progress of the different programmes presented.

7. POINT FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 WD ON "PERFORMANCE INDICATORS" (SANCO/12915/2012)

VP explained that the document was prepared with the contribution of experts of the 5 task force sub-groups (meeting held in Brussels on 22-23 January 2013) with the aim to list and clarify which are, by disease, the **main indicators** taken/to be taken in account by the Commission during the process of evaluation of the results of the implementation of an eradication, control and monitoring programme submitted by Member States for EU financial contribution.

VP clarified that those indicators, disease specific and divided in two main categories (activities and progress indicators), are based on EU legislation and/or other reference documents (EG: Rabies), as listed for each disease.

MSs very welcomed the document and made some preliminary comments: VP requested to send further comment in the next two weeks in order to finalise the document as soon as possible and to send to all CVO and publish on SANCO web.

8. POINT FOR INFORMATION

8.1 WD ON PRINCIPLE AND CRITERIA ON WHICH IS BASED THE REACTION OF THE COMMISSION IN CASE OF UNSATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES CO-FINANCED UNDER ARTICLE 27 OF COUNCIL DECISION 2009/470/EU (SANCO/12785/2012 REV1)

PD presented the revised version of the Working Document which was initially presented at the meeting of the SCoFAH of 4 December 2012.

The Commission, in the frame of the its responsibility to ensure the sound management of EU expenditure, evaluates the annual results of implementation of co-financed programmes.

The programme results are checked for the level of implementation of planned measures and their conformity with relevant EU legislation. In some cases, the implementation of the programmes is judged to be unsatisfactory and the Commission could send a warning letter to the Competent Authorities or apply a financial correction on the eligible costs of the programme.

Aiming to provide transparency on how the Commission is handling these cases, the document describes the failures in the implementation of programmes that merit a reaction by the Commission, the available options, as well as the criteria used to define the level of possible financial corrections.

It was stressed that the Commission reacts in cases of failures that either significantly affect the achievement of the programmes objectives and/or its cost-effectiveness or where there is an obvious breach of relevant legislative requirements. Therefore, the non-achievement of targets/estimations set in an approve programme alone, is not a reason for considering implementation unsatisfactory.

In addition, the Commission clarified that setbacks to the programme objectives not relating to the implementation of the programmes also, would not entail any consequences to programme cofinancing.

Certain Member States requested more clarity in defining the gravity of the non-compliances. The Commission will produce a new version of the Working Document to improve clarity on this issue.

8.2 PRIORITIES AND TIMING 2013-2014. (WD SANCO/10449/2013)

VP explained that the purpose of the document (Annex II) is to list priority criteria for eradication, control and monitoring programmes of animal diseases and zoonoses for EU co-funding for 2014, in the context of Council Decision 2009/470/EC and to **list** the steps which will be followed when considering the programmes submitted by Member States (MS).

The Commission defines the priorities on the basis of its own internal assessment and evaluations of the situation in the Member States as well as at EU level and the **prioritisation** of the funding is decided and adjusted on an annual/multi-annual basis to ensure that it is fully appropriate to the situation actually prevailing and to boost, with the appropriate financial support, the positive trend for the co-financed eradication, control and monitoring programmes.

VP highlighted the main priority criteria and the additional criteria that have to be considered in the prioritisation process, link to disease situation and also criteria as regards the measures eligible for co-funding. In addition, **VP** explained that, based on the outcome of the external study (by GHK) on the evaluation of the eradication, control and monitoring programmes for the period 2005-2010, MSs are strongly recommended from 2014 to submit **multi-annual**

programmes for all diseases where the activities are expected to largely remain the same for a number of years to reduce administrative burdens while increasing collective focus on medium-term strategic goals. In addition, MSs are encouraged to reconsider the submission of certain programmes (AI, BT and Salmonella) for co-financing taking into account the need of a more efficient use of limited human resources adopting a minimum co-financing value that would strike a balance between making efficient use of administrative capacity and generating benefits to the EU from the programme. ("**micro-programmes**").

Then, a short remind on the main steps to follow for the submission of the programmes for 2014 (legal deadline of 30 April 2013 and mandatory submission via on-line system: all pdf templates to be used, sent by the Commission before middle of March) and of the final financial and technical reports of the implementation of the 2012 programmes

MSs welcomed the document, clarifying a certain number of issues but concerns were expressed in relation to the recommended minimum co-financing value (AT, SI, DK, ND).

VP made clear that, for 2014, there is no legal base to establish a minimum co-financing value but MSs are requested to reflect on that. However, the future CFF (2014-2020) is moving in that direction but the discussion will be at Council level in the near future.

8.3 EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMMES SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES FOR 2014.

ABR reminded that a call for expression of interest was published 28.2.2102¹ with the aim to select experts to assist the Commission with the pre-assessment of the programmes. For the 2013 programmes, 41 applications were submitted from 15 different MS, and 31 experts were selected for the pre-assessment of 147 programmes for 11 diseases.

The experts were assigned to a group of evaluators per disease in accordance to their experience. Electronic copies of the EN version of the programmes were submitted and experts were asked to complete an individual evaluation sheet in accordance with a guidance document.

Each programme was assessed by at least 2 experts, none of them from the same nationality of the programme under assessment. One expert per group was designated as rapporteur responsible for drafting the consensus report that was agreed during the meetings held in Brussels with all the experts and chaired by the Commission.

The Commission completed the evaluation of the programmes and contacted MS asking for modifications or additional information if needed following the technical and financial evaluation.

The 2014 programmes will also be evaluated with the technical assistance of external experts; some lessons learnt will be taken into account for the improvement of the assessment of the 2014 programmes, being nevertheless the 2013 experience very positive.

It was reminded that the deadline for submission of applications is open until 31 March 2013 and that once selected, the candidates must not resubmit an application.

¹ <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:65566-2012:TEXT:FR:HTML&src=0>

8.4 Draft Regulation (SANCO/11220/2012) laying down provisions for the management of expenditures relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material ("food and feed expenditure").

CP shortly presented the main points of the incoming Regulation, in the framework of the new CFF for 2014-2020 and spotted the main differences in relation to the actual EU financial framework.

8.5 Study on the evaluation of the animal disease eradication, monitoring and control programmes in the Member States EU co-financed.

VP shortly presented the main outcomes of the above-mentioned study carried out by external consultant and explained that a more complete presentation will be made at CVO level in the incoming weeks.

8.6 Financial reports 2012 and 2013.

LV and TC explained how the claims for 2012 programmes should be done, based on the documents already sent by the Commission, with particular attention to the "lump-sum" claims and MSs were requested to ask for further clarification, if necessary.

8.7 Update WD on "Eradication of bovine tuberculosis in the EU (SANCO/100672013).

VP shortly presented the document that is an update and more complete document on the eradication of tuberculosis, prepared with the contribution of the experts of the TB task force sub-group. The Document will be sent to all CVO and then published on SANCO web.

8.8 Work programme for Task Force subgroups in 2013.

VP informed MSs on the incoming meeting of the "Salmonella" task force sub-group in BG and of the "Classical swine fever" task force sub-group in Romania. Other meeting are under discussion with the concerned country.

8.9 Update on the IPA Multi-beneficiary project on the support for the control/eradication of animal diseases in the Western Balkans.

The IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) project is financed by DG Enlargement and managed by DG SANCO for the benefit of the 7 Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo²

² under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99

The objectives of the project are to improve the performance and the cross border cooperation between veterinary services as regards the implementation of animal health programmes (in particular Classical swine fever and rabies) and the harmonisation and coordination of eradication and control activities at regional level.

ABR presented an updated of the activities carried out since July 2011 divided in reporting, technical support and network building.

A meeting with the Chief Veterinary officers (CVOs) from the WB and MS neighbouring countries is organised on 7th March 2013 to discuss in particular the challenges identified on the adoption of measures at national level to consolidate the network & expand collaboration opportunities and to ensure the sustainability of the network beyond the lifetime of the Multi-Beneficiary project in September 2013.

ANNEX I

TASK FORCE FOR MONITORING ANIMAL DISEASE ERADICATION

Annual meeting of the Plenary Task Force

Friday, 1st March 2013- 9.30 H – 17.30 H

Conference Centre A. Borschette – Rue Froissart 36 – Bruxelles – AB 3B

AGENDA

1. Introduction, opening by Christophe Bertrand: Head of Unit G5- Veterinary Programmes

2. Reports of the Task Force subgroups:

- Tuberculosis : UK and Spain (Chair)
- Salmonellosis: Portugal (Chair)
- Brucellosis: Greece (Chair)
- Rabies: Croatia and Poland (Chairs)

3. **Point for discussion**

3.1 WD on "Performance Indicators" (SANCO/12915/2012)

4. **Points for information**

4.1 WD on principle and criteria on which is based the reaction of the Commission in case of unsatisfactory implementation of programmes co-financed under Article 27 of Council Decision 2009/470/EU (SANCO/12785/2012) **PD**

4.2 Priorities and timing 2013-2014. (WD SANCO/10449/2013) **VP**

4.3 External evaluation of the programmes submitted by Member States for 2014. **ABR/IS**

4.4 Draft Regulation (SANCO/11220/2012) laying down provisions for the management of expenditures relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material ("food and feed expenditure"). **CP/CB**

4.5 Study on the evaluation of the animal disease eradication, monitoring and control programmes in the Member States EU co-financed. **VP/CP**

4.6 Financial reports 2012 and 2013. **LV/TC**

4.7 Update WD on "Eradication of bovine tuberculosis in the EU (SANCO/100672013). **VP**

4.8 Work programme for Task Force subgroups in 2013. **VP**

4.9 Update on the IPA Multibeneficiary project on the support for the control/eradication of animal diseases in the Western Balkans. **ABR/DP**

5. Miscellaneous

ANNEX II



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**

Veterinary and International Affairs

Unit G5 -Veterinary Programmes.

Working document

SANCO/10499/2013

Animal disease eradication, control and monitoring programmes

Priorities for 2014 and timing 2013-2014.

INTRODUCTION

The **prioritisation** of the funding is decided and adjusted on an annual/multi-annual basis to ensure that it is fully appropriate to the situation actually prevailing and to boost, with the appropriate financial support, the positive trend for the co-financed eradication, control and monitoring programmes,

The Commission defines the priorities on the basis of its own internal assessment and evaluations of the situation in the Member States as well as at EU level.

The purpose of this document is to outline:

- a. The priority criteria for eradication, control and monitoring programmes of animal diseases and zoonoses for EU co-funding for 2014, in the context of Council Decision 2009/470/EC;
- b. The steps which will be followed when considering the programmes submitted by Member States (MS).

1. PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR ERADICATION CONTROL AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES OF ANIMAL DISEASES AND ZOOSES FOR CO-FUNDING IN 2014.

1.1. **Main priority criteria:**

1. The impact of the disease on public health;
2. The impact of the disease on animal health in relation to its potential spread and economic consequences (eg: production losses);
3. Implications of the disease on trade with third countries and intra-EU trade..

1.2. **Additional criteria to be considered in the prioritisation process, link to disease situation:**

- The proper implementation of the programmes in previous years and result achieved, evaluated on the basis of indicators;
- To prevent the introduction of animal diseases and zoonosis which pose a risk to human and animal health in the EU territory;
- The need to manage trans-boundary diseases which implies the involvement of Third Countries in order to protect bordering EU Member States;
- The need to ensure continuity and achieve progress for diseases and areas where increased efforts are still needed to achieve the final goal.

1.3. Measures eligible for co-funding:

As regards the measures eligible for co-funding, the following criteria have to be considered:

- The feasibility of the control measures;
- The administrative and financial manageability of the measures (by the Member States and the Commission);
- The compulsory nature of the measures according to the Union legislation.

As regards rate of the EU co-funding, compensation to be paid to the owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled in the framework of an eradication, control and monitoring programme, is 50%. For other eligible measures, an higher and/or differentiate rate could be envisaged taking into account the characteristic of the diseases and the situation of the concerned Member State/s.

1.4. Multi-annual programmes:

From 2014 onwards, it is strongly recommended to submit multi-annual programmes for all diseases where the activities are expected to largely remain the same for a number of years.

For this purpose the all the templates for the online submission of programmes have been adapted to enable the submission of multiannual programmes.

To shift to a multi-annual planning framework could reduce administrative burdens while increasing collective focus on medium-term strategic goals. The annual cycle of plan preparation, appraisal, approval, adoption and reporting is resource-intensive and involves a degree of year-on-year repetition. Multi-annual planning framework could help to address these issues without loss of accountability or financial control.

In addition, could be helpful, not least in increasing focus on the main goals of the programme, the quality of the plans and the risks to achieving them whilst reducing some of the complexities, burdens and timing challenges of the current arrangements. It should reduce the administrative burden on the Member States and the Commission. It would provide the scope for assessing programme plans in detail against the specific epidemiological situation in the Member States, and also the administrative capacity and stakeholder support for the proposed approach. The medium term objective is important.

Submitting a multiannual programme still allows for flexibility for eventual changes of strategy in the future during the implementation period as it is always possible to submit a modified programme at any time following the approval.

It is important to note that to ensure funding in each subsequent year of an already approved multiannual programme, it is necessary to submit by the 30 April of the previous year a request with updated targets and costs (not a full programme).

1.5. "Micro-programmes":

There is an administrative burden attached to EU funding of Member State plans, both in the Member States and in EU, which does not change in proportion to size of the award. In each case there is a requirement for preparation and scrutiny of the plan, preparation and adoption of Decision, financial administration and performance checks. Very small programmes have an administrative cost that it is disproportionate to the amount awarded and to the effect the money have on disease outcomes. The cost effectiveness of the EU programmes could be improved by shortening the 'long tail' of small programmes by only funding programmes above a certain size.

The majority of co-financing payments made for diseases and Member States in the past years were for more than €500,000. However, several payments amounted to €15,000 or less. 9 out of 124 co-financing payments executed in 2011 (representing 7,2 per cent of the total number of payments and less than 0,01% of the total amount executed) were below €4,000.

Introducing a minimum level of co-financing should improve the overall cost- effectiveness of the programme: adopting a minimum co-financing value of €25,000 would strike a balance between making efficient use of administrative capacity and generating benefits to the EU from the programme. In 2011, 22,6% of the total number of payments did not exceed €25.000 and represented 0,15% of the total amount executed.

The cost of some programmes, in particular for Avian Influenza, Bluetongue and Salmonella has been significantly reduced in the latest years due to a favourable epidemiological situation linked to the proper implementation of the monitoring and control programmes (**see Annex II**).

The Commission encourages MS to reconsider the submission of such programmes for co-financing taking into account the need of a more efficient use of limited human resources.

1.6. Union co-financing will not be granted:

- Programmes consisting of measures that are compulsory in Union legislation and not primarily aimed at eradication, such as those aimed at guaranteeing the health status of animals intended for trade;
- Programmes consisting of measures aimed at demonstrating the absence of a disease, aimed at obtaining the recognition of official freedom from the disease;

This approach is similar to that of recent years and is consistent with the approach to be outlined in the Communication on Community Animal Health Policy.

2. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAMMES.

The individual approval of the programmes follows a well-defined timetable according to the Council Decision 2009/470/EC. (Annex I).

Each programme has to fulfil the requirements (criteria) provided for by Commission Decision 2008/341/EC. Those criteria are specific for eradication programmes, monitoring/surveillance and control programmes.

The format to be used for the programmes to be submitted for 2014 is laid down in Commission Decision 2008/425/EC, as amended by Commission Decision 2012/282/EU

Programmes presented after the **deadline of 30 April 2013** will not be taken into account for financing the following year (Article 27(2) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC).

Unit SANCO G5 (Veterinary Programmes) is responsible for the veterinary and financial assessment and management of the programmes.

As for previous year, in order to provide for an additional tool to carry out the assessment, the Commission has selected experts to provide external, technical assistance for the pre-assessment of the 2014 programmes submitted by the Member States.

Unit SANCO G5 is responsible of the final assessment, based also on consultation within the Directorate-General and the reports from SANCO F (Food and Veterinary Office) and SANCO A (General Affairs- finance and planning) will be also considered.

The Commission can ask for additional information from the Member State if a programme proposed for co-financing does not contain all the requested information or if certain technical and financial amendments are necessary. The period for gathering all the information regarding the programmes shall end on 15 September 2013 [Article 27 (4) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC].

2.1 Monitoring the progress of the current programmes (2013):

The Commission will monitor and evaluate the programmes based *inter alia* on the following information:

- The intermediate technical and financial report of the programme as foreseen by Article 27 (7) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC, to be presented by 31 July 2013 by the Member State (Article 3 of Commission Decision 2008/940/EC and Article 16(c) of Commission Decision 2012/761/EU (Decision approving the individual programmes);
- Information from the Member States presented in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health;
- Final technical and financial reports, in accordance with Article 27 (7)(b) of Council Decision 2009/470/EC to be submitted by 30 April 2013, on the technical execution of the 2012 programme accompanied by justifying evidence as to the costs paid by the MS (Requested by Article 16(e) of Decision 2011/807/EU;
- Reports based on on-the-spot inspections by the Food and Veterinary Office;
- Reports based on other on-the-spot inspections or audits;
- Reports based on the activity of the Task Force on monitoring animal disease eradication.

In order to maintain transparency, the Commission makes the approved programmes available on the SANCO website
(http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/index_en.htm)

ANNEX I

Timetable for submission, evaluation and approval of eradication, control and monitoring programmes of certain animal diseases and zoonoses

Procedure for the approval of programmes for 2014

30 April 2013 SUBMISSION OF THE PROGRAMMES BY THE MEMBER STATES.

THE FORMAT TO BE USED FOR THE PROGRAMMES IS LAID DOWN IN COMMISSION DECISION 2008/425/EC (AS AMENDED BY COMMISSION DECISION 2012/282/EU).

Member States shall submit the 2014 programmes *via* the on-line system, using the standard electronic template provided by the Commission (Article 1a of Commission Decision 2008/425/EC, as amended,).

The modified pdf templates to be used to submit the programmes will be sent to all MSs by middle of March.

Second week of July:	End of the preliminary evaluation of the programmes by external experts
From middle July 2013:	Request for additional information by Commission.
15 September 2013:	End of the period for gathering information from MS.
October/November:	Decision approving the programmes voted at SCOFCAH
By 30 November 2013:	Adoption of the Decision approving the programmes and fixing the EU financial contribution.

Current programmes 2013

31 JULY 2013 INTERMEDIATE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RE- ALLOCATION SHEET.

Based on standard templates, provided by the Commission, first evaluation (technical and financial) of the programme implemented by the Member States to be submitted to Commission.

Based on the information (both financial and technical [e.g. number of test performed, number of animals culled etc.]) on eligible measures to be taken by the end of the year) as well on the information of the intermediate report/re-allocation sheet provided by the MSs, the Commission will proceed to the funding re-allocation with the aim of optimising the use of the resources.

Programme 2012

- **30 April 2013** *FINAL REPORT (TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL) FROM THE MEMBER STATE* (by Article 16(e) of Commission Decision 2011/807/EU)

Commission Decision lays down standard reporting requirements for programmes of eradication and control of animal diseases co-financed by the Community (Commission Decision 2008/940/EC)

30 October 2013: The Commission decides on the reimbursements.

Please, note that the documents (reports of the TF etc) and the legislation related to the programmes approved can be found at:

http://s-sanco-europa/food/animal/diseases/eradication/taskforce_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/eradication/legisl_en.htm

ANNEX II

"Micro-programmes": payments for programmes implemented in 2011 (< 25.000 euro).

MSs	Payments Avian Influenza 2011	%	
MALTA	€ 1.521,82	0,0590%	5,2247%
LUXEMBOURG	€ 1.736,56	0,0673%	
ESTONIA	€ 2.841,61	0,1102%	
LITHUANIA	€ 10.000,00	0,3877%	
GREECE	€ 11.004,46	0,4266%	
SLOVAKIA	€ 12.220,40	0,4738%	
CYPRUS	€ 12.987,78	0,5035%	
SWEDEN	€ 15.259,05	0,5916%	
FINLAND	€ 19.274,33	0,7472%	
AUSTRIA	€ 22.924,70	0,8887%	
BULGARIA	€ 25.000,00	0,9692%	94,775%
PORTUGAL	€ 28.347,43	1,0990%	
SLOVENIA	€ 28.357,70	1,0994%	
LATVIA	€ 35.094,87	1,3605%	
CZECH REPUBLIC	€ 38.525,79	1,4935%	
IRELAND	€ 46.197,80	1,7910%	
DENMARK	€ 49.782,81	1,9299%	
FRANCE	€ 51.785,17	2,0076%	
HUNGARY	€ 87.309,59	3,3848%	
BELGIUM	€ 89.829,91	3,4825%	
UNITED KINGDOM	€ 94.289,71	3,6554%	
POLAND	€ 100.000,00	3,8767%	
GERMANY	€ 105.202,64	4,0784%	
SPAIN	€ 150.000,00	5,8151%	
ROMANIA	€ 180.000,00	6,9781%	
NETHERLANDS	€ 360.000,00	13,9562%	
ITALY	€ 1.000.000,00	38,7673%	
EU 27	€ 2.579.494,13	100%	

MSs	Payments Blue Tongue 2011	%	
BULGARIA	€ 576,05	0,006%	0,540%
MALTA	€ 2.121,39	0,022%	
IRELAND	€ 4.287,00	0,044%	
SWEDEN	€ 4.327,50	0,044%	
LITHUANIA	€ 4.447,70	0,045%	
ESTONIA	€ 5.274,62	0,054%	
FINLAND	€ 6.846,00	0,070%	
HUNGARY	€ 10.089,85	0,103%	
LATVIA	€ 14.901,26	0,152%	
GREECE	€ 30.455,83	0,311%	
NETHERLANDS	€ 34.772,60	0,355%	
SLOVENIA	€ 41.573,88	0,425%	
SLOVAKIA	€ 47.763,13	0,488%	
POLAND	€ 49.247,05	0,503%	
AUSTRIA	€ 62.730,80	0,641%	
ITALY	€ 300.000,00	3,063%	
BELGIUM	€ 315.732,72	3,224%	
CZECH REPUBLIC	€ 659.297,12	6,732%	
PORTUGAL	€ 1.219.592,80	12,454%	
FRANCE	€ 1.778.992,37	18,166%	
SPAIN	€ 5.200.000,00	53,099%	
EU 27	€ 9.793.029,67	100%	

MSs	Payments Salmonella 2011	%	
LUXEMBOURG	€ 112,35	0,001%	0,350%
UNITED KINGDOM	€ 999,22	0,011%	
BULGARIA	€ 3.066,16	0,035%	
DENMARK	€ 5.405,77	0,062%	
ESTONIA	€ 21.118,60	0,241%	99,650%
SLOVENIA	€ 42.149,83	0,481%	
CYPRUS	€ 54.750,86	0,625%	
IRELAND	€ 88.101,56	1,006%	
ITALY	€ 341.046,48	3,893%	
SLOVAKIA	€ 458.811,80	5,238%	
GREECE	€ 515.000,00	5,879%	
SPAIN	€ 542.640,52	6,195%	
CZECH REPUBLIC	€ 552.000,00	6,302%	
FRANCE	€ 660.000,00	7,534%	
AUSTRIA	€ 1.022.459,80	11,672%	
LATVIA	€ 1.381.063,34	15,766%	
HUNGARY	€ 1.507.000,00	17,204%	
NETHERLANDS	€ 1.564.000,00	17,854%	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	€ 8.759.726,29	100,000%	