SUBMISSION OF ERADICATION PROGRAMME FOR TB in BOVINE ANIMALS BASED ON GRANTING DISEASE-FREE STATUS AT ESTABLISHMENT LEVEL

Template in accordance with Article 10 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002

1. **Date of submission**: 31/05/2021
2. Member State: **Greece**
3. **Name of the disease**: Bovine Tuberculosis
4. **Contact details**:

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b. Responsibility within the competent authority: Responsible Veterinarian of the programme
c. Name: Aristomenis KATSIOLIS

5. Territorial scope with a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas covered by the eradication programme and the names of the zones and regions, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme:

The Bovine Tuberculosis eradication programme is implemented in the whole territory of Greece on all bovine establishments.

The geographical and administrative areas covered by the eradication programme in the Member State of Greece are the following:

Region	**Regional Unit**
Attica	Central Athens, North Athens, West Athens, South Athens, Piraeus, East Attica, West Attica, Islands
Peloponnese	Arcadia, Argolida, Korinthia, Laconia, Messinia
Western Greece	Ahaia, Etoloacarnania, Ilia
Central Greece	Viotia, Evia, Evrytania, Fokida, Fthiotida
Epirus	Arta, Ioannina, Preveza, Thesprotia
Thessaly	Karditsa, Larisa, Magnesia & Sporades, Trikala,
Central Macedonia	Halkidiki, Imathia, Kilkis, Pella, Pieria, Serres, Thessaloniki
Western Macedonia	Florina, Grevena, Kastoria, Kozani
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace	Drama, Evros, Kavala, Thasos, Rhodope, Xanthi
Northern Aegean	Hios, Lemnos, Lesbos, Samos & Ikaria
Southern Aegean	Cyclades, Dodecanese
Crete	Hania, Iraklio, Lasithi, Rethymno
Ionian Islands	Corfu, Ithaca, Kefalonia, Lefkada, Zakynthos

Map I. Administrative division of Greece in Regions

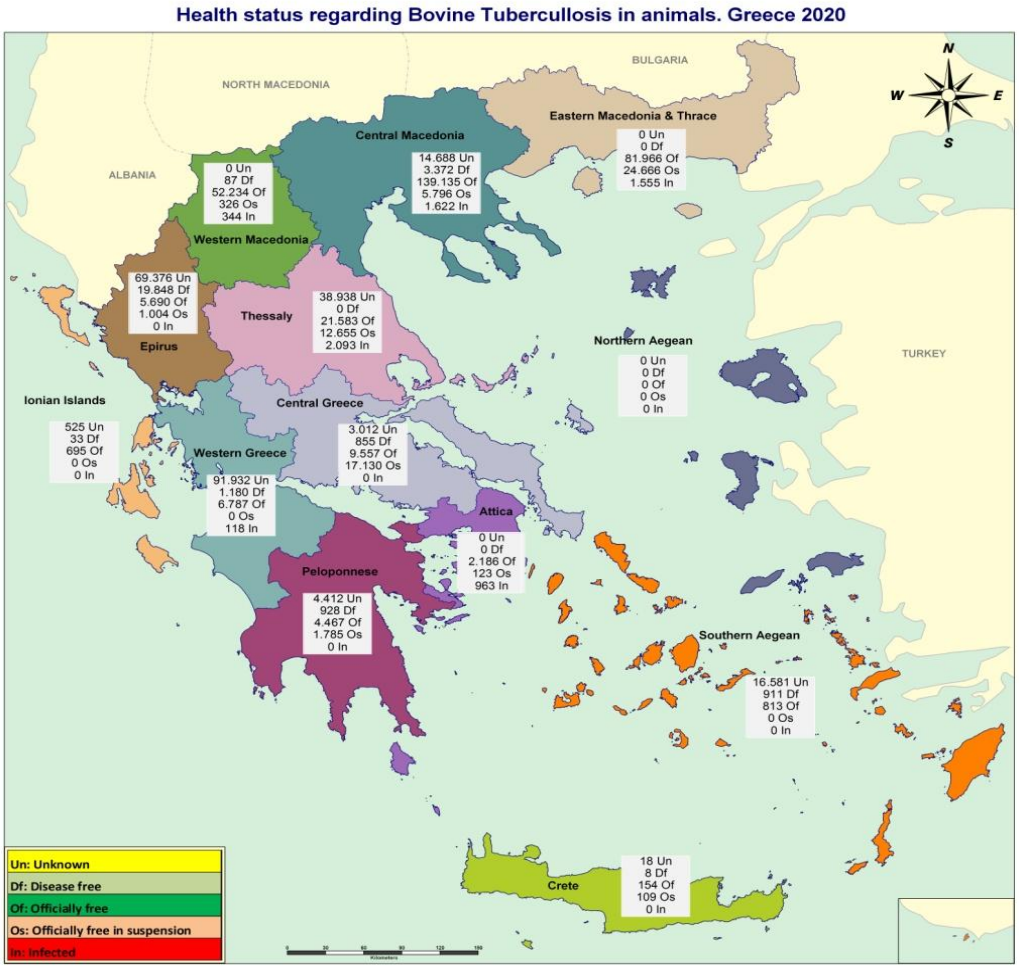
Map II. Administrative division of Greece in Regional Units.

6. Description of the epidemiological situation for each zone or region, if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme [(a) the number of establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population by health status (Disease-free, infected or unknown) excluding establishments falling under the derogation referred to in point (6)(f) at 31 December;
(b) the number of animals of the targeted animal population kept in the establishments referred to in point (a) by health status;]

Epidemiological situation for 2020 (Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex)										
Region	**Health status**									
Region	**Unknown**		**Disease free***		**Officially free**		**Officially free in suspension**		**Infected**	
	N.E.	**N.A.**	**N.E.**	**N.A.**	**N.E.**	**N.A.**	**N.E.**	**N.A.**	**N.E.**	**N.A.**
Attica	0	0	0	0	30	2.186	11	123	8	963
Peloponnese	182	4.412	12	928	135	4.467	93	1.785	0	0
Western Greece	1.575	91.932	9	1.180	123	6.787	0	0	2	118
Central Greece	236	3.012	11	855	134	9.557	363	17.130	0	0
Epirus	1.030	69.376	283	19.848	114	5.690	23	1.004	0	0
Thessaly	480	38.938	0	0	312	21.583	318	12.655	15	2.093
Central Macedonia	368	14.688	38	3.372	1.682	139.135	149	5.796	17	1.622
Western Macedonia	0	0	1	87	1.102	52.234	28	326	4	344
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace	0	0	0	0	1.898	81.966	1.020	24.666	24	1.555
Northern Aegean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Aegean	1.267	16.581	82	911	160	813	0	0	0	0
Crete	14	18	4	8	23	154	16	109	0	0
Ionian Islands	61	525	1	33	23	695	0	0	0	0
Total	**5.213**	**239.482**	**441**	**27.222**	**5.736**	**325.627**	**2.021**	**63.594**	**70**	**6.695**

**Animals tested negative on the last test for tuberculosis.*
N.E.: Number of Establishments, N.A.: Number of Animals

(c) maps indicating the density of the targeted animal population referred to in point (b) by health status;



Map IV. Bovine population in Greece, by health status as regards TB.

(d) Timeline with prevalence, incidence data and, where relevant, covering at least the past 5 years:

Infection of establishments with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex		
Year	**Prevalence**	**Incidence**
2016	3,57%	1,27%
2017	2,18%	0,62%
2018	2,97%	1,59%
2019	2,60%	1,16%
2020	1,65%	1,03%

Prevalence= positive animals/ tested animals

Incidence= new positive animals/ tested animals

Even we have a big number of unknown health status herds; this is the only way to calculate the prevalence and the incidence in national level.

7. Description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 16 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 including at least:

(a) Sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex IV to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689:

- The official diagnostic methods for granting and maintaining tuberculosis-free status are described in Section 2 of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No . 2020/689/EU and are as follows:

1.1. Intradermal tuberculin tests

(a) simple intradermal tuberculin testing (SITT)

(b) comparative intradermal tuberculosis (CITT)

2. γ-interferon test

1.2. In order to maintain and re-establish the TB-free status of bovine establishment s and in the case of slaughter of suspect positive cattle in this context, the investigation shall include examination of samples by direct diagnostic methods: bacteriological, histological and molecular techniques.

- Sampling schemes

(i) for the granting of the disease-free status to establishments and the maintenance of that status:

- For the granting of the disease-free status to establishments, a simple intradermal tuberculin test is performed to all cattle over 6 weeks of age. If the results of the first skin reaction are negative, then the establishment is characterized as negative for tuberculosis.
- Within the following 6-8 months a simple intradermal tuberculin test is performed to all cattle over 6 weeks of age. If the results of the second intradermal tuberculin test are also negative, the establishment is characterized as officially free of tuberculosis, provided that:
- between the two tests, any bovine animal, over 6 weeks of age, entering the establishment from an area not officially TB-free must have reacted negatively to a tuberculin test within 30 days prior to its introduction or, within 30 days after the introduction into the establishment.
- In this second case, the Veterinary Services of the Regional Units of the destination must consent for the introduction and the animal(s) must be kept under isolation, without any contact with the rest of the animal population of the establishment,
- bovine animals of the establishment must not come into contact with bovine animals belonging to an establishment with a lower health status as regards TB.

(ii) to confirm or rule out the disease in the event of a suspected case;

For the purpose of the implementation of the TB eradication programme, bovine establishments shall be classified as follows:

Health statuses of bovine establishments as regards TB;

(1) A bovine establishment of unknown health status **(T1)** is defined as an establishment for which there is no information on TB during the last five (5) years.

(2) A bovine establishment positive for tuberculosis **(T+)** is defined as an establishment on which the events described in point 1 of Section 4, Chapter 1, Part II, Part 1, of Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No. 2020/689/EU are met.

The procedure for the restoration/recovery of TB-free status is described in points 3 and 4 of Section 4, Chapter 1, Part II, Chapter 1, of Annex IV to Regulation 2020/689/EU.

(3) A bovine establishment negative for tuberculosis **(T2)** is designated:

(a) A T1 establishment, when all bovine animals over 6 weeks of age have been subjected to immunological tests (tuberculin/γ-interferon) with negative results,

(b) The T+ establishment, when:

(i) at least 6 months after the removal of the last positive animal, all the remaining bovine animals have been subjected to an immunological test (tuberculin/g-interferon) with negative results; and

(ii) tests on samples taken from carcasses of bovine animals of the establishment (bacteriological, histological testing and molecular techniques) have been carried out with negative results, for a period of at least six months after the removal of the last positive animal. (Point bi, of paragraph 1.1 of Section 1, Chapter 1 of Part II of Annex IV to the Regulation 2020/689/EU).

(4) A bovine establishment free from tuberculosis (T3 - tuberculosis-free status) is designated:

An establishment which is free of Mycobacterium bovis, Mycobacterium caprae and Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and which complies with the conditions laid down in Section 1, Chapter 1, Part II, Part II, of Annex IV to Regulation 2020/689/EU.

In order to maintain T3 status, the conditions laid down in Section 2, Chapter 1, Part II, Part II, Annex IV of the Regulation 2020/689/EU must be met.

(5) A bovine establishment Tuberculosis-free in suspension (T3 suspension) is designated:

An establishment to which the provisions described in Section 3 of Chapter 1 of Part II of Chapter 1 of Part II of Annex IV to Regulation 2020/689/EU are met and the following additionally apply:

(i) there are bovine animals tested with a positive reaction to a simple intradermal tuberculin test, which have been driven to slaughter.

- During their post-mortem inspection – creoscopic examination, samples shall be taken for investigating the disease by bacteriological, histological testing and molecular techniques, after sending samples to the NRL for Bovine TB (according to point (b), paragraph 2, Section 3, of Chapter 1 of Part II of Chapter 1 of Annex IV to Regulation 2020/689/EU).
- In addition to the above tests and irrespective of their results, a comparative tuberculin test shall be carried out within 42-60 days after the slaughter of the last animal that reacted positively and after completion of cleaning and disinfection.
- At the same time as above, blood samples shall be taken for the purpose of carrying out the γ-interferon serological test on at least 10 % of all animals on the establishment, in accordance with the instructions of the NRL for Bovine TB.
- Until the tests are completed and the results obtained, the status of the establishment shall be designated as T3 suspension.
- Restoration to T3 status shall only take place, if the results of both the tuberculin and γ-interferon tests are negative. Otherwise, the T3 suspension status shall be withdrawn and the establishment shall be classified as T+.
- If the laboratory tests, as described above, are not carried out, the establishment shall be classified as T+.

(ii) there are bovine animals which have reacted positively to a simple intradermal tuberculin test, but a false positive result, following interference by another agent, is suspected and the results of a re-examination are awaited.

- The re-examination shall include a comparative tuberculin test and/or a γ-interferon test. Pending the completion of the tests and the relevant results, the status of the establishment shall be designated as T3 suspension.

- Restoration to T3 status shall only take place if the results of the re-examination are negative. Otherwise, the disease-free status shall be withdrawn and the establishment shall be classified as T+.

(iii) there are bovine animals tested with a simple intradermal tuberculin test, which turned in an inconclusive reaction.

- Pending retesting with simple or comparative tuberculin test or alternatively with the γ-interferon test and the relevant results, the status of the establishment shall be designated as T3 suspension.

- Restoration to T3 status shall only take place if the results of the re-examination are negative. Otherwise, the exempted status shall be withdrawn and the establishment shall be classified as T+.

(iv) there are bovine animals in whom lesions compatible with tuberculosis have been found during a post-mortem inspection of their carcases in the slaughterhouse (creoscopic inspection).

- Samples from these lesions shall be taken for laboratory testing, after contacting and sending samples to the NRL for Bovine TB.

- In the case of positive results of those tests, the establishment shall be classified as T+.

- In case the infection is not confirmed in any of the above laboratory tests, or if, according to the NRL for Bovine TB, the required number of samples is not available or the samples are unsuitable for testing, then a simple intradermal tuberculin test shall be carried out on all bovine animals of the establishment.

- Alternatively, blood samples shall be taken for the purpose of carrying out the gamma-interferon serological test on at least 10% of all animals on the establishment, in accordance with the instructions of the NRL for Bovine TB.

- If the results are negative, the officially free status shall be restored.

- Until the tests are completed and the results obtained, the establishment of origin of the above animals shall be classified as T3 suspension.

- If the laboratory tests, as described above, are not carried out, the establishment shall be classified as T+, provided that the results of the epizootiological investigation also indicate presence of tuberculosis.

(v) the process for the restoration of the tuberculosis-free status is described in point 2 of Section 3, Chapter 1 of Part II of Annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 2020/689/EU.

Establishments that have been in suspension status for more than 5 years shall move to T+ status.

(b) disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case:

The measures foreseen in infected from tuberculosis herds are the following:

1) Exit from and entrance in the affected premises of animals is prohibited, with the exception of those destined for slaughter; in this case, the procedure is verified with the appropriate documents (according to national legislation) for movement to the slaughterhouse, under “slaughter in the framework of eradication programme”, issued by the Local Veterinary Authorities and accompanying animals throughout transport.

2) Infected animals are marked with a "T" shape punch in the right ear and must be kept in isolation from the other animals until their slaughter. A special, clearly separated space is defined for the

isolation of positive and suspect animals so that they do not come in contact with the other animals of the establishment.

3) All animals slaughtered undergo a detailed creoscopic examination and any infected or suspect for infection organ is delivered to the National Reference Laboratory for further investigation with bacteriological, histological examination and molecular techniques.

4) An epidemiological investigation is conducted, so as the source of infection is determined and the herds linked with the outbreak are also determined and investigated. The results are registered in the Certificate of Epidemiological Investigation.

5) All establishments in a radius of 500m from the infected one are checked in high priority, if they have not been already checked in the framework of the programme.

6) In case the TB-positive establishment utilizes a pasture, no other establishment is permitted to move to it until 60 days have passed since the departure of the positive establishment from that pasture.

7) In case that more than one establishment are grazing in the pasture, then the Veterinary Services of the Regional Unit can recommend the stamping out of the cattle population of the establishment, in case the percentage of cattle over 6 weeks that reacted positively to tuberculin test exceeds 50% of all animals of the establishments. The 50% infection rate results from the ratio of the number of positive cattle to the total number of the cattle tested.

(c) biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented:

1) Exit from and entrance in the affected premises of animals is prohibited, with the exception of those destined for slaughter; in this case, the procedure is verified with the appropriate documents (according to national legislation) for movement to the slaughterhouse, under “slaughter in the framework of eradication programme”, issued by the Local Veterinary Authorities and accompanying animals throughout transport.

2) Disinfection basins/disinfecting ditches shall be placed at the entrances and exits of the establishment for vehicles and footwear of persons moving inside and around.

3) Infected animals shall be identified, marked with a 'T' shaped right ear piercing and isolated from the rest of the animals on the establishment until slaughter, under the responsibility of the farmer.

4) In case the percentage of positive animals is less than 50% of the total number of animals on the establishment, these positive animals shall be taken to the slaughterhouse within 30 calendar days from the date of delivery of a “Decision of Imposing Measures” issued by the Regional Veterinary Authorities to the farmer.

5) In case the percentage of positive animals is equal to or higher than 50% of the total number of animals on the establishment, then a γ-interferon serological test shall be carried out on at least 10% of the positive animals, following the instructions of the NRL for Bovine TB.

6) An epizootiological investigation shall be carried out in order to detect the origin of the infection, as well as to identify bovine establishments which are epidemiologically linked to the infected one (Article 57 of Regulation 2016/429). The data of the epizootiological investigation are recorded in the "Epizootiological Investigation Bulletin", which is sent in a completed form to the Department of Zoonosis of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food and to the NRL for Bovine TB.

7) Regarding other animals of species susceptible to *TB*, if present (eg ovine and caprine animals, swines, dogs), measures are applied as foreseen. More specifically, in case of suspicion in the targeted animal population, other animals of species susceptible are tested and, if positive, they are culled or euthanized.

8) For the handling of products from infected premises, the local competent authority shall issue a “Decision of Imposing Measures”, in accordance with Article 28 of Regulation 2020/689/EU, as follows:

(i) milk from bovine animals which have given a positive or inconclusive reaction to testing shall not be used for human consumption. It shall be collected in a separate container and destroyed in accordance with Regulations 1069/2009/EC and 142/2011/EU. However, it may be used for animal feed provided that it is first subjected to appropriate heat treatment and the Local Veterinary Authorities is informed in writing by the farmer.

(ii) Milk from bovine animals from an infected establishment which have given a negative result to testing shall be used in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 853/2004 EU, Annex III, Section IX, Chapter I, Par. 3α.

(iii) Farm materials (manure, straw, feed, etc.) and utensils which have come into contact with infected animals or contaminated surfaces shall be collected and disposed of immediately.

The Local Veterinary Authorities may, if it considers it appropriate, manage the above-mentioned materials in accordance with Regulation 1069/2009 and Regulation 142/2011/EU.

9) The slaughter of animals with a positive reaction must be carried out in accordance with point 1 of Article 33 of Regulation 2019/627/EU. The transport of animals to the slaughterhouse shall take place after they have been previously marked with a "T" shaped right ear piercing and all necessary measures have been taken to prevent contamination. Carcasses of positive animals shall be subjected to a detailed creoscopic examination, in accordance with point 2 of Article 33 of Regulation 2019/627/EU.

10) Samples of organs with lesions suspected of tuberculosis are collected and sent to the NRL for Bovine TB to carry out bacteriological, histological testing and molecular techniques for the investigation of the disease.

11) One (1) to seven (7) days after the slaughter of the last infected animal, a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the materials, premises, farm equipment, means of transport, after the transport of the animals and the loading areas for animals shall be compulsorily carried out.

The same procedure shall be repeated at the earliest 7 days after the completion of the first disinfection and at the latest 15 days after the slaughter of the last infected animal.

Cleansing and disinfection on the establishment shall be carried out under the supervision of an official veterinarian. After completion of the disinfection procedures, a disinfection certificate shall be issued in duplicate. One copy shall be handed to the farmer and kept in the establishment’s file and the other copy shall be kept in the file of the Local Veterinary Authorities. In addition, the measures provided for in Regulation 2020/689/EU Article 30 is followed.

12) The keeper of an establishment, with TB positive animals, shall be informed in writing of the biosecurity measures to be applied on his establishment, in accordance with Regulation 2016/429 Article 10. The farmer is reminded of the importance of the presence of tuberculosis on his farm as a zoonotic disease, the related risks to the health of persons entering the farm and to public health.

13) Following the confirmation of the disease on the establishment, the Regional Veterinary Authorities shall immediately inform the Regional Public Health Department, so that the farmer can be tested for TB, in order to exclude his infection and the transmission of the disease to other persons. A copy of the results of the examination shall be handed over to the Regional Veterinary Authorities and kept in its files and forwarded to the Regional Veterinary Authorities, in the event of a claim for compensation.

(d) type of vaccine(s) to be used and the vaccination scheme, if relevant;

Vaccination against TB is prohibited.

(e) measures to be implemented as regards additional animal populations, if relevant;

Regarding other animals of species susceptible to *TB,* if present (eg sheep and goats, swines, dogs), measures are applied as foreseen. More specifically, in case of suspicion in the targeted animal

population, other animals of species susceptible are tested and, if positive, they are culled or euthanized.

(f) derogations to be applied in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, if relevant;

A derogation in accordance with Article 19 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 shall be applied after a relevant request.

(g) coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, if relevant.

N/A.

(h) targeted animal populations and when applicable, additional animal populations:

- The targeted animal population for the eradication programme includes all bovine animals.
- additional animal populations for a control programme: goats and sheep.

8. Description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme:

A) The Directorate of Animal Health of the Directorate General of Veterinary Services, of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food is responsible for the preparation and publication of the Joint Ministerial Decision about the costs for the implementation of the programme.

B) The Department of Zoonoses of the Directorate of Animal Health, of the Directorate General of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food is responsible for:

i) the targets and planning of the programme,

(ii) centralized control and coordination of all the relevant authorities involved in the implementation of the programme throughout the country,

(iii) the designation of the implementing authorities of the programme and the definition of the responsibilities regarding the needs of the programme,

(iv) the provision of appropriate instructions and clarifications to the implementing authorities of the programme,

(v) collecting the data and results of the audit programme, evaluating them and informing the competent authorities of the Commission of the European Union,

vi) the timely supply of tuberculins (avian and bovine) and diagnostic reagents, in collaboration with the Directorate General Of Financial Services of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food.

C) The Directorate of Animal Protection And Veterinary Drugs of the Directorate General of Veterinary Services, of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food is responsible for the implementation of the system of identification and registration of the establishments according to the Regulations (EC) 1760/2000 and 911/2004.

D) The Veterinary Directorates of the Region are responsible for:

(i) the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the programme in their region,

(ii) the cooperation with the respective Veterinary Departments of their region and with the Department of Zoonoses of the Directorate of Animal Health,

(iii) the bimonthly collection of the Bimonthly Surveillance Certificates of the Bovine Tuberculosis programme.

(iv) in case of inability of implementation of the programme by the Veterinary Services of the Regional Units of the country they will be assisted by the employees of the Regional Veterinary Directorates.

E) The Veterinary Services of the Regional Units are responsible:

(i) to designate the person responsible for implementing and monitoring the programme,

(ii) to carry out official controls (checking the marking of animals, the special marking of infected animals, checking the records of establishments, all the necessary bulletins relating to the implementation of the programme and the issuance of Health Certificates, for the movement of animals or herds) and cooperation with creoscopic veterinarians in the territory of their responsibility,

(iii) for the application (tuberculin tests / blood sampling) and evaluation of the implementation of the programme at the level of Regional Unit,

(iv) for the application for dispatch of required doses of avian and bovine tuberculins, receipt, proper keeping and administration of tuberculins.

(v) for the sending of the requested statistical data of the programme to the Veterinary Directorates of the Region and to the Department of Zoonoses of the Directorate of Animal Health, on a bimonthly, semiannual basis,

(vi) for the completion and sending of the Bimonthly Surveillance Certificates of their Regional Unit within the 1st week from the end of the month mentioned in the Certificate and the updating of the online veterinary database for tuberculin tests / blood samples,

(vii) to inform breeders, veterinarians, livestock and agricultural cooperatives and private veterinarians about the programme and to cooperate and inform other competent authorities and bodies about the implementation of the programme.

(viii) Creoscopic veterinarians must inform in writing the person responsible for the implementation of the programme in case of observation of characteristic findings of tuberculosis in carcasses. Any suspect for TB finding in the slaughterhouse must be sampled and sent for further examination and testing to the National Reference Laboratory for TB in bovine animals (NRL for Bovine TB).

F) The National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (NRL for Bovine TB), Department of Diagnostic Pathological Anatomy, Histology, Microbiology and Physiopathology of Breast of the Centre of Veterinary Institutes in Athens (NRL) is responsible for:

(i) the receipt of the pathological material for histological, bacteriological examination and molecular tests,

(ii) cooperate within the EU network with the National Reference Laboratories for tuberculosis,

(iii) provide scientific and technical assistance to the Directorate of Animal Health for the implementation of coordinated control plans,

(iv) collect the semiannual and annual aggregated statistics and results from the laboratories participating in the programme and submit them to the Directorate of Animal Health and organize interlaboratory tests for the rest of the National laboratories that are participating in the programme.

G) The Department of Veterinary Laboratories of Larissa of the Centre of Veterinary Institutes in Thessaloniki is responsible for:

(i) the receipt of samples for γ-interferon testing in accordance with the instructions of the NRL for Bovine TB,

(ii) the sending of statistical and financial data to the NRL for Bovine TB.

H) The Bureau of Diagnostic Pathological Anatomy of the Centre of Veterinary Institutes in Thessaloniki for the receipt of the pathological material sent and the histological examination of samples from carcasses, following the detection of characteristic or suspicious tuberculosis lesions by the creoscopic veterinarians.

I) Responsible for the implementation of tests and examinations, on the recommendation and in accordance with the instructions of the NRL for Bovine TB are:

(a) the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Heraklion, the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Rhodes, the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Patras, the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Chania and the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Tripoli of the Directorate of Veterinary Centre of Athens (DKA).

(b) The Department of Avian and Bee Pathology, Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Brucellosis, the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Ioannina and the Department of Veterinary Laboratory of Kavala of the Directorate of Veterinary Centre of Thessaloniki (DKTH).

J) Private veterinarians working in livestock / agricultural cooperatives, dairy and cheesemaking industries, can implement under conditions, the bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis (BTB) programmes.

K) The managers of cattle establishments in the country are required to comply with Articles 10 and 11 of Reg. 2016/429/EU and in addition to:

(a) have their bovine establishments and their livestock registered in the Identification and Registration System

(b) meet the requirements described in Regulations (EC) 1760/2000 and 911/2004, as applicable;

(c) inform and update the establishment's registries of any change concerning the animal population in accordance with the identification and registration legislation in force

(d) keep all the necessary documents and the results of laboratory tests in the establishments' registries

(e) maintain biosecurity measures on their establishments in order to prevent possible contamination of the animals

(f) comply with the restrictive, sanitary and biosecurity measures imposed on their establishment

(g) capture and restrain animals in a secure manner in order to facilitate veterinary operations and to avoid injury to participants, in such a way as to ensure the least possible stress to the animals, taking biosecurity measures equivalent to those of the veterinarian (wearing gloves, goggles, mask, etc.).

(h) cooperate with the competent authority and veterinarians in the implementation of the prevention and control measures provided for in this Decision.

(i) check and inform the RVA and/or the private veterinarian of any significant change in the health status of their animals (sudden deaths, sudden and unexpected drop in milk production, reduction in feed intake, abortions, etc.) in order to take the necessary measures (testing, sampling, etc.).

L) A Central Committee is set up for the coordination, control and effective implementation of the programme, which acts as an advisory body to the Department of Zoonoses.

The Central Committee consists of:

1. the Head of the Directorate of Animal Health as the President,
2. the Head of the Department of Zoonoses Animal of the Directorate of Animal Health as the Vice President,
3. the Head of the Animal Health Department of the Directorate of Veterinary Inspection and Control,
4. the responsible veterinarian of the programme from the Department of Zoonoses,
5. a veterinarian in charge of the Livestock Registration and Selection of the Directorate of Animal Protection, Medicines and Veterinary Applications of the General Directorate of Sustainable Animal Production & Veterinary, of the Ministry of Rural Development & Food,
6. the veterinarian in charge of the NRL for Bovine TB.

The Central Committee meets at least once a year to evaluate the implementation of the programme in each region of the country and throughout the country. In case that the objectives of the programme

are not achieved in some area, the Committee reviews the situation, plans and proposes measures to resolve the problems, in order to implement the programme effectively and to achieve the targets.

In this case, the Committee may also include:

a) the Committee of the Region, which consists of:

1. the Head of the Animal Health Department of the Veterinary Directorate of the Region,
2. the Heads of the Veterinary Departments of the Directorate of Agricultural Economy and Veterinary Medicine of the Regional Unit,
3. the veterinarians responsible for the implementation of the programme designated by the Veterinary Departments of the Regional Unit,
4. a veterinarian of the nearest Veterinary Laboratory in the area.

b) the Committee of the Regional Unit, which consists of:

1. the Head of the Veterinary Department of the Regional Unit,
2. the veterinarian responsible for the implementation of the programme designated by the Department of Veterinary Medicine of the Regional Unit,
3. a veterinarian of the nearest Veterinary Laboratory in the area.

9. Estimated duration of the eradication programme:

The estimated duration of the eradication programme is ten (10) years (+/- two (2) years).