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## Scientific overview of the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in EU in 2020

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### HPAI in Europe

Distribution of number of HPAI outbreaks detected in Europe by epidemic season and week of suspicion (n=3,280)



# HPAI in Europe



Geographical distribution of HPAI outbreaks by epidemic seasons

(n=521)



### Genetic characterisation of HPAI viruses



Genetic characterisation of HPAI virus circulating in Europe since December 2019



### Genetic characterisation of HPAI viruses



Genetic characterisation of HPAI virus circulating in Europe since December 2019



# HPAI in Europe



Geographical distribution of HPAI outbreaks since December 2019

(n=334)



### Wild birds - surveillance



Number of wild birds tested under surveillance from October 2018 to June 2019 (n=572) and from October 2019 to June 2020 (n=795)



## Poultry – weekly distribution by species





# Poultry – sampling programme



Frequency distribution of HPAL outbreaks in poultry in Europe, by bird species and sampling programme leading to the outbreak detection (n=328)



### Poultry – secondary spread



For secondary outbreaks (276 out of 328) the most likely source of infection was indirect contact with poultry



### HPAI outside the EU



Since end of July, 75 HPAI A(H5N8) outbreaks have been detected in Russia (n=11), Kazakhstan (n=61) and Israel (n=3)





- The risk of zoonotic transmission of AI viruses to the general public in Europe remains very low
- The high number of secondary outbreaks recorded at duck and goose establishments, since December 2019, indicates that these categories of poultry need to be better regulated to increase biosecurity at farm and during the transport to prevent uncontrolled spread of infection
- The presence of HPAI A(H5) outbreaks in Russia and Kazakhstan in wild and domestic birds should lead Member States to take appropriate measures to promptly detect suspected cases of HPAI virus and to increase biosecurity measures



- Member States should take appropriate measures to promptly detect suspected cases of HPAI virus and to increase biosecurity measures
- In the absence of complete information on the species of infected wild birds detected in Russia and Kazakhstan, passive surveillance should still focus on sick or dead birds of the target species
- According to past experience (2005-2006 and 2016-2017 epidemic waves), the northern and eastern European areas might be at higher risk of virus introduction in this autumn-winter season and should be the key regions where prompt response measures to early detect the virus should be set up

## Conclusions and suggestions



 Sudden and persistent drop in the temperatures in Russia and Kazakhstan may favour a westward/southward spread of the virus



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