



EU POLICY ON EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASES

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INTRODUCTION

Definition of an emerging disease

"means a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health."

(OIE, 2008)



INTRODUCTION

Examples of emerging diseases

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 corresponds to the first part of the OIE definition; Bluetongue serotype 8 to the second; and BSE to the third.

These are probably the clearest examples of emerging diseases, which have caused major problems in many EU Member States in recent years



Other diseases have emerged or re-emerged in the past decades

In the EU: African Horse Sickness; African Swine Fever; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia; West Nile Fever

In the EU neighbourhood: Peste des Petits Ruminants; African Swine Fever

Further afield: Rift Valley Fever; Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever; Nipah virus and Hendra disease



Factors of emergence or re-emergence

- Increasing trend for international exchanges of people and goods
- Existence of areas with high animal density
- Climate change
- Changes in animal handling and breeding

Veterinary systems in place to prevent, identify, diagnose and fight against animal diseases have in some instances appeared to be insufficient



Consequences

Long-term crises both in terms of health and economy

Eradication or effective control, but

A permanent threat needing a more proactive rather than reactive approach



THE RESPONSE OF THE EU

Progress was made through harmonisation of measures at EU level

- Harmonisation of legislation on major diseases, for surveillance, notification and control methods
- Harmonisation of the import conditions and procedures
- Harmonisation of animal identification and traceability rules and methods
- Common network for animal movement notification and certification (TRACES)
- Network of Community and National Reference Laboratories



THE RESPONSE OF THE EU

The Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)

The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCOFAH)

formerly known as the “Standing Veterinary Committee”; has shown to be a very important and effective forum for exchange of information between Member States and the Commission and for risk management at EU level



THE RESPONSE OF THE EU

The role of the Member States and of the European Commission

Member States have to ensure a rapid response to outbreaks

The European Commission promptly gather and re-despatch information via the Member States' Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) network, ADNS and the SCOFCAH and adopt specific Community measures in a few hours



THE RESPONSE OF THE EU

The role of the Member States and of the European Commission

The system in place at EU level includes elements of flexibility that should ensure a quick reaction not only for diseases that are already regulated at Community level, but also for those emerging diseases for which no specific legislation exists

A Community Veterinary Emergency Team has also been set up, which operates not only in EU Member States, but also in third countries



THE RESPONSE OF THE EU

On the basis that

"Prevention is better than cure"

A new

EU Animal Health Strategy

(2007-2013)

has been drawn up



Underlying Principle: **Partnership**

- **Participation of all** involved in animal health (NGOs, consumers and governments) as well as interested citizens.
- Stakeholders to give **input** as well as take **responsibility**.
- Establish an **“Animal Health Advisory Committee”**.



Pillar 1

Defining Priorities

■ **Profiling** and **categorisation** of **biological** and **chemical risks**

■ Setting of:

■ **Priorities**

■ Quantifiable **targets**

■ Performance **indicators**

■ **Resources** to be committed



Pillar 2

A Modern Legal Framework

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- The background features three rounded rectangular panels. The first panel shows a white outline of a person jumping over a green apple. The second panel shows a white outline of a branch with leaves and a green apple. The third panel shows a white outline of a basket filled with various fruits, including a green apple.
- **Animal Health Law**
 - **Improve convergence with international standards**
 - **Cost / responsibility sharing**



Pillar 3

Threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

On-farm bio-security measures

- **Guidelines/production systems** and species (e.g. intensive production, extensive production, high-density area)
- Provision of **funding** to finance and promote on-farm bio-security



Pillar 3

Threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

Epidemiological information

- ADNS, Animal Disease Notification System to be improved in ADIS, Animal Disease Information System
- Compatible with other international information systems such as the OIE "WAHIS-WAHID" system



Pillar 3

Threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

Identification and tracing

- **TRACES**: a single portal for all veterinary matters
- Implementation of a **single, integrated electronic system** with a unified database



Pillar 3

Threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

Better border bio-security

- **Revision of the current legislation** (risk-based approach to border inspections)
- Help **third countries** combat threats **at the source** and provide assistance



Pillar 3

Threat prevention, surveillance and crisis preparedness

Early response and vaccine

■ Improve:

- rapid response network
- crisis management units
- EU veterinary rapid response team
- EU antigen and vaccine banks



Pillar 4

Science and research

- EFSA will continue to mobilise and coordinate scientific resources
- The network of Community and national reference laboratories will be further developed
- EU supports the new initiative "Technological Platform for Global Animal Health"



Pillar 4

Science and research

- The 7th Research Framework Programme (2007-2013)
- Suitable framework at Community level to develop new medicines and diagnostic tools
- Review the policy on the use of authorised vaccines
- Support for research in third/neighbouring countries



Conclusion



A
collaborative
Approach

