



Standing Group of Experts on LSD in South-East Europe under the GF-TADs umbrella

Teleconference of 25 February 2019

REPORT

Summary

13 of the 21 members of the SGE LSD attended the teleconference on 25 February 2019. The possible vaccine availability and supply needs were expressed by each participant and acknowledged by the European Commission as regards requests to be covered by the EU vaccine bank and/or possible reimbursement for the cost of vaccines purchased through national funds. The European Commission can also provide support for surveillance where vaccination has ceased or is reduced in the framework of the vaccination exit strategy. Formal requests and relevant surveillance plans need to be submitted to the European Commission. The next meetings of the SGE LSD will take place in Paris on 29 May 2019 and in Serbia next autumn.

Minutes

Participants

See the attached list of participants, representing 13 of the 21 members of the SGE LSD and representatives from the European Commission and the OIE.

Objectives of the teleconference

The main objective of the teleconference was touch base on the vaccine stockpiles already available in the countries and possible additional needs to cover their 2019 vaccination campaign.

Updates from the member countries of the SGE LSD

All country representatives attending the teleconference were invited to detail:

- The estimated number of LSD vaccine doses needed in 2019
- The number of LSD vaccine doses in stock from previous years
- The number of LSD vaccine doses to be provided by the EU LSD Vaccine bank or from other sources

This information is provided in the table attached to the report.

EU support for the 2019 LSD vaccination campaigns in South East Europe

The EC confirmed that a number of vaccine grants from the EU LSD vaccine bank has already been planned for 2019, to cover the needs of the LSD national vaccination campaigns. During the teleconference North Macedonia confirmed receipt of the first vaccine shipment.

In addition, EU support can be provided in the form of reimbursement for the cost of vaccines purchased nationally and used for the same purpose.

EU support for LSD surveillance activities

The EC clarified that EU support for LSD surveillance is possible for those countries or areas thereof, where vaccination has ceased or is reduced in the framework of the vaccination exit strategy. Such support is already provided to Croatia since 2018.

Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that they will prepare and submit a programme for surveillance.

Serbia is entitled to do the same in the Northern part of the country where vaccination will be limited to calves only.

North Macedonia explained that they envisage a project to study vaccine – induced seroconversion and they need urgent support, considering that the first samples must be taken at the time of vaccination, which is to start on 1 March 2019. The EC clarified that implementation of such a project with support from the EU Reference Laboratory is feasible, provided that a proposal is received in due time from North Macedonia, to be further assessed.

CLOSING REMARKS – FUTURE STEPS

The EC mentioned that EFSA is expected to publish probably mid-March the third report on LSD.

The next meetings of the SGE LSD will be:

- In Paris on 29 May 2019, during the lunch break of the OIE general session
- In Serbia next October or November (exact dates and venue still to be confirmed).

NB: all information on previous events organised for the SGE LSD under the GF-TADs umbrella are available on the [webpage of the GF-TADs for Europe dedicated to LSD](#).