



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

### Teleconference of 20 February 2020

#### REPORT

#### Summary

16 of the 23 members of the SGE LSD submitted relevant information for the teleconference organised by the European Commission on 20 February 2020. Of those, nine countries were connected during the meeting. All the participating countries confirmed that there has not been any LSD outbreaks in their territory since the last meeting.

Vaccine availability and supply needs were expressed by the participant countries that plan to continue vaccination in 2020 and acknowledged by the European Commission as regards requests to be covered by the EU vaccine bank.

The European Commission may 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 meeting of the SGE LSD will take place in Paris on 26 or 27 May 2020, in the margin of OIE General Session.

#### Minutes

##### Participants

See the attached list of participants, representing 16 (9) of the 23 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 to confirm that Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey will continue the vaccination in 2020 (in line with the recommendations of GF TADS SGE LSD9 - Athens, 16 October 2019) and the availability of the vaccines for implementing the vaccination plans.

## Updates from the member countries of the SGE LSD

In preparation for the teleconference, all member countries of the SGE LSD from South-East Europe were invited to submit information regarding:

- the LSD vaccination coverage achieved in their territories in 2019
- the plans for vaccination in 2020
- the number of LSD vaccine doses in stock from previous years
- the number of LSD vaccine doses needed in 2020
- the number of LSD vaccine doses to be provided by the EU LSD Vaccine bank or from other sources
- the surveillance plans for 2020

The information received regarding vaccination coverage in 2019, vaccination planned for 2020 and vaccine availability and needs is provided in the tables attached to the report.

## EU support for the 2020 LSD vaccination campaigns

The European Commission confirmed the stock of the EU LSD Vaccine Bank, sufficient to support the countries vaccination needs for 2020. In addition, the European Commission informed about the total capacity of the EU LSD Vaccine Bank. According with the present situation with LSD in S-E Europe, it seems to be sufficient to respond in case of an emergency.

Bulgaria confirmed that it has enough stock of vaccines to perform the vaccination. They will provide a follow up update at the OIE General Session in May, in Paris, about a possible vaccine remaining stock if there are any problem with the expiry date.

Montenegro confirmed that it has some doses of LSD vaccine in stock in case of an emergency, with an expiry date of November 2020.

It should be noted that EU support for LSD vaccination in 2020 (as in previous years), is subject to submission, as soon as possible to DG SANTE, of a formal request (e.g. letter), accompanied by a concise LSD vaccination programme, by the countries concerned.

## EU support for LSD surveillance activities

The European Commission confirmed that EU support for LSD surveillance in 2020 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. The receipt of the surveillance plan submitted by Montenegro was acknowledged. However, the European Commission will provide a template for such plans.

It should also be noted that EU support for LSD surveillance activities in 2020 is subject to the submission, to DG SANTE, of a formal request (e.g. letter), accompanied by a concise LSD surveillance programme, in line with the template that will be provided by the European Commission, as soon as this is available.

## CLOSING REMARKS - FUTURE STEPS

The next meetings of the SGE LSD will be:

- in Paris on 26 or 27 May 2020, during the lunch break of the OIE general session
- in Israel, next October or November (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](#).*

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country/Organisation	Name
<b>GF TADs Chair</b>	Bernard Van Goethem
<b>OIE/GF TADs Secretary</b>	Roberto Balbo, Djahne Montabord
<b>EC</b>	Francisco Reviriego-Gordejo, Iulia Cohen, Javier Francisco Dominguez-Orive, Dimitrios Dilaveris, Nicolas Krieger
<b>Albania</b>	Keti Margariti
<b>Austria</b>	Simon Stockreiter
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Ljubomir Kalaba, Zorana Mehmedbašić
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Aleksandra Miteva
<b>Cyprus</b>	Christodoulos Pipis
<b>Croatia</b>	Žaklin Acinger-Rogić
<b>Georgia</b>	Otar Parkadze
<b>Hungary</b>	Zsófia Szepesiné Kókány
<b>Israel</b>	Michel Bellaiche
<b>Kosovo*</b>	Valdet Gjinovci
<b>Montenegro</b>	Vesna Dakovic
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Vanja Kondratenko
<b>Romania</b>	Theodora Chesnoiu
<b>Rusia</b>	Sprygin Alexander
<b>Serbia</b>	Boban Đurić
<b>Slovenia</b>	Breda Hrovatin

Countries connected during the meeting

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.