



EU ACTIVITIES ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

Standing Group Of Experts on HPAI in Europe
under the GF-TADs umbrella

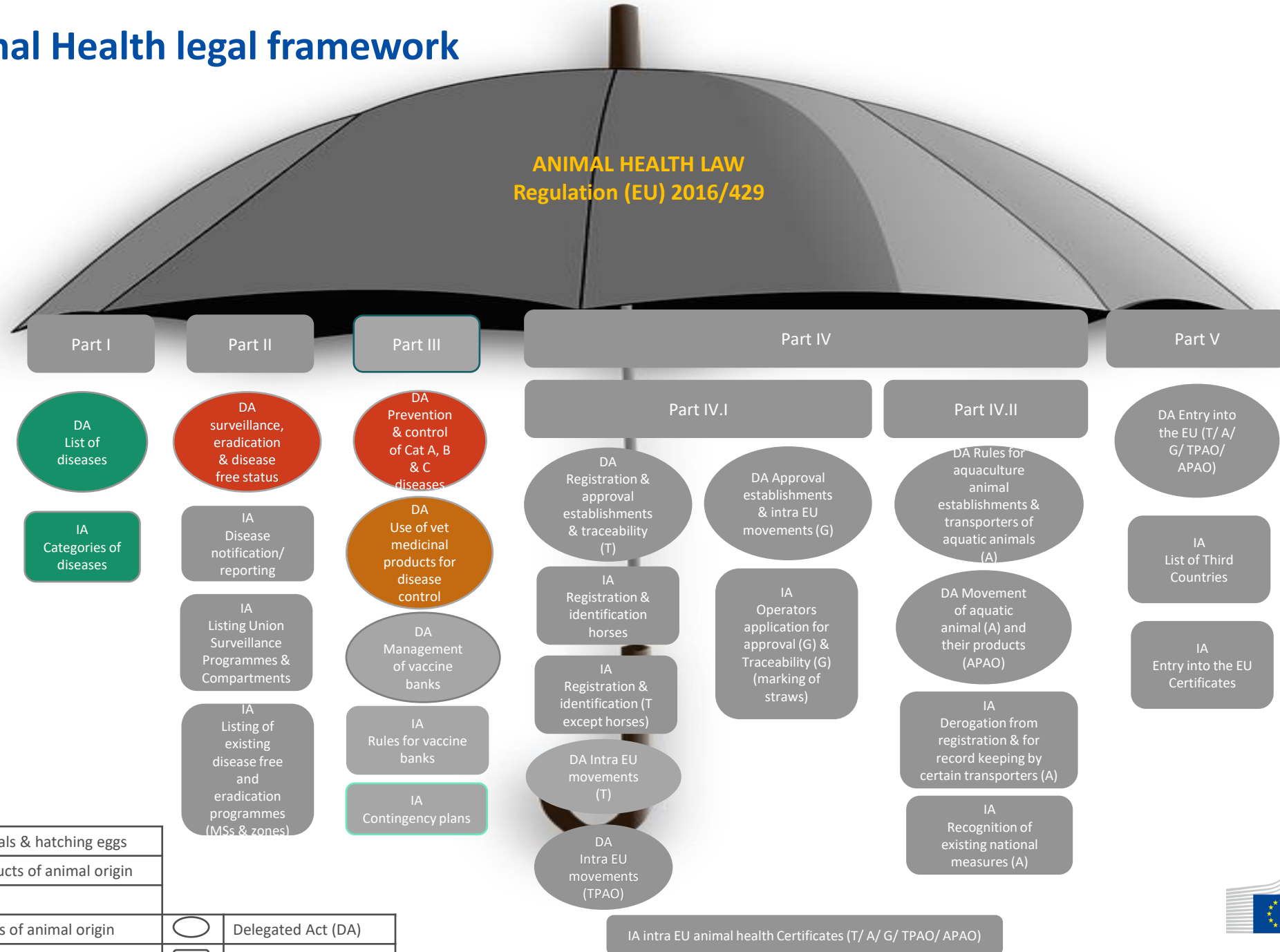
Francisco REVIRIEGO GORDEJO
Head of Unit

Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)
Unit G2 – Animal Health
European Commission

Outline of the presentation

- Animal health legal framework
- Surveillance
- Control measures
- EU support and monitoring
- New disease prevention tools

Animal Health legal framework



T	Terrestrial animals & hatching eggs		
TPAO	Terrestrial products of animal origin		
A	Aquatic animals		
APAO	Aquatic products of animal origin	○	Delegated Act (DA)
G	Germinal products	□	Implementing Act (IA)

Listing and Categorisation

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/1882

of 3 December 2018

on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases

Listed disease	Category of listed disease
Highly pathogenic avian influenza	A+D+E
Infection with low pathogenic avian influenza viruses	D+E

Strategic pillars of the animal health emergency preparedness system in the EU

In addition to **the AHL**, the basic Implementing/Delegated Acts are:

- *Implementing Regulation on **notification** – 2020/2002*
http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/2002/oj
- *Delegated Regulation on **surveillance** – 2020/689*
http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj
- *Delegated Regulation on **prevention** and **control** – 2020/687*
http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj
- *Commission Implementing Decision with emergency measures, in particular **EU regionalization** (e.g. **Decision (EU) 2021/641**)*
http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2021/641/oj

Basic legal requirements on disease prevention

Operators – Art. 10 & 11 AHL

- Knowledge
- Health of animals
- Minimize risk of spread diseases
- Biosecurity: physical & management measures

Veterinarians – Art. 12 AHL

- Biosecurity
- Early detection
- Raising awareness of the risks of animal diseases and their prevention

Member States – Art. 13 & 15 AHL

- Proper administrative capacity
- Availability of resources
- Laboratories
- Inform stakeholders on AH risks
- Risk mitigation measures in high risk periods

Laboratories – Art. 16 AHL

- Biosecurity, biosafety and bio-containment

Surveillance for HPAI

Why do we need a robust surveillance system for HPAI?

- HPAI is a risk for animal/human health on the whole Union territory
- Well-proved potential serious economic consequences – direct and indirect
- A continuously evolving virus – pathogenicity, range of species, transmissibility, potential mutations and re-assortments
- We need an early warning and early detection system adapted to the disease introduction via infected wild birds
- Fundamental information obtained through surveillance for HPAI – basic pillar for risk assessment and adaptation of mitigation measures as necessary
 - **HPAI MEETS ALL CRITERIA FOR THE NEED TO INTRODUCE A HARMONISED SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME AT UNION LEVEL**

Union surveillance programme for HPAI

ANNEX II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Target:

- in **poultry** and **wild birds**
- in **all** Member States
- to cover **entire territory** of Member States

Objectives:

- **early detection of HPAI** in poultry and in wild birds
- detection of **HPAI in poultry** species **not showing** significant clinical **signs**
- detection of **LPAI that may spread** between flocks
- contribution to **increase the knowledge of zoonotic risks** (including surveillance in mammals)

Disease control measures for HPAI

Harmonized control measures under the AHL

- **For HPAI**, as a category A disease, harmonized EU measures in case of:
 - Suspicion
 - temporary restrictions + epidemiological enquiry
 - Confirmation
 - killing and disposal of animals
 - establishment of a restricted zone
 - measures to be implemented in the restricted zone and derogations thereto – balance between disease eradication and business continuity
 - Lifting of restrictions and repopulation of affected establishment
 - cleaning and disinfection + adapted surveillance

Main obligations of affected operators

- ✓ Isolate all animals suspected of being infected with the category A disease;
- ✓ Implement the appropriate additional biosecurity measures to avoid any risk of spread of the category A disease;
- ✓ Cease all movements of kept animals of listed species from or to the establishment. Do not move any product potentially infected without the permission of the competent authority;
- ✓ Ensure that production, health and traceability records of the establishment are updated;
- ✓ Provide the competent authority, on its request, with any relevant information regarding the category A disease and collaborate with them following their instructions to control the disease.

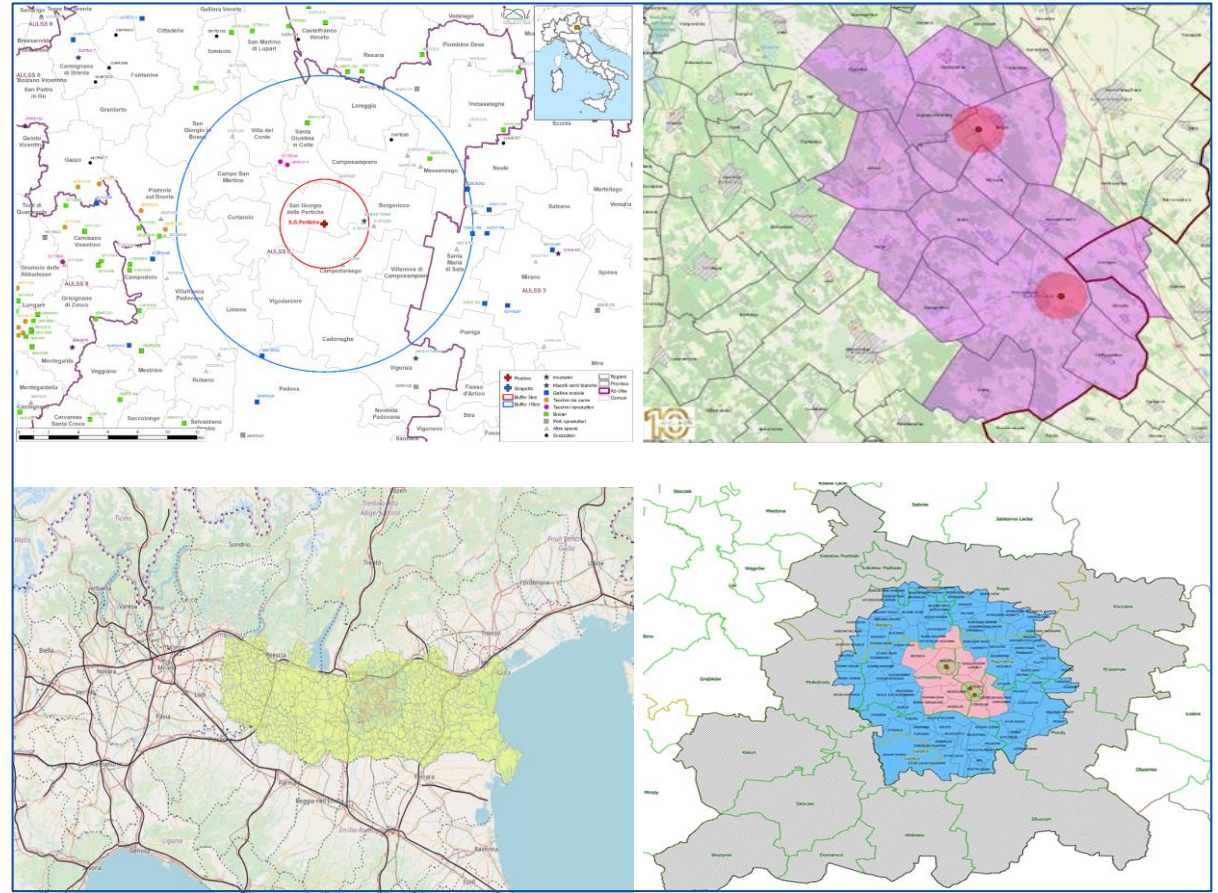
Identification of epidemiologically linked establishments

- ✓ Monitoring period **backwards** from the date of suspicion – traceability of kept animals, products, materials, means of transport, etc. – **spread of HPAI!**
- ✓ **Safe commodities** may be excluded (risk-mitigating treatments detailed in Annex VII to DR (EU) 2020/687)
- ✓ The CA must impose **measures** in such establishments and locations depending on the type of epidemiological link with the affected establishment

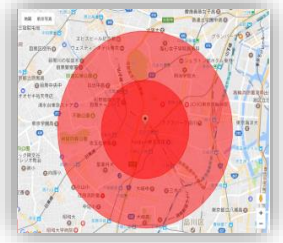


Establishment of the restricted zone

- **Immediately** after confirmation
- **Always**
 - **protection zone (PZ)** – minimum 3 km radius around the outbreak
 - **surveillance zone (SZ)** – minimum 10 km radius around outbreak
- If needed:
 - Further restricted zone –, around or adjacent to the PZ and SZ
- For **minimum 30 days** after completion of cleaning and disinfection



Measures to be applied in the restricted zone



Inventory of establishments

Possibility of **preventive killing** or slaughtering

Restrictions for movements in, within, out of zone of animals and products

Rules for the movement of **ABP**, including certification requirements

Conditions for **transit** through the restricted zone

Visits by official vets **clinical + laboratory surveillance**

EU support and monitoring

European Food Safety Authority



- specific risk assessments on request from the Commission
- quarterly assessment of the epidemiological situation in EU and worldwide
- analyse results of surveillance programmes applied by Member States
- new early warning Migration Mapping Tool

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/avian-influenza>





European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL)

- **guidance on the methods** of laboratory analysis, testing or diagnosis, including reference methods
- **provide reference materials** to national reference laboratories (NRLs)
- **assisting actively** in the diagnosis of outbreaks in Member States
- **scientific and technical expertise** and assistance to NRLs
- watching to the correct application of the methods by NRLs by organizing **annual proficiency tests**
- **assess the genetic evolution of HPAI viruses** and the probability that any of them could represent a risk for public health

<https://www.izsvenezie.com/reference-laboratories/avian-influenza-newcastle-disease/>

EU support on request by Member States

- **Technical assistance:**
 - Sustained Technical Assistance Missions (STM)
 - EU Veterinary Emergency Team missions (EUVET)
- **Financial support by co-financing** of the eligible costs with:
 - Emergency measures in case of outbreaks
 - Surveillance programmes

Audits in Member States on the recent HPAI epidemics

– main lessons learned

- Effective surveillance for early detection alongside proper application of biosecurity measures are game changers, notably in areas with high density of poultry and frequent poultry movements.
- Never take preparedness for granted, worst-case scenarios are an actual threat – Need to keep reinforcing the emergency preparedness systems!
- Effective decision-making during a crisis is very difficult without epidemiological evidence to be properly analysed – wide expertise available to decision-makers!
- **Get to know** well your resources, learn from previous mistakes.
- Bring the production sectors on-board – the whole industry, not only the farmers – **engaged them in prevention, surveillance and preparedness.**

New disease prevention tools

Rules for use of vaccination

SPECIFIC rules on the use of **vaccines** for prevention and control of category A diseases – **Terrestrial animals (partially Aquatic)** in **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361**

GENERAL RULE

Art. 46 of AHL

Member States may use vaccination to ensure most efficient prevention and control

Preconditions

Strategies

General rules

Risk-mitigation measures (movement restrictions)

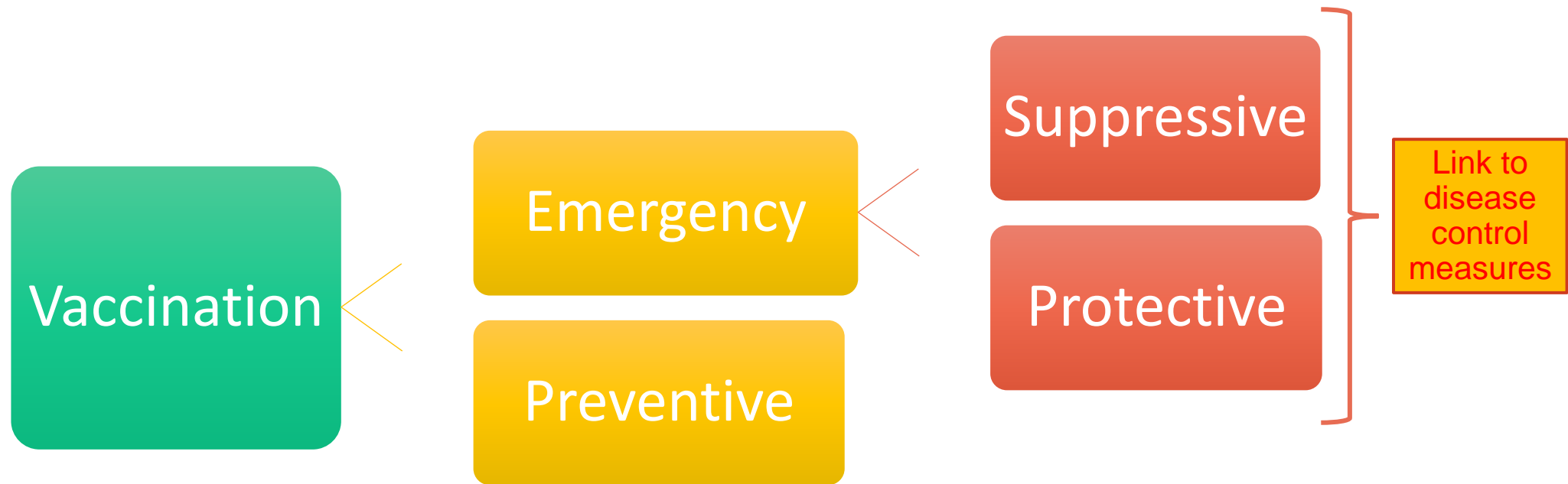
Disease-specific conditions (Annex XIII for HPAI)

Implementation + post vaccination surveillance

Measures (movement prohibitions for animals and products) in the vaccination zone

Recovery of the previous animal health status

Vaccination strategies for prevention and control of category A diseases of poultry



HPAI vaccination status in EU

Now	2 nd Q 2023	2 nd S 2023	2 nd Q 2024	From 2 nd S 2024
<p>Vaccination allowed by EU legislation</p> <p>No vaccination in poultry in EU (exception one small establishment in CZ - geese national breed genetic reserve)</p> <p>Small size vaccination trials in FR, NL, IT, HU.</p> <p>EFSA working on a new scientific opinion for HPAI vaccination</p>	<p>Share experiences (trial results)</p> <p>Specific rules in place: <i>movements of products from vaccinated birds allowed under conditions</i> (enhanced surveillance)</p> <p>HPAI and vaccination: main topic to be discussed during WOAH General Session</p>	<p>EFSA opinion on type of vaccines and vaccination strategy</p> <p>Certain MS explore to start vaccination programme</p> <p>Constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vaccines availability- Uncertainties on the effectiveness of vaccination to prevent infection and spread- Trade ban concerns	<p>Complete EFSA opinion on vaccination against HPAI available, including on surveillance and risk mitigation measures</p>	<p>Revision of the rules on surveillance and risk mitigation measures, if necessary</p>

Thank you for your
attention