



Recommendations [of the Chair].

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) outbreaks were recently detected in EU Member States (Greece and Romania) within their territories, previously recognized by WOAHA as officially free of the disease. GF-TADs regional secretariate for Europe with the support of EU DG SANTE and in collaboration with FAO and EuFMD has organized the Webinar of PPR situation in Europe region under GF-TADs regional approach on 4th September 2024 where all Member Countries of Europe (Delegates and representatives), relevant Reference Laboratories, and IOs (WOAH, FAO, EuFMD, EC) were invited to participate. More than one hundred people joined the online meeting.

PPR is a viral disease that can cause severe infection in populations of sheep, goats and certain wild ungulates, with morbidity of up to 100% and mortality of up to 80% and very high impact on production (both meat and dairy). The disease is not transmissible to humans.

Control measures declared to be implemented in these two countries include in particular zoning, movement restrictions, increased surveillance and stamping out in infected farms. Meanwhile the free status of these two countries has been suspended by WOAHA. The recovery of the status will depend on the successful control of the outbreaks and subsequent application according to Article 14.7.7 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Disease control efforts in these countries is supported by the European Commission and CIRAD, designated as a WOAHA and European Union reference laboratory.

Earlier this year, PPR outbreaks were reported in the Caucasus region, with thirteen outbreaks reported in Türkiye between 1/1/2024 and 4/9/2024 (source ADIS¹) and the disease was reported in Georgia in February 2024 where it had not been detected since 2016 (source WAHIS).

While no direct links have been established between these events at this stage, pending the results of ongoing investigations, this situation raises an alert of the risk of introduction of PPR in other countries of Europe and Caucasus regions.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/adis/public/notification>

Recommended:

to countries

- strengthen the surveillance campaigns in countries based on the risk assessment;
- strengthen awareness of farmers, veterinarians, and other professionals in contact with susceptible species, to detect and report, for investigation, any clinical signs suggesting infection with PPR;
- update their risk assessments and contingency plans to take into account the newly available information on the disease distribution in Europe;
- all affected countries should share PPR samples from outbreaks in their territories with CIRAD (WOAH and EU Reference Laboratory) for sequencing and phylogenetic analysis, to assist better understanding of the PPR epidemiology in the Regions;
- ensure transparency and timely notification of disease outbreaks through the WAHIS and, if relevant, ADIS systems;
- ensure PPR diagnostic capacity at national level and include PPR in the differential diagnosis of suspect cases;
- continue sharing transparent and updated information within the GF-TADs framework;
- share with the GF-TADs regional secretariat of PPR awareness material which will be stored in a repository and disseminated to other countries through the GF-TADs portal.

to regional secretariat of GF-TADs of PPR for Europe:

- share all presentations done during the webinar and these recommendations on a dedicated page of the GF-TADs Europe website;
- establish an online e-depository to collect and share relevant awareness material produced by European countries and relevant international and regional partners and organizations

to International Organisations:

- raise PPR awareness among their Member Countries and stakeholders.