



HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

EU ACTIVITIES

GF-TADs Europe – Standing Group of Experts on HPAI

2nd meeting

Samarkand, 30 September 2024

Francisco Reviriego-Gordejo

Head of Unit G2 – Animal Health

European Commission,

DG Health and Food Safety

Health and
Food Safety

Animal Health Law (AHL) framework



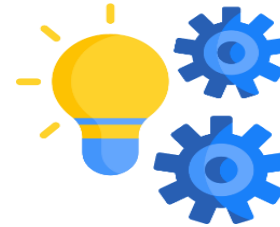
Surveillance

- harmonized (**USP**)
- birds **and mammals**
- early detection for HPAI
- monitor LPAI
- learn on the zoonotic risk



Biosecurity

- **farm** biosecurity
- **high risk areas** identified
- **confinement** orders



Notification

- immediate (**within 24h**)
- within EU (**ADIS**)
- internationally (**WAHIS**, under WOHAI)
- by **Info Notes to trading partners**: 676 since 2020



Eradication measures

- **stamping out**
- **restrictions** (risk mitigation measures)
- **regionalization** (implementing acts):
 - for **EU**: 39 since Jan 2023
 - for **TCs**: 55 since 2023
- **surveillance** in the restricted zone

EU legal framework for regionalisation

Commission emergency measures

- When necessary
- Bigger areas can be restricted (e.g. based on administrative / geographical borders)
- Risk mitigation measures
- The Commission may also adopt immediately applicable implementing acts

EU regionalisation: principles

- **Transparency**
- Clearly **defined roles** for Member States and the Commission
- **Clear criteria, principles and measures**
 - based on science, experience, EU legislation and international standards (WOAH)
- **Rapid** flow of information
- **Urgent adoption** of emergency measures
- **Agreed with Member States** (regular Committees)
- **Immediately applicable**
- Legal acts **published in the Official Journal** of the European Union in all 24 EU languages

New: Compartments for HPAI in the EU - AHL (Art. 37)

General rules:

- Member States **may** apply for recognition of disease-free status of compartments, if:
- **introduction** of the disease **can be effectively prevented** at compartment level
- compartment is subject to a **single common biosecurity management** system for all establishments forming part of it
- has been **approved by the Competent Authority**

Specific rules:

- The Commission adopted **Delegated Regulation** based on Art. 37(5) of AHL, will be published in the OJ before the end of 2024
- Compartments possible **for HPAI and ND**
- Compartment status based on higher level of **biosecurity management and surveillance plans** developed and implemented by operators, and verified and approved by Competent Authorities
- **not an alternative to regionalisation/zoning**, but a voluntary mechanism, complementing it
- **not a replacement** but an addition **to compulsory biosecurity (higher level)** according to EU and national legislations

Rules on vaccination against HPAI

complementary prevention/control tool

harmonized specific rules (Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361)

Vaccines

- that **do not contain live AI virus** (attenuated or not)

Reinforced surveillance

- **clinical and laboratory** (official activity)
- to **early detect infection** with HPAI virus

Risk mitigation measures

- General **prohibition** for movements of vaccinated poultry and their products
- **Derogations** to move, **under conditions**

Traceability/Certificates

- **Emergency vaccination:** certificates for movements from vaccination zone within MS and to other MS
- **Preventive vaccination:** certificates for live birds and hatching eggs when moved to other MS

Experience on vaccination against HPAI in EU



Legend

- No vaccination
- Zoo vaccination
- Poultry + zoo vaccination

Poultry vaccination in France

Strategy

- Preventive vaccination

Species

- Ducks for meat/foie gras production (Barbarie, mulard and Pékin)

Period

- **One year**, from October 2023 **to be extended for one year**, until end September 2025

Number of ducks

- 64 million (planned) for one year
- up to August 2024 **almost 48 million vaccinated**

Ongoing work of EFSA on Avian Influenza



Avian Influenza Surveillance

- Annual report on **results of surveillance** implemented by Member States
- **1/year since 2019**



Overview epidemiological reports

- **Analyse epidemiological data** on HPAI and LPAI
- Analyse **temporal and spatial pattern and risk factors** involved in the occurrence, spread and persistence of the HPAI virus
- **at least 4/year since 2019**



Scientific opinion on vaccination against HPAI

Questions :

vaccines
vaccination strategies

surveillance
risk mitigation measures

Delivery :

} published on 10 October 2023,
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/8271>

} published on 18 April 2024,
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/8755>

EFSA opinion on HPAI vaccination – part 1




Vaccination strategies recommendations

HPAI vaccination is recommended as part of an integrated disease control approach

Vaccination should not replace other preventive and control measures, such as infection monitoring, early detection and biosecurity




Emergency protective vaccination

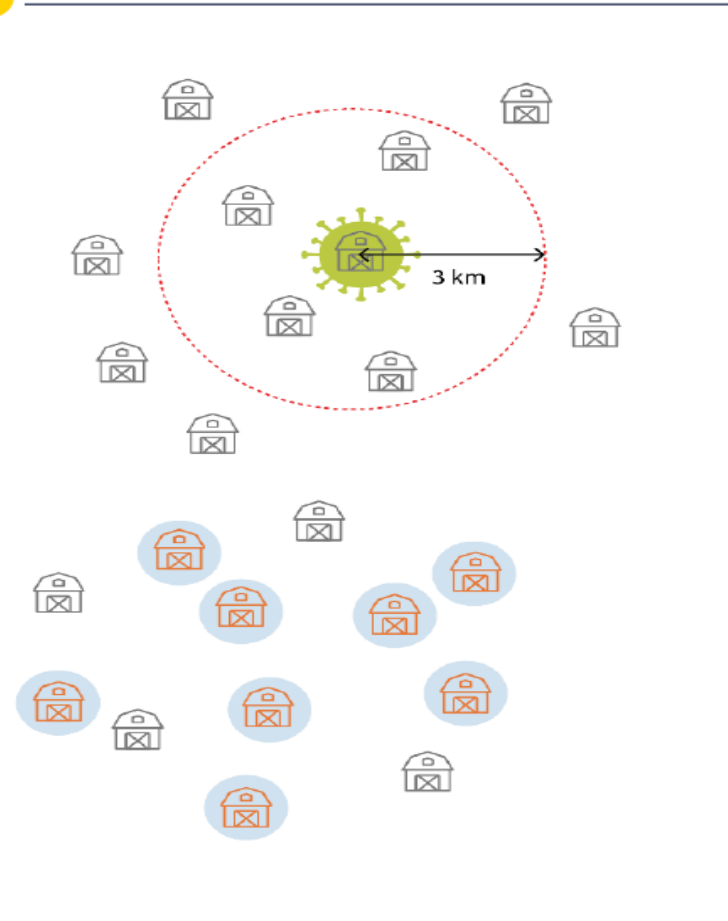
Emergency protective vaccination is recommended in a 3-km radius of an outbreak for poultry species in high-risk transmission areas

-  Area of emergency vaccination
-  Poultry farm
-  HPAI outbreak

Preventive vaccination

Preventive vaccination of the most susceptible and infectious poultry species in high-risk transmission areas is recommended to minimise the number of infected and culled birds, as well as the number of farms vaccinated, and the epidemic duration

-  Vaccinated farms
-  Poultry farm
-  Most susceptible/infectious poultry farms



EFSA opinion on HPAI vaccination – part 2

Surveillance and risk mitigation strategies

Surveillance

- **molecular** virological testing of **up to 15 dead birds every 30 days** in vaccinated flocks is recommended to effectively **demonstrate disease freedom with > 99% confidence** within high-risk zones for HPAIV infection
- if the aim is to **increase the early detection** surveillance sensitivities, then it is recommended to **reduce the sampling intervals**
- **maintaining passive surveillance efforts in unvaccinated establishments** in vaccinated zones is recommended to enhance the overall sensitivity of the surveillance system

Risk mitigation measures

- **existing rules** set out in DR 2023/361 and DR 2020/687 **are valid**, and
- **molecular testing is recommended** (emergency vaccination): all up to a number of 15 dead birds no earlier than 72 h before movement

EU support for Member States (and certain third countries)



Technical

European Union Reference Laboratory

- ensure good performance of NRLs – trainings and proficiency testing
- guidance on diagnostic methods
- provide reference materials

BTSF trainings on AI

- 6 sessions since April 2021

Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET):

- Poland and Hungary in 2020
- France in 2022
- Bulgaria in 2024

Sustained Technical Assistance (STM):

- Bulgaria in 2020



Financial

EU co-finance of:

- Union Surveillance Programmes : **2 M € in 2024**
- Emergency measures: **500 M € since 2021**



Audits

Technical and financial

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide ¹²xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. Fotolia.com**; Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. iStock.com**

