EU control strategy for avian influenza

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Health and Consumers

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EU legislation on Animal Health

Fully harmonised

- Disease control
- Trade & Imports
- Identification and traceability

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Role of the European Commission

- Drafting of Legislation
- Information gathering - dispatch
- Standing Committees
- Crisis management
- Auditing

Avian influenza control legislation

Directive 2005/94/EC

Main Principles

- **Stamping-out policy** of all poultry on infected farms
- **Zoning** 3km and 10km around outbreak farm
- **Movement controls**
- **Cleaning and disinfection**
- **Control of low pathogenic avian influenza** (H5/H7 subtypes) by stamping out or by 'controlled slaughter' to avoid virus circulation and possible mutation to HPAI

Flexibility based on risk assessment

More stringent measures

- **"standstill"** on the whole territory for movements of poultry, poultry products and vehicles of the sector
- **"temporary control zone"** around a holding under AI suspicion e.g. in densely populated poultry areas
- **" pre-emptive killing "** of flocks upon suspicion or risk (contact, trade patterns) without awaiting sampling/diagnosis;

Some derogations can be granted by the **competent authority**

- **from culling**
  - endangered species, zoos birds, non-commercial poultry, quarantine and testing for virus circulation is applied
  - Different epidemiological units
- **from zoning**

in case of outbreaks in the above mentioned holdings, in urban areas

Two examples of application of EU meaures

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Additional measures for HPAI H5N1

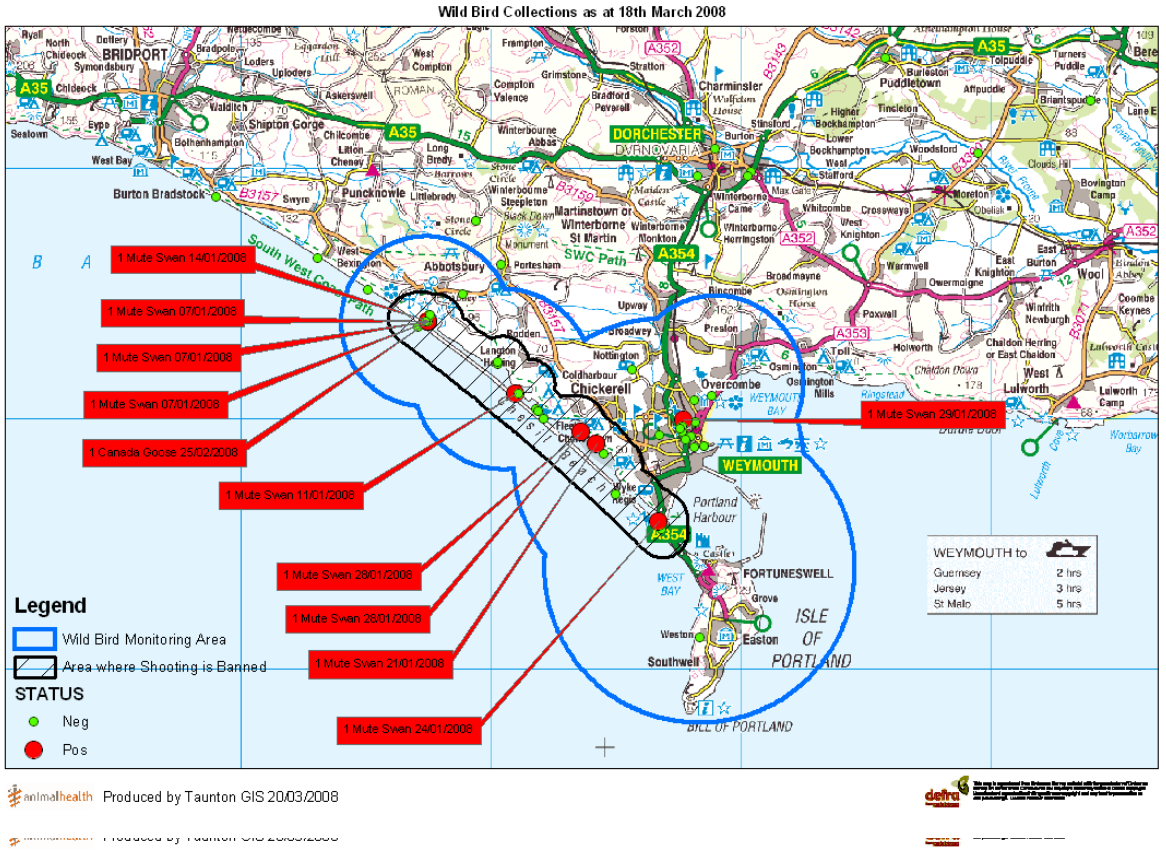
movement restrictions for wild feathered game, by-products e.g. game trophies, manure products, untreated feathers, pet food, prohibition of bird gatherings and shows

High Risk Area includes 3/10km areas

Low Risk Area *- surrounding buffer zone*

HPAI H5N1 in wild birds

Zoning around wild bird findings
With movement restrictions for live poultry/products



Clinical & laboratory investigations in poultry farms to detect possible virus introduction & prevent spread

Disease control tools

- **Contingency plans** of Member States
- **Simulation exercises**
- **Biosecurity**
- **Early detection**
- **Surveillance**
- **EU co-financing:**
  - ***Compensation***
  - ***Surveillance***
  - ***Emergency Vaccination***
- **Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) missions**
- **Better Training For Safer Food (BTSF)**
  National and EU Reference Laboratories

Surveillance in poultry

Objective: detect circulating AI virus

Scope:

LPAI in gallinaceous birds: chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, pheasants, partridges, quails and ratites thereby complementing other existing early detection systems

LPAI and HPAI in domestic waterfowl: ducks, geese and mallards for re-stocking game

Strategy: targeted surveillance towards risk factors:

- proximity to wet areas (migratory wild water birds gather)
- Poultry in free range
- Poultry holdings with more than one poultry species
- High density of poultry holdings
- Intensity of trade

Surveillance in wild birds

Objective:

- timely detection of HPAI H5N1 to protect poultry holdings

Scope:

- "target species" selection of 50 species more likely being infected with HPAI H5N1 – migratory aquatic birds and those previously found positive such as birds of prey

Strategy: risk-based surveillance

- laboratory testing of moribund or birds found dead - focusing on water birds
- Increased surveillance close to areas with a high density of poultry holdings

Vaccination against AI

- ***Emergency and preventive vaccination***
  - Primarily Member States' decision
  - Commission needs to approve the vaccination plan
  - coupled with surveillance and control of movements
- ***Member States do not see advantages in using emergency vaccination with currently available vaccines***
  - onset of immunity too slow
  - cumbersome, costly application
  - trade implications although internationally recognised measure
  - currently very little use of preventive vaccination in poultry and zoo birds

European Commission

Some conclusions on avian influenza

- Response to avian influenza outbreaks in Member States works well
- Robust emergency procedures and contingency plans are in place
- Avian influenza disease control measures are well accepted
- Measures in line with OIE requirements
- Good balance between prescription and flexibility

Thank you for your attention!!

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/avian/index_en.htm