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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Veterinary and International Affairs
Director

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URGENT HPAI - FAX – 053/2015 (10/12/2015)

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Subject: Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) of H5 subtypes in poultry in France – Update (4)

Message:

The French authorities informed the Commission about the evolution as regards the situation of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and the measures taken following the first detection of the disease in a poultry holding in the department of Dordogne on 24/11/2015.

The reinforced surveillance for avian influenza in the region has led to the detection of further suspicions and, at this stage (late 09/12/2015), 11 new outbreaks of H5 subtypes including the Neuraminidase subtypes N1, N2 and N9 have been confirmed. These outbreaks were all detected in the south-west of France in commercial duck, geese, chicken and guinea fowl holdings, as well as in backyard holdings located in the departments of Dordogne, Landes, Haute-Vienne and Aveyron.

Veterinary control measures to prevent the spread of infection are taken including the killing of all poultry present on the affected holdings and the establishment of protection (3 km) and surveillance (10 km) zones.

In addition, low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H5N2 has been detected in two duck holdings in Landes.

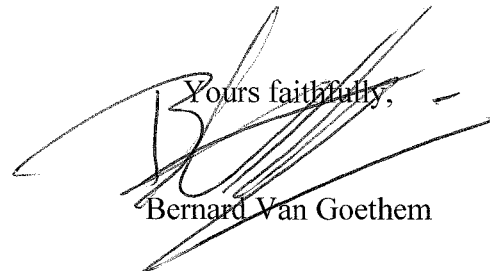
Please see also the attached press release of the French Ministry of Agriculture with the weblink to more detailed information on the outbreaks:

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/influenza-aviaire-la-situation-actuelle-en-france>

The disease situation will be discussed at the meeting of Member States' Chief Veterinary Officers on 15/12/2015.

Please also note that the Commission intends to consult you on a new draft Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2239 which will take into account the new disease situation.

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard Van Goethem

C.c.: M. Valletta, N. Pradalie (Cabinet Commissioner Andriukaitis), E. Brivio (DG COMM), L. Miko, B. Gautrais, K. Cernilogar, S. Plecita Ridzikova, R. Domenech Amado, F. Vincent, E. Demicoli, E. Strickland, L. Terzi, A. Rys, M. Scannell, C. Bertrand, J.-F. Ryan (DG SANTE), I. Brown (EURL, Weybridge), DG Agri, DG Trade, DG Near, DG Env, OIE, FAO, EFSA, ECDC, Council Secretariat, Del Turkey, Del Russia, Del Switzerland.