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Subject: **Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 in poultry in Meldola, province of Forli-Cesena, Region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy**

Message:

Please find attached a letter from the Italian veterinary authorities informing about the confirmation by the National Reference Laboratory for avian influenza (IZSVe) of low pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N2 in samples taken for own checks in a turkey holding situated in the commune of Meldola, province of Forli-Cesena, Region of Emilia-Romagna. The turkeys showed slight respiratory symptoms.

In accordance with the national rules based on Council Directive 2005/94/EC the affected holding was put under official surveillance with restrictions of movements for entry into, and from the holding. The approximately 21.850 heads of poultry present on the holding were killed and cleaning and disinfection will follow. A restricted zone of 1km radius around the infected holding has been established.

Further verifications are ongoing in the holdings which have an epidemiological link to the outbreak holding, taking into account that the affected holding is part of a large integrated production chain. The Region of Emilia Romagna has put in place an exceptional monitoring that is at the moment targeting only the turkey holdings of this production chain. It foresees sampling within four days before the first dispatch (males and females) which shall be repeated every four days. Sampling in all the turkey holdings of the production chain with birds more than four weeks old is carried out as well as checks on the mortality and feed consumption records and controls at the abattoir.

In addition, the holdings which have had an epidemiological link to the outbreak holding will be put under precautionary official surveillance and will undergo an immediate check to verify the reproductive parameters. Blood samples and tracheal swabs are taken from the poultry and sampling of birds that are found dead in the holding is carried out.

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours faithfully,



Bernard Van Gothem

C.c.: M. Valletta, E. Demicoli (Cabinet Commissioner Andriukaitis), E. Brivio (DG COMM), L. Miko, B. Gautrais, K. Cernilogar, S. Plecita Ridzikova, R. Domenech Amado, F. Vincent, L. Terzi, E. Strickland, 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.