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URGENT LPAI - FAX – 031/2015 (11/06/2015)

To:	CVOs of all Member States + Norway, Iceland, Switzerland + Turkey + all Permanent Representations	Telephone:	
		Fax:	
From:	Bernard Van Goethem Director	Telephone:	+32-2-29 53143
		Fax:	+32-2-29 53144

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Subject: Low pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in poultry in Germany

Message:

Please find attached information provided by the German authorities on an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) of subtype H7N7 confirmed today in a holding keeping 36.100 laying hens situated in the commune of Herzlake, Landkreis Emsland, Lower Saxony. The hens were introduced on the holding on 21/10/2014. On 08/06/2015 a drop in egg production was observed. Swabs taken on 09/06/2015 tested positive for AIV H7 in a private laboratory. This finding was confirmed by the Laboratory of the Land and subsequently by the German Reference Laboratory for avian influenza at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI) which confirmed on 11/06/2015 the presence of LPAI H7N7.

The holding was immediately put under official restrictions on 09/06/2015 and culling and safe disposal of the laying hens was initiated on 11/06/2015. In the 1km restricted zone established around the infected holding in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC are three holdings (mainly laying hens) keeping a total of ~24.000 poultry. In that zone the poultry must be kept indoors. Poultry on these holdings is being examined clinically and sampled for laboratory testing.

Epidemiological investigations were promptly initiated. Since 21/10/2014 no further poultry was introduced onto the holding. Possible contacts via the veterinarian servicing the holdings are being investigated. From the infected holding no poultry and poultry meat was moved to other Länder, Member States or third countries and according to current knowledge, eggs were only delivered to one establishment on the German territory. The concerned competent authority was informed accordingly. The source of virus introduction is currently unknown, but the poultry keeper had observed regular contacts of the laying hens in the open-air runs with wild birds.

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours faithfully,



Bernard Van Goethem

Cc: M. Valletta, J. Gurstis (Cabinet Commissioner Andriukaitis), E. Brivio (DG COMM), L. Miko, B. Gautrais, S. Plecita Ridzikova, R. Domenech Amado, 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.