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URGENT HPAI - FAX – 043/2015 (25/11/2015)

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Number of pages:	2 + 1		

Subject: Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in backyard poultry in Dordogne, France

Message:

Please find attached a press release received from the French veterinary authorities informing about an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H5N1 in a backyard holding located in the department of Dordogne. Following abnormal mortality in the holding virus presence was confirmed on 24 November 2015 evening by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES).

The virus strain is highly pathogenic for poultry. Sequencing of the strain is ongoing. It seems that this virus has previously been detected in Europe but with a low pathogenic profile.

The national crisis plan was immediately activated according to EU legislation and international provisions. A protection zone of 3km radius and a surveillance zone of 10km radius have been established around the infected holding. Enhanced active surveillance is carried out in poultry holdings and the wild fauna.

As a precaution, ANSES is tasked to evaluate a potential danger of this virus strain for humans.

The French authorities further inform that an urgent Committee on animal health policy will be convened on 26 November 2015 to ensure the immediate application of protection measures.

Further information will be provided by the French authorities in the course of the day.

Yours faithfully,



Bernard Van Goethem

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, 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.