

**Proposal for a Council Directive laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue**

(1999/C 342 E/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

COM(1999) 368 final

(Submitted by to Commission on 8 September 1999)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17 December 1992 introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease <sup>(1)</sup>, as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular the second indent of Article 15 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

- (1) Whereas, in accordance with Article 15 of Directive 92/119/EEC, specific measures to control and eradicate bluetongue should be introduced;
- (2) Whereas the epidemiological characteristics of bluetongue are comparable to those of African horse sickness;
- (3) Whereas the Council has adopted Directive 92/35/EEC laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness <sup>(2)</sup>, as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden;
- (4) Whereas, therefore, to combat bluetongue, reference should be made to the overall measures laid down by Directive 92/35/EEC to combat African horse sickness;
- (5) Whereas, however, the usual methods for rearing species susceptible to bluetongue require the measures laid down by Directive 92/35/EEC for African horse sickness and *equidae* to be adapted somewhat;
- (6) Whereas rules should be laid down on the movement of susceptible species, their semen, ova and embryos from areas subject to restrictions arising from an outbreak of the disease;
- (7) Whereas Article 3 of Council Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field <sup>(3)</sup>, as last amended by Decision 94/370/EEC <sup>(4)</sup> applies in the event of an outbreak of bluetongue;

(8) Whereas a procedure for close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission must be introduced,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

Directive 92/35/EEC laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to bluetongue in species susceptible to this disease, save for the derogations provided for below.

*Article 2*

By way of derogation from the definitions in the first and second paragraphs of Article 2 of Directive 92/35/EEC, the following definitions shall apply in the case of bluetongue:

- holding: agricultural or other holding where animals of the species susceptible to bluetongue are permanently or temporarily reared or kept, and nature reserves in which animals of the species susceptible to the disease live,
- susceptible species: all ruminants.

*Article 3*

By way of derogation from Article 4(2)(d)(i) and (iii) of Directive 92/35/EEC, the official veterinarian shall ensure that, should a bluetongue outbreak occur:

as far as point (i) is concerned: all animals of susceptible species are kept on the holding where they are located,

as far as point (iii) is concerned: the animals, the buildings used to house them and their surroundings (in particular habitats in which *Culicoides* populations thrive) are regularly treated with insecticides. To prevent infestations by the vectors as far as possible, the rate of treatment shall be fixed by the competent authority, taking account of the persistence of the insecticide used and the climatic conditions.

*Article 4*

Where bluetongue appears, the alternative measures to vaccination listed in Article 6(1)(d) of Directive 92/35/EEC may be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9. The measures may be amended by the same procedure.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 69.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 157, 10.6.1992, p. 19.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 168, 2.7.1994, p. 31.

*Article 5*

Article 11 of Directive 92/35/EEC shall not apply to bluetongue in sheep. Instead, the following provisions shall apply:

1. The measures laid down in Articles 6, 8, 9 and 10 of Directive 92/35/EEC shall be amended or repealed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9 below, upon presentation of the results of a sero-surveillance programme guaranteeing that viral seroconversion has not occurred after a period in which the disease vectors have been active. A decision to lift the measures may not be taken until 12 months have passed since the final vaccinations, where vaccination has occurred under Articles 6(1) and 9(2).
2. However, notwithstanding Articles 9(1)(c) and 10(1) of Directive 92/35/EEC:
  - (a) animals of susceptible species may be transported out of the protection or surveillance zones if they meet the following requirements:
    - (i) they are transported only at certain times of the year, depending on the activity of the insect vectors; the times shall be fixed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9;
    - (ii) they have been kept for at least 40 days at a quarantine station where they were protected from the insect vectors;
    - (iii) they have tested negative in two separate tests to detect the presence of the specific bluetongue virus antibodies, such as the immuno-enzymatic competition method or the agar gel immuno-diffusion test, the first test being done at the start of quarantine and the second no sooner than 28 days after the first. Other control methods may be recognised in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9, after the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Welfare has been consulted.
    - (iv) they must have undergone, before transport, an external pesticide treatment to prevent attacks by vector insects during transport;
    - (v) they show no clinical sign of bluetongue on the day of transport.
  - (b) movements of animals of susceptible species within the protection or surveillance zone shall be subject to authorisation from the competent authority, which shall:
    - (i) refuse authorisation for movements of animals from or to holdings on which it can be concluded from the information available that the virus is active,

- (ii) refuse authorisation to move animals vaccinated less than 60 days before.

*Article 6*

By way of derogation from Annexes I A and II of Directive 92/35/EEC, Annexes I and II to this Directive shall apply in the case of bluetongue.

*Article 7*

The transport of semen, ova and embryos of susceptible species out of protection and surveillance zones shall be regulated in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9.

*Article 8*

The Annexes to this Directive shall be amended in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9.

*Article 9*

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee established by Decision 68/361/EEC in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 2 below.

2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the measures within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 205(2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions for which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the Committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The chairman shall not vote.

3. The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they accord with the opinion of the Committee.

4. If the measures envisaged do not accord with the opinion of the Committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall immediately submit to the Council a proposal on the measures to be taken.

5. The Council, acting by qualified majority, shall act on the proposal within 15 days.

If, within that period, the Council indicates by qualified majority that it opposes the proposal, the Commission shall reconsider it. It may present an amended proposal to the Council, resubmit the same proposal or present a legislative proposal on the basis of the Treaty.

If the Council has not adopted the proposed implementing measures or has not indicated its opposition to the proposed implementing measures by the expiry of the time limit, they shall be adopted by the Commission.

*Article 10*

1. Member States shall adopt and publish before 31 December 1999 the provisions, including any penalties, necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall inform the Commission of them forthwith. They shall apply those provisions with effect from 1 January 2000.

When Member States adopt these provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or shall be accompanied by such reference at the time of their official publication. The procedure for such reference shall be adopted by Member States.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the provisions of national law they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

*Article 11*

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

*Article 12*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

## ANNEX I

**LISTA DE LOS LABORATORIOS NACIONALES DE LA FIEBRE CATARRAL OVINA**

**LISTE OVER NATIONALE LABORATORIER FOR BLUETONGUE**

**LISTE DER FÜR DIE BLAUZUNGENKRANKHEIT ZUSTÄNDIGEN NATIONALEN LABORATORIEN**

**ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ ΕΘΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΩΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΚΑΤΑΠΟΪΚΟ ΠΥΡΕΤΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΒΑΤΟΥ**

**LIST OF THE NATIONAL BLUETONGUE LABORATORIES**

**LISTE DES LABORATOIRES NATIONAUX POUR LA FIÈVRE CATARRHALE DU MOUTON**

**ELENCO DEI LABORATORI NAZIONALI PER LA FEBBRE CATARRALE DEGLI OVINI**

**LIJST VAN DE NATIONALE LABORATORIA VOOR BLUETONGUE**

**LISTA DOS LABORATÓRIOS NACIONAIS EM RELAÇÃO À FEBRE CATARRAL OVINA**

**LUETTELO KANSALLISISTA LAMPAAN BLUETONGUE-TAUTIA VARTEN NIMETYISTÄ LABORATORIOISTA**

**FÖRTECKNING ÖVER NATIONELLA LABORATORIER FÖR BLUETONGUE**

Belgique/België	Centre d'Études et de Recherches Vétérinaires et Agrochimiques (CERVA) 99, Groeselenberg B-1180 Bruxelles Tel. (32-2) 375 44 55 Fax (32-2) 375 09 79 E-mail: piker@var.fgov.be
Danmark	Danish Institute for Virus Research Lindholm DK-4771 Kalvehave Tlf. (45) 55 86 02 00 Fax 45 55 86 03 00 E-mail: sviv@vetvirus.dk
Deutschland	Bundesforschungsanstalt für Viruskrankheiten der Tiere — Anstaltsteil Tübingen Postfach 11 49 D-72001 Tübingen PD Dr. Büttner Tel. (07071) 967 255 Fax (07071) 967 303

Ελλάδα	Ministry of Agriculture Centre of Athens Veterinary Institutions Virus Department 25, Neapoleos Str. Ag. Paraskevi GR-15310 Athens Τηλ. (30-1) 601 14 99/601 09 03 Φαξ (30-1) 639 94 77
España	Centro de Investigación en Sanidad Animal INIA-CISA D. Jose Manuel Sánchez Vizcaino Carretera de Algete-El Casar, km 8, Valdeolmos E-20180 Madrid Tel. 916 20 22 16 Fax 916 20 22 47 E-Mail: vizcaino@inia.es
France	CIRAD-EMVT Campus international de Baillarguet BP 5035 F-34032 Montpellier Cedex 1 Tél. 04 67 59 37 24 Fax 04 67 59 37 98 E-mail: bastron@cirad.fr
Ireland	Central Veterinary Research Laboratory Abbotstown Castleknock Dublin 15 Ireland Tel. (353-1) 607 26 79 Fax (353-1) 822 03 63 E-mail: reillypj@indigo.ie
Italia	CESME presso IZS Via Campo Boario I-64100 Teramo Tel. 0861 332216 Fax 0861 332251 E-mail: Cesme@IZS.it
Luxembourg	Centre d'Études et de Recherches Vétérinaires et Agrochimiques (CERVA) 99, Groeselenberg B-1180 Bruxelles Tél. (32-2) 375 44 55 Fax: (32-2) 375 09 79 E-mail: piker@var.fgov.be
Nederland	ID-DLO Edelhertweg 15 8219 PH Lelystad Nederland Tel. (0320) 23 82 38 Fax (0320) 23 80 50 E-mail: postkamer@id.dlo.nl
Österreich	Bundesanstalt für Virusseuchenbekämpfung bei Haustieren Robert Kochgasse 17 A-2340 Mödling Tel. (0043) 2236 46640-0 Fax (0043) 2236 46640-941 E-mail: BATSB VetMoedling@compuserve.com
Portugal	Laboratório Nacional de Investigaçao Veterinaria Estrada de Benfica, 701 P-1549-011 Lisboa Tel. (351-1) 711 52 00 Fax (351-1) 711 5 38 36 E-mail: dir.Inlv@mail.telepac.pt

Suomi	Danish Institute for Virus Research Lindholm DK-4771 Kalvehave Tel. (45) 55 86 02 00 Fax (45) 55 86 03 00 E-mail: sviv@vetvirus.dk
Sverige	National Veterinary Institute Box 7073 S-750 07 Uppsala
United Kingdom	Institute for Animal Health Pirbright Laboratory Ash Road Pirbright Woking Surrey GU24 ONF United Kingdom Tel. (01483) 23 24 41 Fax (01483) 23 24 48 E-mail: philip-mellor@bbsrc.ac.uk

---

ANNEX II

**LABORATORIO COMUNITARIO DE REFERENCIA DE LA FIEBRE CATARRAL OVINA**

**EF-REFERENCELABORATORIUM FOR BLUETONGUE**

**GEMEINSCHAFTLICHES REFERENZLABORATORIUM FÜR DIE BLAUZUNGENKRANKHEIT**

**ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΤΗΡΙΟ ΑΝΑΦΟΡΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΚΑΤΑΡΡΟΪΚΟ ΠΥΡΕΤΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΒΑΤΟΥ**

**COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR BLUETONGUE**

**LABORATOIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE RÉFÉRENCE POUR LA FIÈVRE CATARRHALE DU MOUTON**

**LABORATORIO COMUNITARIO DI RIFERIMENTO PER LA FEBBRE CATARRALE DEGLI OVINI**

**COMMUNAUTAIRE REFERENTIELABORATORIA VOOR BLUETONGUE**

**LABORATÓRIO COMUNITÁRIO DE REFERÊNCIA EM RELAÇÃO À FEBRE CATARRAL OVINA**

**YHTEISÖN VERTAILULABORATORIO LAMPAAN BLUETONGUE-TAUTIA VARTEN**

**GEMENSKAPENS REFERENSLABORATORIUM FÖR BLUETONGUE**

AFRC Institute for Animal Health  
Pirbright laboratory  
Ash road  
Pirbright  
Woking  
Surrey GU24ONF  
United Kingdom  
Tel. (01483) 23 24 41  
Fax (01483) 23 24 48  
E-mail: philip-mellor@bbsrc.ac.uk

---