

Current situation on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

(04/01) In **Germany**, an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was confirmed on 18 January in a mobile housing with around 200 laying hens in Einbeck, Northeim district (Lower Saxony). The corresponding exclusion zone has been established.

According to a communication from the EU Commission (SPS notification) from 23 January, **Japan** plans to suspend imports of poultry meat and egg products from parts of Belgium and Lithuania, as well as live poultry, poultry meat and egg products from Hungary. In order to prevent the introduction of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) into Japan, the competent authority MAFF has adopted import suspension measures based on Articles 37 and 44 of the “Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control” and other relevant requirements. changes taken. In addition, the **Philippines** no longer allows to import poultry products from France and Belgium. This was announced by the Ministry of Agriculture in Manila. The island state is reacting to outbreaks of avian influenza. According to the ministry, the import ban also extends to live animals and hatching eggs.

Animal disease statistics 2023 published

(04/02) The European Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) has just published the annual data for the year 2023. According to the report, African swine fever (ASF) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were once again the dominant animal diseases in Europe last year.

HPAI was detected in 3,559 wild birds last year, an increase of almost 10% compared to the previous year. On the other hand, the number of entries into poultry farms fell by 77.5%. A total of 19 EU Member States were affected by HPAI in poultry flocks. France remained the worst-hit country with 158 outbreaks, but detection fell by 90% compared to 2022. In Hungary, 148 HPAI outbreaks were reported, halving the number of outbreaks compared to 2022. Poland reported 68 outbreaks to ADIS, almost as many as in 2022. Germany reported 42 HPAI outbreaks last year, 55 detections fewer than in 2022.

According to the 2023 annual data of the European Animal Disease Information System, ASF cases in wild boar were detected in 14 EU countries and six European third countries in 2023. New cases of ASF occurred last year in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo and Sweden. A total of 7,903 detections of ASF were recorded in wild boars, according to ADIS, an increase of 461 detections or 6.2%. The highest number of detections occurred in Poland with 2,744, followed by Italy with 1,047 detections. In Germany, only half as many detections were registered compared to the previous year, with 899 ASF-infected wild boars. However, looking at ASF entries in pig farms, a total of 16 countries, including nine EU countries, were affected in 2023. In 2022, there were only 12 countries. According to ADIS, there were a total of 4,513 entries of the virus into pig herds. This was significantly more than the 537 cases reported in the previous year.

Amendment to the lists of third countries for imports of poultry commodities from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States

(04/03) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in the lists of third countries authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat and meat products from poultry and game birds has been amended again in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza

(HPAI). The corresponding Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/387 has been published in the Official Journal L on 22 January 2024.

Canada has notified the Commission of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry in the province of Quebec, which was confirmed on 3 January 2024.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of eight outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California (3), Kansas (3), Missouri (1) and Wisconsin (1), which were confirmed between 28 December 2023 and 10 January 2024.

With the implementing regulation that has now been published, the EU Commission has suspended the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat of poultry and game birds from those areas mentioned in Canada and the United States.

Moreover, the **United Kingdom** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to an outbreak of HPAI in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, which was confirmed on 22 November 2023.

Furthermore, **Canada** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to ten outbreaks of HPAI in poultry establishments in the provinces of Columbia (2), Manitoba (1), Quebec (1) and Saskatchewan (2), which were confirmed between 1 November and 5 December 2023.

The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by the United Kingdom and Canada. The Commission considers that the United Kingdom and Canada have provided appropriate guarantees that the animal health situation that gave rise to the suspensions, no longer represents a threat to animal or public health within the Union, and that, consequently, the entry into the Union of poultry commodities from the concerned zones of the United Kingdom and Canada from which entry into the Union had been suspended, should be reauthorised.

Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 were amended accordingly to take account of the current epidemiological situation as regards HPAI in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/387 entered into force on 23 January 2024 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/387/oj

Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets (Annex)

(04/05) The most recent meeting of the joint management committee for animal products took place on Thursday, 18 January. The agenda includes inter alia the market situation in the egg and poultry sector. The next meeting of the Common Management Committee is expected to take place on 15 February 2024.

The presentation on the situation on the EU-poultry meat market was provided by the Commission and is attached and also available on the EPEGA homepage under the following link:

http://intranet.epega.org/meta_downloads/96765/EU_market_situation_Poultry-January_2024.pdf

EU Agriculture Committee discusses new trade facilitation for Ukraine (Annex)

(04/06) The recent meeting of the EU Agriculture Council took place in Brussels on 23 January. In view of the beginning of the discussion in the EU forum on the extension of the regulation on Autonomous Trade Measures for Ukraine, the agenda included information from the Polish delegation under the item "Other" entitled *The need to include in the new Autonomous Trade Measures (ATM) Regulation for Ukraine effective solutions to prevent excessive agricultural imports from Ukraine and the negative impact on the agricultural sector of the EU and its Member States, in particular those bordering Ukraine*. We have attached the note submitted by the Polish delegation with a proposal for the design of a new reg-

ulation with trade facilitation for Ukraine to this circular. It remains to be seen whether and to what extent imports into the European Union will be restricted.

EU Corporate Due Diligence Directive: disagreement within the German government

(04/08) After the decision of the FDP Presidium against the EU Corporate Due Diligence Directive, there is disagreement within the traffic light government in Germany. The SPD-led Ministry of Labour and the Greens-led Ministry of Economic Affairs announced last week that talks on the position of the federal government in the upcoming vote at EU level are still ongoing. If the FDP-led Ministry of Justice were to speak out against the planned law in accordance with the party's decision, Germany would have to abstain from the EU vote. The 27 EU Member States and the European Parliament agreed on the EU Corporate Due Diligence Directive in mid-December. Both sides still have to approve this agreement. As a rule, this is considered a formality. So far, the German government has supported the agreement. If Germany's vote is now missing due to the opposition of the FDP in the EU vote, which is due to take place at the beginning of February, the law could still fail.

As is well known, the December agreement stipulates that companies above a certain size will in future be obliged to identify negative impacts of their activities on human rights and the environment and to "prevent, mitigate, terminate and remedy possible impacts". In addition, they must also monitor compliance with environmental and social standards at their partner companies in the value chain. These include suppliers, distribution partners, transport companies, storage service providers and waste management. The Presidium of the FDP had decided last week to reject the agreement. The supply chain law would create "disproportionate bureaucratic burden and legal uncertainty," the party said. Companies and associations in many industries have been sharply criticising the planned requirements for months.

Deforestation-free supply chains: associations warn of false start of EU regulation

(04/09) Associations of the agricultural and food industry consider the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains (EUDR) is not yet implementable in key areas. Twelve months before the planned launch, "the EU Commission has not yet been able to clarify almost all crucial application issues", complained 16 associations, including the German Farmers' Association (DBV), the German Raiffeisen Association (DRV), the Agricultural Trade (DAH) and the Federation of German Food and Drink Industries (BVE). The associations involved are therefore calling on the German government and the EU Commission to postpone the application of the regulation until the key questions for the individual products have been clarified. As long as the EU Commission and the national authorities are unable to ensure that companies can provide practical evidence, the existing transition period must be extended in order to avoid empty shelves. In the view of the associations, there is no longer enough for businesses to implement the new provisions in practical manner. For example, a concrete list of the information to be submitted and a mature IT system for the millions of data records for the obligation to provide evidence are missing. The necessary state cooperation with important countries of origin is also "a long way off".

The main points of criticism are the additional bureaucratic workload, which requires "extensive investments and organisational changes" on farms, and the fact that the obligations to provide evidence also apply to producers in Europe, such as foresters, soybean growers on the Danube or cattle farmers, who are also subject to great bureaucratic impositions as a result. This would run counter to any political commitment to reducing bureaucracy. The meat industry is also calling for a "practicable solution" so as not to further burden domestic livestock farmers and the downstream stages. In particular, the many small and medium-sized enterprises in the food industry find it difficult to cope with another bureaucratic burden.

The EUDR has been in force since 29 June 2023. From 30 December 2024, producers and traders will have to provide extensive evidence that their goods come from deforestation-free growing areas in order

to continue importing and selling them on the EU market. This applies first and foremost to coffee, cocoa, soy, palm oil, cattle, hides, leather, wood and rubber.

Chicken production worldwide to increase slightly again in 2024

(04/10) In mid-January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a new assessment of the development of global chicken meat production. At 103.26 million tonnes, a record result could be achieved in 2024 and the production volume of 2023 could be exceeded by 1.0%. The U.S. will remain the undisputed world leader in chicken production. Production there is expected to grow by 0.4% to 21.20 million tonnes in 2024. It remains to be seen whether this prognosis can be achieved in view of the avian influenza currently rampant in the USA. U.S. export volumes are expected to stagnate in 2024 as demand from Cuba and Angola is expected to be weaker.

According to the current forecasts of USDA experts, the expansion trend in Brazil continues. There, chicken meat production is expected to increase by 1.0% in 2024. However, with 15.05 million tonnes Brazil is still clearly behind the USA in second place among the largest producing countries. Subject to the fact that commercial poultry farming in Brazil continues to be spared from avian influenza, the export volume could increase by a further 2.1% to 4.93 million tonnes in 2024. However, growth will slow down compared to 2023 (+8.5%). An expected weaker demand from Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan will have a major impact on Brazil, the world's leading exporter.

In China, on the other hand, the decline in chicken production is expected to continue this year after production stagnated in 2023. A minus of 3.0% is expected for the current year, meaning that production will amount to 13.87 million tonnes. The background to this is China's import restrictions on breeding material due to highly pathogenic avian influenza. In the European Union and also in Thailand, the USDA estimates that the growth trend will continue moderately.

Annexes:

- EU market situation poultry, January 2024
- EU Agriculture Council – Note Polish delegation

Imprint

Editor: European Poultry, Egg and Game Association (EPEGA),
Am Weidendamm 1A, DE 10117 Berlin

Manager: Christine Amling/Sebastian Werren

Tel.: +49 30 590099-562, E-Mail: info@epega.org, Internet: <http://www.epega.org>

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