

## **EPEGA Managing Board elects Chairman**

(19/01) At last year's EPEGA general meeting, which took place on 24 November, the new Managing Board was elected as reported. It was agreed that the chairman and his deputy would be elected at the next Managing Board meeting. This was duly held on 29 April 2024. Dr. Klaus Berger, Intergusto GmbH was elected again as Managing Board Chairman, and Mr. Bernd Cordes, Paulsen Food GmbH, was appointed again as his deputy. Both men accepted their election.

## **EU Council approves extension of trade aid for Ukraine**

(19/02) On 13 May, the EU states finally agreed to suspend import duties and quotas for Ukrainian imports for a further year. The autonomous trade rules for Ukraine have been in force since June 2022. At the same time, increased protection mechanisms for agricultural imports from Ukraine to the EU will be maintained. These enable a rapid response in the event of significant disruptions on the EU market or the markets of the member states, as announced by the Belgian Council Presidency in Brussels. In addition, an emergency brake applies to eggs and poultry, among others, which is automatically triggered if Ukrainian imports reach the average annual imports recorded between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2023. The continuation of trade facilitation comes into force on 6 June this year, the current regulation expires on 5 June.

## **Current situation on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (Annex)**

(19/03) On 8 May, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI) published an updated risk assessment on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which we have attached to this circular. Accordingly no outbreaks of HPAI in domestic poultry were detected in **Germany** in April. As a result, the FLI has downgraded the risk of HPAI introduction for German poultry farms through direct and indirect contact with wild birds once again for May from 'moderate' to 'low'. In addition, the FLI currently assumes a low risk of the virus spreading between holdings (secondary outbreaks) within the EU and also within Germany.

In **Europe** HPAI outbreaks in domestic poultry were reported in April exclusively from Bulgaria (n=4) and Hungary (n=8). Various sectors of poultry production were affected; in Bulgaria laying hens, broilers, non-commercial small holdings; in Hungary turkeys, waterfowl with secondary infections mainly from the Békés region. The number of cases in wild birds in Europe also decreased in April with a total of 7 reports (March=54).

**Worldwide** HPAI outbreaks in domestic poultry and wild bird cases were detected in Asia and North America in April 2024 and reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

- South and Southeast Asia: A few H5N1 outbreaks in domestic poultry have been reported in India and Vietnam
- Antarctic region: HPAI was detected in April in brown skuas on "Lagoon Island".
- South America: Brazil reported H5N1 cases in terns on the east coast. The situation is currently very calm compared to a year ago.
- North America: In the USA 30 outbreaks in poultry in 3 US states and 32 cases in wild birds were reported for April.

### **Current situation on African swine fever**

(19/04) In April, the number of cases of African swine fever (ASF) in wild boars in Europe decreased significantly compared to the previous month, as has been the case in recent years. This is likely to be related to the end of the hunting season and the beginning of the reproductive period. As the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) currently reports, 17 cases were reported in **Germany** in April. Of these, seven cases were reported from Brandenburg and 10 cases from Saxony. The majority of Brandenburg cases occurred in the south of the state, near the Saxon border. Only one case occurred in the Uckermark, near the border with Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and very close to the Polish border. In Saxony, all cases occurred in the districts of Bautzen or Görlitz.

Once again, most ASF cases in wild boars were reported from **Poland** (285) and **Italy** (136). The cases in Italy occurred mainly in the already affected area in the north of the country (Figure 1). The number of cases has decreased significantly, especially in **Latvia** (48). In the first two weeks of May, a total of 61 new ASF outbreaks in wild boars were detected in **Poland** nationwide. Almost half of this was in the north of the country. Overall, however, the ASF incidence in Poland has decreased this year. As of 12 May, there were 740 confirmed ASF outbreaks in wild boars, up from 1,400 in the same period last year.

### **France and China sign regionalisation agreement for poultry products**

(19/06) France and China have signed a regionalisation agreement for poultry products, the Paris Ministry of Agriculture announced on 7 May. According to this, exports from disease-free parts of the country can continue even after an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). France is the second country after the United States with which China has concluded a corresponding agreement. In addition to the regionalisation agreement, China has also agreed to allow pork offal and pork proteins for animal feed into the country, according to the ministry. The two countries have also signed several cooperation agreements.

### **Poultry meat production in Germany increased in the first quarter**

(19/08) The production of poultry meat in Germany increased in the first quarter of 2024. Provisional data of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) show that 169.2 million poultry were processed in slaughterhouses subject to reporting obligations; this was an increase of 181,700 or 0.1% compared with the same period a year earlier. The production of poultry meat increased more markedly, namely by 2.2% to 386,340 tonnes. The reason for this was that the animals were generally heavier when delivered for slaughter. The cheaper feed compared to the previous year apparently led to higher slaughter weights. The fact that noticeably more heavy turkeys reached the slaughter lines also played a role.

The increase in overall poultry meat production in the first three months of this year was largely due to the increased number of turkeys. According to the statisticians, the number of turkeys slaughtered increased by 3.5 % to just under 7.63 million compared to the first quarter of 2023. The production of turkey meat even grew by 7.0% to 105,425 tonnes due to the higher slaughter weights. The slaughter volume of the most important poultry species, broilers, rose more moderately by 0.6% to 152.9 million birds; the corresponding meat production increased by 0.9% to 276,730 tonnes. In the case of soup chickens, on the other hand, there was a year-on-year decline of 13.5% in the number of animals delivered. Corresponding meat production fell by 9.5% to around 7,950 tonnes. Production of geese and ducks has also declined so far this year.

#### **Annex:**

- FLI - Risk assessment HPAI, 8 May 2024

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