

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

(23/01) On 7 June, the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI) published an updated risk assessment on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which we have attached to this circular. Accordingly reports of outbreaks in domestic poultry and cases in wild birds have fallen sharply worldwide since mid-February 2024. In **Germany** no outbreaks of HPAI in domestic poultry or captive birds were detected in May 2024. No HPAI H5 cases have been detected and reported in wild birds or other wild mammals either. Therefore the risk of HPAI entering German poultry farms through direct and indirect contact with wild birds is classified as **low** by the FLI. In addition, the FLI currently assumes a low risk of the virus spreading between holdings (secondary outbreaks) within Germany.

HPAI outbreaks in domestic poultry in **Europe** were reported exclusively from Bulgaria in May. Two commercial duck farms in the Plovdiv and Haskovo regions were affected. The only case of HPAI (H5N1) in wild birds was reported by the Spanish authorities in a Sandwich Tern on the coast of the Gulf of Cadiz.

**Worldwide**, only a few outbreaks in domestic poultry and wild bird cases caused by HPAI were detected and reported in May 2024.

- Iraq reported an outbreak of HPAIV H5N1 in poultry and a case in a seagull at the end of May.
- China reported hundreds of dead herring gulls and other wild birds on Qinghai Lake in Qinghai Province in which HPAI was found.
- India and South Korea reported outbreaks in domestic poultry (ducks).
- Brazil was the only country in South America reported a case in a Cabot's Tern on the South Atlantic coast (Linhares).
- In the USA, 14 outbreaks in poultry (with 5.8 million bird losses) were reported in May in 5 US states and some cases in wild birds, although these were sampled several months ago. These concern a whole range of waterfowl, raptors and gulls from Rhode Island on the Atlantic coast.

The latest FLI report particularly emphasises the further development of dairy cows in the USA. In the USA, infections with HPAI Viruses (H5) have occurred in mammals in a new quality. In addition to sporadic cases in wild carnivorous mammals reported in May (n=7), the outbreak of HPAI (Subtyp H5N1) has spread further on dairy farms. By 7 June, the US authorities had reported a total of 83 affected farms from 11 states (Texas, Kansas, Idaho, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Colorado, Ohio, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa). In May, the authorities reported a further 5 positively tested cats from affected dairy herds in Michigan and New Mexico. The virus was also found in 11 mice in New Mexico. In addition to dairy cows, HPAI was also detected in alpacas for the first time. These had been infected in May probably from infected poultry with which they had come into contact. In principle, people in the USA with contact to (presumably) infected cattle are monitored for symptoms over a period of 10 days. A total of 44 out of 390 people have been tested so far; with the exception of the three clinically ill people who tested positive, all were negative.

In a joint risk assessment, FAO, WHO and WOAHA assume the possibility of further sporadic human infections as long as HPAI H5 viruses are detected in milk and dairy cow farms and thus exposure of personnel working on dairy cow farms is likely.

To date, there have been no cases of HPAIV H5N1 in humans or cattle within the EU. This also applies to Germany. Even though sporadic human infections continue to occur, according to a current assessment by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general population in the EU/EEA countries is classified as **low**. However, a **low to moderate** risk is assumed for occupationally exposed groups. The United States and Europe are taking steps to ac-

quire or manufacture H5N1 avian influenza vaccines that could also be used to protect poultry farm and dairy workers, veterinarians and laboratory technicians in particular.

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

(23/02) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Canada 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) 2024/1694 has been published in the Official Journal L on 13 June 2024.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of four outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of Iowa (2) and Minnesota (2), which were confirmed between 28 May and 3 June 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 the United States.

In addition, **Canada** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to two outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia, which were confirmed on 13 December 2023 and 2 February 2024.

Furthermore, the **United States** has submitted updated information on the epidemiological situation in relation to 19 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California (9), Florida (1), Idaho (1), Michigan (1), Missouri (1), New York (1), North Dakota (2), South Dakota (2) and Washington (1), which were confirmed between 27 November 2023 and 15 April 2024.

The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by Canada and the United States, and considers that they have provided appropriate guarantees that the animal health situation that gave rise to the suspension of the entry of consignments of certain products into the Union from the concerned zones in those third countries, as set out in Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, no longer represents a threat to animal or public health within the Union, and that, consequently, the entry into the Union of those consignments from the concerned zones of Canada and the United States, 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 and the United States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1694 entered into force on 14 June 2024 and is available at the following link: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2024/1694/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/1694/oj)

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

(23/03) In Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany, the suspicion of an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) in a pig farm in the district of Vorpommern-Greifswald has been confirmed. Implementing Decision 2024/1695 concerning certain interim emergency measures in relation to African swine fever in Germany was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 13 June 2024. Implementing Decision 2024/1695 is available at the following link: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2024/1695/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/1695/oj)

The number of cases of African swine fever (ASF) in **wild boars** in Europe continued to fall significantly in May compared to the previous month due to seasonal factors. As the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) currently reports, significantly fewer cases than in previous months were also reported in the most severely affected countries of **Poland** (165) and **Italy** (134). In **Germany**, seven cases were reported in May,

five of them from Brandenburg (Oberspreewald-Lausitz district) close to the border with Saxony and two cases from Saxony (Görlitz district).

### **EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement - Consultation on CETA underway**

(23/09) The EU Commission has launched a public consultation for its report on the assessment of the provisional implementation of the EU - Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Until September, EU citizens and companies are invited to share their experiences under the following link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13821-EU-Canada-Comprehensive-Economic-and-Trade-Agreement-CETA-evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13821-EU-Canada-Comprehensive-Economic-and-Trade-Agreement-CETA-evaluation_en)

Economic modelling, data analysis and literature research will also be included in the assessment. A first version of the report is expected to be available in December, with the final version targeted for March or April 2025.

As is well known, CETA provisionally entered into force on 21 September 2017. The majority of member states, including Germany, have already ratified the agreement. Ten governments still have to agree for full implementation; in addition to Paris, this includes Rome, Warsaw and Brussels. The EU Commission considers CETA a success. In February, Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis announced guidelines for investment protection, which are intended to regulate environmental interventions in particular.

#### **Annex:**

- FLI - Risk assessment HPAI, 7 June 2024

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