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BLUETONGUE IN TURKEY
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

Text of a fax received on 12 August 1999 from Dr Celal Özcan, General Director of Protection and Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ankara:

End of previous report period: 2 August 1999 (see *Disease Information*, 12 [30], 107, dated 6 August 1999).

End of this report period: 12 August 1999.

Background: When Turkey was informed on 7 July 1999 of the bluetongue outbreaks in Bulgaria, it urgently implemented measures in the region, namely: vaccination, animal movement control, insect control, external parasite control, clinical surveillance and monitoring. All clinically suspicious cases were investigated in laboratories and no cases were confirmed.

On 26 July 1999, 5 samples were collected from sick animals in Karapinar locality of Vaysal village, Lalapasa, Edirne, and were sent to the Veterinary Control and Research Institute, where bluetongue antibodies were detected.

From 26 July to 5 August, an intensive clinical survey for bluetongue was carried out in Lalapasa district. New cases were detected in Hacidanishment and Kalkansogut villages which are close to each other and use common grassland.

New outbreaks:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Kalkansogut village, Lalapasa District	1
Hacidanishment village, Lalapasa District	1

Description of affected population in the new outbreaks: sheep that had not been vaccinated against bluetongue.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>
ovi	7,567	62	...

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Central Veterinary Control and Research Institute.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** competitive ELISA (antibody detection). Virus isolation, identification and typing are still in progress.

Epidemiological details:

- Typical signs of bluetongue were observed in 12 out of 30 sheep flocks in the three villages.
- Typical clinical signs were observed in 62 out of 7,567 sheep, one of which was in poor condition and died, probably due to a combination of infections. Mortality has remained low.
- There have been no significant disease occurrences in the cattle population of the area.
- All the known infected villages are located in the northern part of Thrace. The spatial distribution of infection suggests that the bluetongue incursion may have been due to infected wind-borne vectors from the north-northeastern border with Bulgaria.

Control measures during reporting period: the measures mentioned in the previous report have been maintained:

- surveillance;
- vector control;
- control of wildlife reservoirs;
- quarantine and movement control inside the country;
- vaccination with bluetongue virus serotype 4 vaccine.

In Lalapasa district, the incidence of the disease is expected to decrease due to the strict control measures implemented.

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**BLUETONGUE IN BULGARIA
in Haskovo and Kardjali regions**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 4

Text of a fax received on 17 August 1999 from Dr Nikola T. Belev, Delegate of Bulgaria to the OIE:

End of previous report period: 27 July 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [29], 106, dated 30 July 1999).

End of this report period: 17 August 1999.

New outbreaks:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Kardjali region	4
Haskovo region	10

Description of the affected population in the new outbreaks: sheep reared on pastures close to the border with Turkey.

Total number of animals in the new outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
ovi	7,075	41	0	41	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** CVRI (national foot and mouth disease and exotic diseases laboratory), Sofia.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** competitive ELISA, antibody detection.

Control measures during reporting period:

- control of arthropods;
- control of wildlife reservoirs;
- control programme;
- quarantine and movement control inside the country;
- vaccination prohibited.

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**NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN BRAZIL
in imported wild birds**

EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of an e-mail received on 17 August 1999 from Dr Aluisio Berbert Sathler, Director, Department of Animal Defence, Ministry of Agriculture and Supply, Brasilia:

Report date: 17 August 1999.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 16 August 1999.

Location: Foz do Iguaçu (Paraná State)

Description of affected population: eighty imported wild birds (passeriformes) were placed in official quarantine. They presented no clinical signs but were submitted to laboratory testing as part of a programme of epidemiological vigilance.

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Ministry of Agriculture Regional Animal Health Laboratory, Lara, Campinas, São Paulo.
- B. Diagnostic test used:** intracerebral pathogenicity index. Result: 1.05
- C. Causal agent:** Newcastle disease virus, pathogenic strain.

Control measures during reporting period: all the birds were slaughtered and destroyed.

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BLUETONGUE IN GREECE
Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 1

Text of an e-mail received on 18 August 1999 from Dr Vasilios Stylas, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:

End of previous report period: 12 August 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [31], 111, dated 13 August 1999).

End of this report period: 18 August 1999.

1. Results of epidemiological surveillance in Evros and Rodopi

1.1 Clinical surveillance

In the course of on-going targeted clinical surveillance, clinical signs compatible with bluetongue were identified in three sheep flocks.

Outbreaks:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Evros	1
Rodopi	2

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
ovi	525	16	9*

* Note: dead animals were reported by the farmer and their death cannot be definitively attributed to bluetongue.

Intensive clinical surveillance has been extended to include the entire territories of Evros and Rodopi.

1.2 Serological surveillance

The purpose of serological surveillance in Evros and Rodopi is now twofold, namely:

- to investigate the extent of infection in already affected areas;
- to detect new potentially affected areas.

The cumulated results of serological surveillance are summarised in the table below.

<i>Prefecture</i>	<i>Date of sampling</i>	<i>No. of animals sampled & results (total/positive)</i>		
		<i>cattle</i>	<i>sheep</i>	<i>goats</i>
Evros	03-11/08/99	313/25	111/01	190/05
Rodopi	05-12/08/99	228/09	1,686/31	80/0

1.3 Discussion of clinical and serological findings

A preliminary assessment of the clinical and serological findings available to date leads to the following working hypotheses of epidemiological significance:

- With regard to the estimated time of incursion, it is considered as recent (probably during the last week of July) on the basis of the low sero-prevalence observed in affected areas and taking into account the maximum incubation period before clinical signs are manifested in sheep (20 days).

- With regard to the route of incursion, on the basis of geographical, meteorological and terrain considerations in conjunction with the clinical and serological findings available to date, there are probably two, and possibly three, independent but simultaneous routes of incursion.

The three clinical outbreaks along with seropositive animals in mid-western Evros appear to be linked together and are probably due to wind-borne vectors carried by northerly winds from south-eastern Bulgaria (region of Haskovo or, more likely, Kardjali).

The single farm with seropositive cattle in Pentalofos, Evros, is clearly directly linked to the cluster of outbreaks in Haskovo region, Bulgaria, and in this case the infected vectors were simply carried along the valley of the river Ardas.

On the other hand, seropositive bovines found in Mandra, Evros, are situated adjacent to the border with Turkey and are difficult to link with either the outbreaks in Bulgaria or those in Greece.

With regard to the means of infection, all research has so far failed to identify vectors of the species *Culicoides imicola*, but has produced large numbers of *Culicoides obsoletus*. Since the latter species is not the predominant vector of bluetongue, its efficacy in spreading the disease is probably dependent on the sheer numbers of this particular midge.

- With regard to the spreading of infection, it appears that it may be geographically limited in clusters, reflecting either favourable local weather and terrain conditions or the adequate size of local populations of non-specific vectors or, simply, early detection.

2. Results of surveillance in Evros and Rodopi

On 12 August 1999, a Level B-1 alert was declared in Xanthi, Serres, Drama and Kilkis, along the entire length of the border with Bulgaria. In the four Prefectures concerned clinical surveillance has produced negative results to date, while the results of serological screening are not yet available.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN GERMANY Follow-up report

FOLLOW-UP REPORT NO. 2

Text of a fax received on 19 August 1999 from Dr Werner Zwingmann, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:

End of previous report period: 7 June 1999 (see *Disease Information*, **12** [22], 80, dated 11 June 1999).

End of this report period: 18 August 1999.

New outbreak:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks</i>
Brandenburg	1

Description of affected population in the outbreak: holding for fattening.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
sui	1,669	41	37	1,632	0

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Staatliches Veterinäruntersuchungsamt, Frankfurt/Oder.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** virus isolation.

Source of agent / origin of infection: unknown.

Control measures during reporting period:

- the animals have been slaughtered and will be destroyed in rendering plants;
- ban on the movements of animals of susceptible species in an area around the infected holding;
- tracing of animal movements into and out of the infected holding.

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