



Contribution of DG SANTE to disaster management – veterinary perspective

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DDG2.G4.: Food, alert systems and training**

Outline

- Impact of natural disasters on veterinary public health
- Managing food safety/animal health issues in an emergency context
- EU legal framework
- Communication
- Conclusions

Impact of natural disasters on veterinary public health

- Consequences on animal health/welfare and food/feed safety in affected areas may be severe (epidemics, large scale depopulation, contamination of food, ...)
- Trade globalisation increases the risk of cross-border food-borne outbreaks
- Role of veterinarians is crucial to prevent, control and manage crisis situations

Managing food safety/animal health issues in an emergency context

CHALLENGES:

Speed of response, decision making and action

Systems of management, communication & information

Science – good science informing risk-based decisions



Managing food safety/animal health issues in an emergency context

Shared responsibilities:

- Operators: primary responsibility for food/feed safety and animal health/welfare
- Competent authorities: implementation of measures, surveillance, control, communication
- European Commission: support, coordination and guidance of MS, communication



Legal framework

Emergencies measures / animal health

- Urgent measures can be decided
- Financial contribution (emergency fund) to Member States
- EU veterinary emergency team (Decision 2007/412/EC) can be activated



Legal framework

Emergencies measures / animal welfare (Regulation (EC) 1099/2009)

- Prepared depopulation plans
- SOPs on animal welfare issues
- Transparent reporting



Legal framework

Emergencies measures for food/feed (Regulation No 178/2002)

- Member States may adopt national interim protective measures but they have to be extended, amended or abrogated by the Commission within 10 days
- The Commission shall adopt measures (ban , restrictions, ...) in presence of a serious risk that cannot be satisfactorily contained by MS.



Legal framework

General plan for crisis management (Commission Decision 2004/478/EC)

1. Scope of the general plan
2. Definitions of crisis situations
3. Procedures leading to the application of the general plan
4. Network of crisis coordinators
5. Practical procedures for the management of a crisis (crisis unit)
6. Management of "potentially serious risk"
7. Communication strategy
8. Transparency



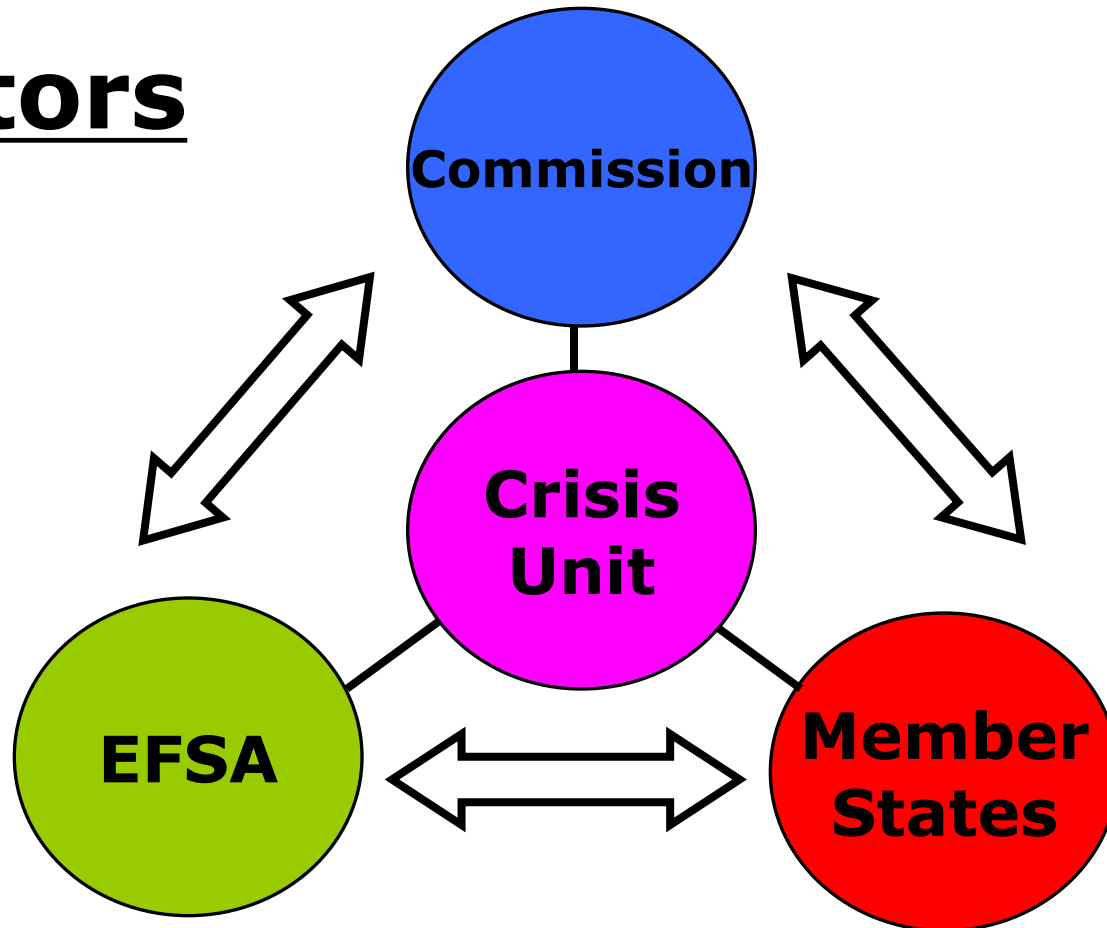
Legal framework

Actions of the Crisis Unit

- Communication and circulation of scientific information + additional information
- Evaluation of information
- Identification of options for prevention, elimination or reduction of the risk
- Organisation of communication to the public

General plan for crisis management

Actors





Legal framework

Contingency planning food/feed (Art. 13 of Regulation 882/2004)

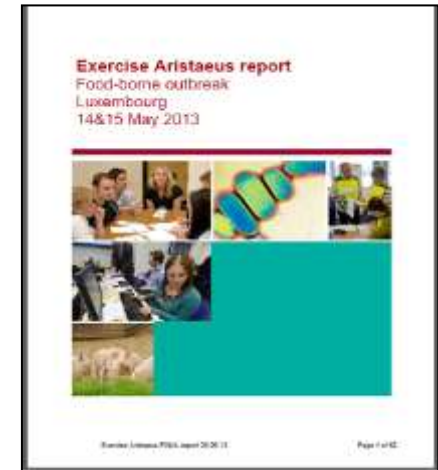
- MS shall draw up operational contingency plans for feed and food specifying:
 - the administrative authorities to be engaged;
 - their powers and responsibilities;
 - channels and procedures for sharing information between the relevant parties
- Plans shall be reviewed based on experiences gained, (e.g. simulation exercises)

Key points for efficient crisis management:

- consultation and coordination throughout the EU and between the concerned actors
- risk management measures to be decided (ban, restrictions,...)
- appropriate communication strategy
- appropriate preparedness for emergencies/crisis (exercises)

Exercises: at EU and national level

- To test contingency plans
- To establish SOPs between different sectors
- To be prepared for major disease events
- To think about scenarios "outside the box,, (e.g. Bioterrorism)
- EU-wide (ex: Aristaeus in 2013 on food borne outbreak coordination)
- National exercises



Communication

- Verification of information provided by alert systems (RASFF, EWRS, ADNS, ...) is essential
- Sound scientific advice or risk assessment
- Advanced announcement to all parties involved
- Communicators network both on the public health side and veterinary side to assess and anticipate possible reactions of the press/general public

Conclusions

- Legal tools are in place
- Collaboration between sectors is key
- Constant learning process based on lessons-learned
- Appropriate communication strategy is crucial

QUESTIONS?