

Brussels, 16 October 2003

Commission approves EUR 147 million to fight animal diseases in 2004

The European Commission has approved a financial package to fight transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) and other animal diseases in the EU in 2004. The European Union (EU) budget will contribute € 92.64 million for financing BSE and scrapie monitoring and eradication in the Member States and Accession Countries. The Commission also adopted funding provisions for the 2004 programmes to eradicate other animal diseases like brucellosis or rabies and prevent zoonoses. The EU will contribute € 54.29 million from its resources in the veterinary field for these programmes in the Member States and some Accession Countries. The diseases targeted by the programmes have implications for both human and animal health or cause serious losses in livestock farming and therefore constitute barriers to intra-EU or international trade.

Commenting on the decisions, David Byrne, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, stated: "Testing programmes are a successful and important instrument to identify the scale of BSE and scrapie in the European Union. The introduction of the compulsory BSE test has proven how important they are - in addition to safety legislation - to detect BSE in cattle and to keep infected animals out of the food and feed chain. Intensive testing in sheep and goats has given a clearer picture of the incidence of TSEs in these animals."

On the animal disease eradication programmes he added: "The continuing support of the European Union for disease eradication programmes is a reflection of our commitment to continue the EU's efforts to improve the health status of the EU's livestock which is important from the point of view of protecting animal health and which will in turn be crucial in preserving human health."

Programmes for EU-25

Article 32 of the Act of Accession of 2003 lays down that the Accession Countries are to receive the same treatment as the present Member States as regards expenditure under veterinary funds. However, no financial commitment under the 2004 budget for any programme concerned may be made before the accession of the concerned countries has taken place.

Eradication programmes are presented on a voluntary basis and depending on the epidemiological situation in each country. Certain Accession countries have submitted their plans and have been considered. For the TSE monitoring programmes and some eradication programmes, some Accession Countries receive financial contribution from the EU by other financial instruments (PHARE programme) than the veterinary fund and therefore they have not been included in the financial package.

TSE monitoring and eradication programmes

All cattle for human consumption older than 30 months, all dead-on-farm cattle and emergency slaughtered cattle over 24 months and all suspect animals independent of their age have to be tested for BSE. In Member States with a lower BSE risk (Sweden) healthy slaughtered animals over 30 months will be subject to random sampling. In total, in the year 2004, around 10 million cattle will be tested for BSE - the test being co-financed by the EU.

Furthermore, random post mortem TSE testing of sheep and goats over 18 months in the categories of healthy animals at slaughter and fallen stock is obligatory since 2002. In total about 350,000 tests were done on these animals in the EU last year.

From 1 October 2003 new requirements for scrapie eradication measures are in place that require the culling and genotyping of animals in infected flocks. In addition, from 1 January 2004 breeding programmes for resistance to TSEs in sheep are to be implemented. € 15.67 Million has been allocated towards these new scrapie eradication measures.

The financing has been decided following the submission to the Commission by Member States and some Accession Countries of their monitoring and eradication programmes for 2004. The programmes have been evaluated by the Commission taking into account the epidemiological situation and the total population of bovine, ovine and caprine animals.

The Commission has now adopted the maximum possible EU financial contribution towards the programmes of the Member States and Accession Countries. In total for the monitoring of TSE and for the eradication of scrapie € 92.64 million will be made available from the EU budget. The distribution by Member State and Accession Country can be found in Annex 1.

Animal disease eradication programmes

The Commission is required to adopt each year a list of programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases and for the control of zoonoses qualifying for a financial contribution from the EU as well as the proposed rate and amount of the contribution for each programme. The Commission has drawn up a list qualifying for financial contribution with a total of 68 programmes for 2004 for the eradication of 10 major animal diseases in the Member States and Accession Countries. The total EU contribution to these programmes is € 51.89 million. € 29 million will be spent on the eradication of brucellosis (€ 14.1 million in sheep and goats brucellosis and € 14.9 million on bovine brucellosis). This disease causes Malta fever in humans and 1778 human cases were notified to the EU reporting system in 2001. Bovine tuberculosis is also known to be transmissible to humans so that significant sums will be used to combat the remaining cases of this disease (€ 14.4 million). € 4.4 million will be spent to fight rabies, a highly fatal viral infection of the nervous system.

In addition to the programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases, programmes of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses are included in the list. A financial contribution of € 2.4 million to control salmonella in 5 Member States and 2 Accession Countries has been approved.

The complete list of diseases, Member States or Accession Countries and EU financial contribution adopted by the Commission can be found in Annex 2.

List of programmes for the monitoring of TSE

- Maximum amount of the EU financial contribution -

Country	Maximum amount (in €)
Belgium	3,351,000
Denmark	2,351,000
Germany	15,611,000
Greece	745,000
Spain	4,854,000
France	21,733,000
Ireland	5,386,000
Italy	6,283,000
Luxembourg	158,000
Netherlands	4,028,000
Austria Portugal	1,675,000
Finland	1,012,000
Sweden	1,060,000
UK	358,000
Cyprus	7,726,000
Estonia	144,000
Malta	103,000
Slovenia	37,000
	353,000
TOTAL	76,968,000

List of programmes for the eradication of Scrapie

- Maximum amount of the EU financial contribution -

Country	Maximum amount (in €)
Denmark	5,000
Germany	755,000
Greece	450,000
Spain	435,000
France	1,160,000
Ireland	490,000
Italy	3,210,000
Netherlands	675,000
Austria	30,000
Portugal	255,000
Finland	5,000
Sweden	5,000
UK	7,460,000
Cyprus	740,000
TOTAL	15,675,000

List of programmes for the eradication and monitoring of animal diseases

- Proposed amount of the EU financial contribution -

Disease	Member State or Accession Country	Proposed amount (€)
African / Classical swine fever	Italy (Sardinia)	250,00
Aujeszkys disease	Belgium	700,000
	Spain	75,000
	Hungary	100,000
	Ireland	50,000
	Lithuania	50,000
	Malta	5,000
	Portugal	50,000
	Slovak Republic	60,000
Bluetongue	Spain	150,000
	France	225,000
	Italy	700,000
Bovine brucellosis	Cyprus	85,000
	Greece	300,000
	Spain	4,000,000
	Ireland	5,000,000
	Italy	1,500,000
	Lithuania	50,000
	Poland	150,000
	Portugal	1,800,000
	Slovenia	110,000
	UK (Northern Ireland)	2,000,000
	Bovine tuberculosis	Greece
Spain		5,000,000
Ireland		4,500,000
Italy		1,200,000
Lithuania		70,000
Poland		150,000
Portugal		400,000
Slovenia		40,000
UK (Northern Ireland)		2,000,000
Classical swine fever	Belgium	175,000
	Czech Republic	75,000
	Germany	800,000
	Lithuania	20,000
	Luxembourg	90,000
	Slovenia	30,000
	Slovak Republic	125,000

Disease	Member State or Accession Country	Proposed amount (€)
Enzootic bovine leucosis	Italy	100,000
	Lithuania	100,000
	Portugal	100,000
	Slovak Republic	40,000
	UK (Northern Ireland)	5,000
Ovine and caprine brucellosis (B melitensis)	Cyprus	725,000
	Greece	1,000,000
	Spain	6,500,000
	France	300,000
	Italy	3,500,000
	Lithuania	17,000
	Portugal	2,000,000
	Slovenia	70,000
Poseidom ¹	France	250,00
Rabies	Austria	200,000
	Czech Republic	650,000
	Germany	800,000
	Finland	70,000
	Latvia	370,000
	Poland	1,800,000
	Slovenia	110,000
	Slovak Republic	400,000
Swine vesicular disease Classical swine fever	Italy	400,000
TOTAL		51,892,000

List of programmes of checks aimed at the prevention of zoonoses

- Proposed amount of the EU contribution -

Zoonosis	Member State or Accession Country	Proposed amount (€)
Salmonella	Austria	150.000
	Denmark	260.000
	France	700.000
	Ireland	90.000
	Lithuania	400.000
	Netherlands	400.000
	Slovak Republic	400.000
	TOTAL	

¹ Heartwater, babesiosis and anaplasmosis transmitted by vector insects in the French overseas departments