



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

Date: 7/9/2008

GAIN Report Number: E48076

EU-27

Livestock and Products

EU Council asked to consider vectors of Bluetongue disease transmission

2008

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Report Highlights:

At the EU Ag Council meeting of June 23, 2008, The Netherlands called to consider further actions in the fight against Bluetongue (BT) disease as a result of an EFSA report. This report identified horses and imported exotic plants as potential vectors further spreading the disease.

Belgium, supported by France and Luxembourg, also asked the Council to provide further support for farms that suffered from BT beyond the current €7,500 de minimis ceiling.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E4]

At the [Agricultural Council](#)¹ of June 23, 2008, The Netherlands called to consider further actions in the fight against Bluetongue (BT) disease as a result of an EFSA report. This [EFSA report on Bluetongue](#)² from April 2007 identified horses and exotic plants as potential vectors of infected Culicoides midges at the origin of the BT serotype 8 outbreaks in Northwestern Europe in 2006 (page 55). This BT-8 disease rapidly spread from Belgium and The Netherlands in 2006 in all directions to Denmark, the Czech Republic, Italy and the United Kingdom in 2008³. The economic damage has not been fully assessed yet but is considered to amount to hundreds of million EUROS as mortalities and reductions in birth and fertility in cattle and sheep have been reported of up to respectively 15-20 and 50 percent. Affected Member States hope that comprehensive vaccination of cattle and sheep herds will contain the disease.

Belgium, supported by France and Luxembourg, also asked the Council to provide further support for farms that suffered from BT-8 beyond the current €7,500 de minimis ceiling. The Commission declined this request because of potential distortions between Member States, but suggested that Member States could complement aid using block exemption state aids.

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¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/agricult/101422.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/Scientific_Opinion/ahaw_report_bluetongue_en.7.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/bt_restrictedzones_080708.pdf