



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #BE1020

## **Belgium-Luxembourg**

### **Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety**

### **Rabies is Eradicated in Belgium**

## **2001**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**After 15 years of vaccination campaigns, rabies is eradicated in Belgium.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
The Hague [NL1], BE

Belgium and Luxembourg should be declared free of the disease in July by the World Health Organization.

The Veterinary Services of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has declared to Belga, the Belgian press agency that rabies is eradicated in Belgium, after 15 years of vaccination campaigns. The last case on a domestic animal was found two years ago (July 99) on a bovine in Bastogne, while the last case on a wild animal was found in April 1998 on a fox. It is on the basis of these two years of rabies free status that Belgium is requesting that the World Health Organization to declare the country as rabies free.

Record high numbers of infected animals were reached in the eighties, with an annual average of 510 cases and a peak of 842 cases in 1989.