



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Threat posed by lumpy skin disease in the Union  
- Requested by the Austrian delegation

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Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Austrian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 18 July 2016.

## **Threat posed by lumpy skin disease in the Union**

Austria appreciates the measures already taken by the presidency and the European Commission and supports the decisions taken in the GF-TADs meeting in Brussels.

However, Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a huge threat for the European animal health sector and must be put in the same line as African Swine Fever in North-East Europe or the past Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in UK.

With the recently notified outbreaks in Albania LSD is now present in most South-Eastern European countries: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria and the Kosovo. Based on the speed of the disease spread in these countries it is almost certain, that further countries, including Central European Member States will be affected within the next months.

After the first outbreaks Greece and Bulgaria have promptly taken measures as foreseen in the relevant Council Directive, but these proved to be unable to stop the further spread of the disease. Based on these facts we consider it essential to immediately take further steps. Austria therefore urges the Commission to take appropriate measures, such as:

- **Reviewing** the current legal framework and procedures that originate from the early 1990's. The current stamping out policy appears ineffective, in case of vaccination programmes this policy if applied in already vaccinated herds appears even unnecessary and contraindicated.
- **Putting into force** - with highest priority - a legal framework to allow preventive vaccination in countries or regions at risk. Based on experience and supported by EFSA opinion, vaccination is the most effective way to stop the spread of the disease, but emergency vaccination limited to affected areas can only slow down the spread.

- **Clarifying** the list of safe commodities and trade restrictions of vaccinated animals and products thereof, ensuring that measures do not exceed the OIE Terrestrial code.
- **Taking a leading role:** In the case of such vector-borne, cross-border diseases quick decisions and coordinated measures at Union level are essential. A leading role, including common purchase and distribution of vaccines by the European Commission would ensure the establishment of effective cross-border vaccination belts including Member States and adjacent Third countries and is therefore necessary.

We do not only see a moral responsibility of EU to support the affected Member States that build the “first line of defence” against this disease, but also are convinced that by not doing so the spread of Lumpy Skin Disease towards Central Europe must be taken for granted.

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