



World Organisation
for Animal Health
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HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

EU SITUATION and ACTIVITIES

Middle East – Regional Coordination meeting on HPAI situation

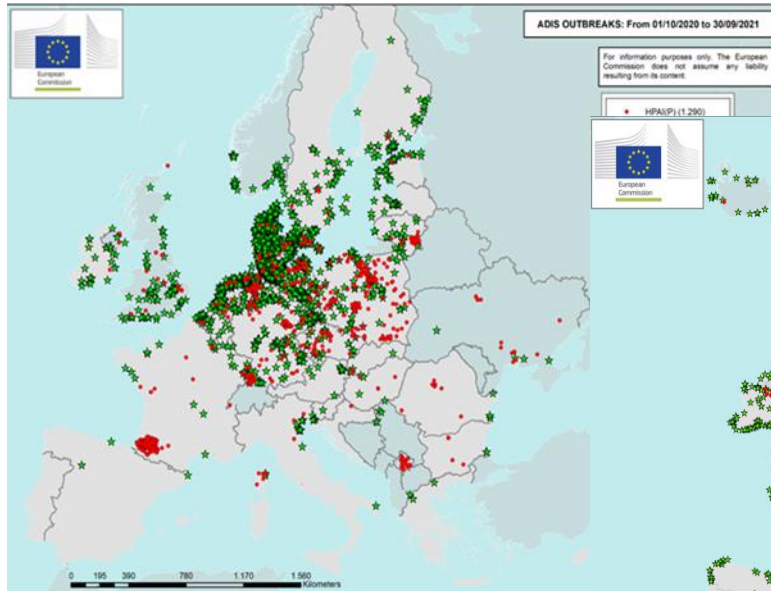


Amman, 17-19 December 2024

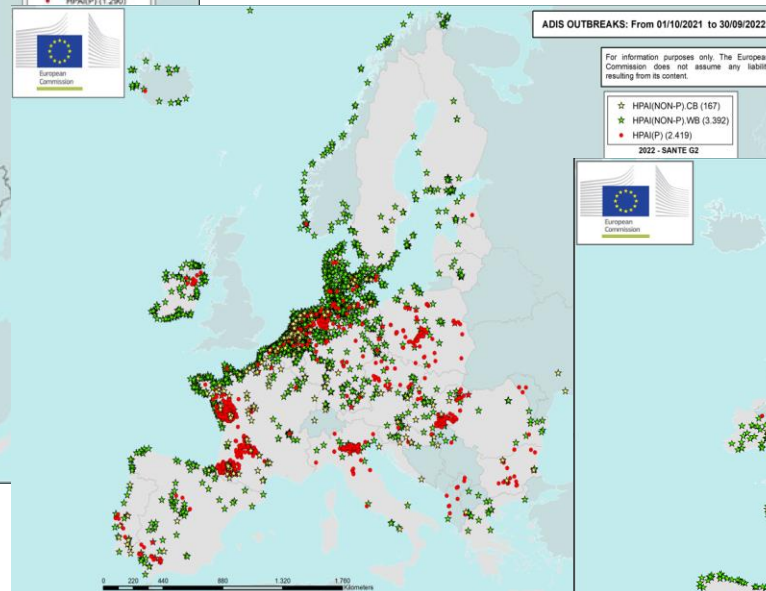
Dr Moritz Klemm
Team Leader – Animal Diseases & International
European Commission,
DG Health and Food Safety
Unit G2 – Animal Health

HPAI in EU - map view

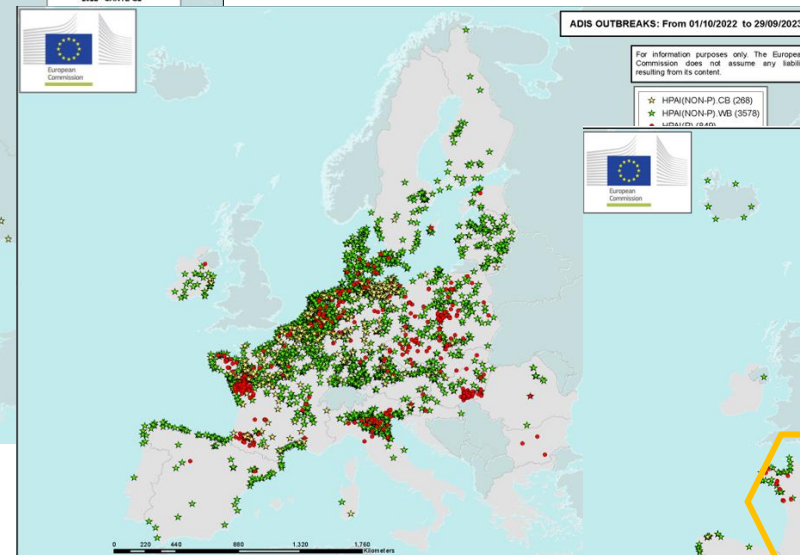
Oct 2020 – Sept 2021



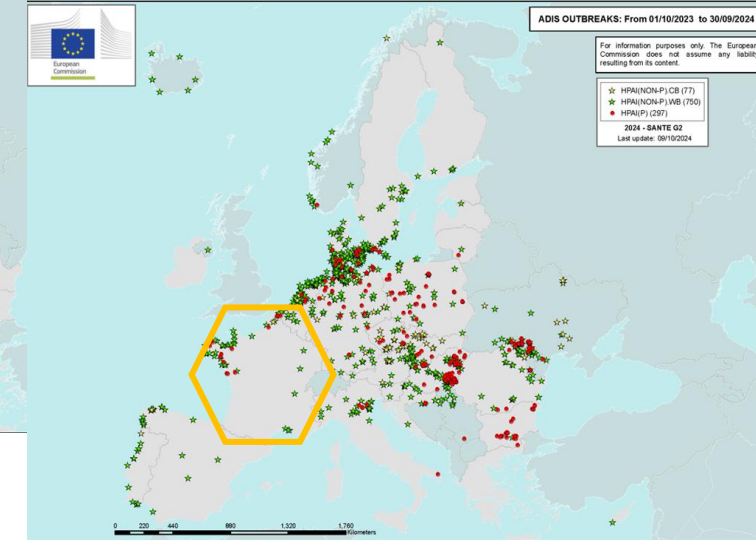
Oct 2021 – Sept 2022



Oct 2022 – Sept 2023



Oct 2023 – Sept 2024



Virus spread with **wild birds** in all parts of Europe

Recurrent clusters in poultry in certain areas with high density of poultry production

Vaccination of production ducks ongoing from 1 October 2023

Current HPAI situation

Since 1/10/2024 up to 11/12/2024

354 outbreaks in wild birds

278 outbreaks in poultry confirmed in

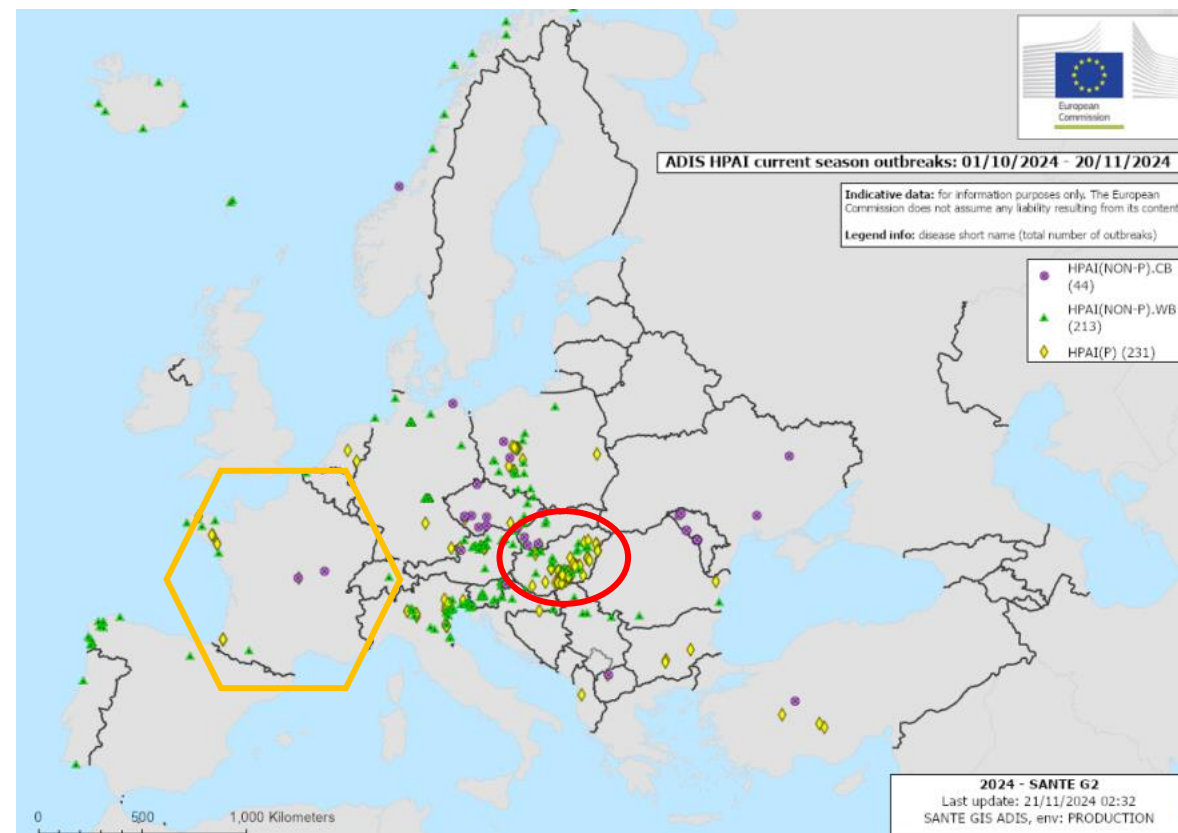
> 8,7 Mil. poultry killed in the outbreaks

12 MSs affected in poultry:

Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Croatia, The Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland, Romania

Certain areas outbreaks are **again** developing in **clusters** mainly with affected duck establishments

France continues with **vaccination of ducks**



HPAI situation in the EU since 2021

2021-2022:

the most severe HPAI epidemic season ever experienced by EU with the highest number of outbreaks in poultry and affected poultry

2022–2023:

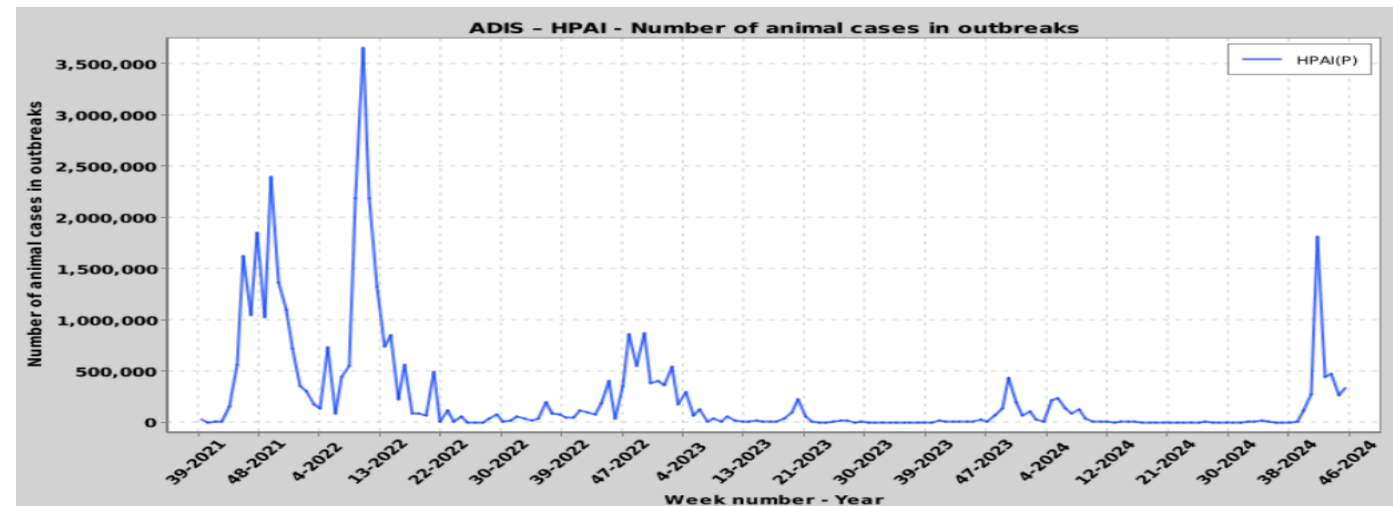
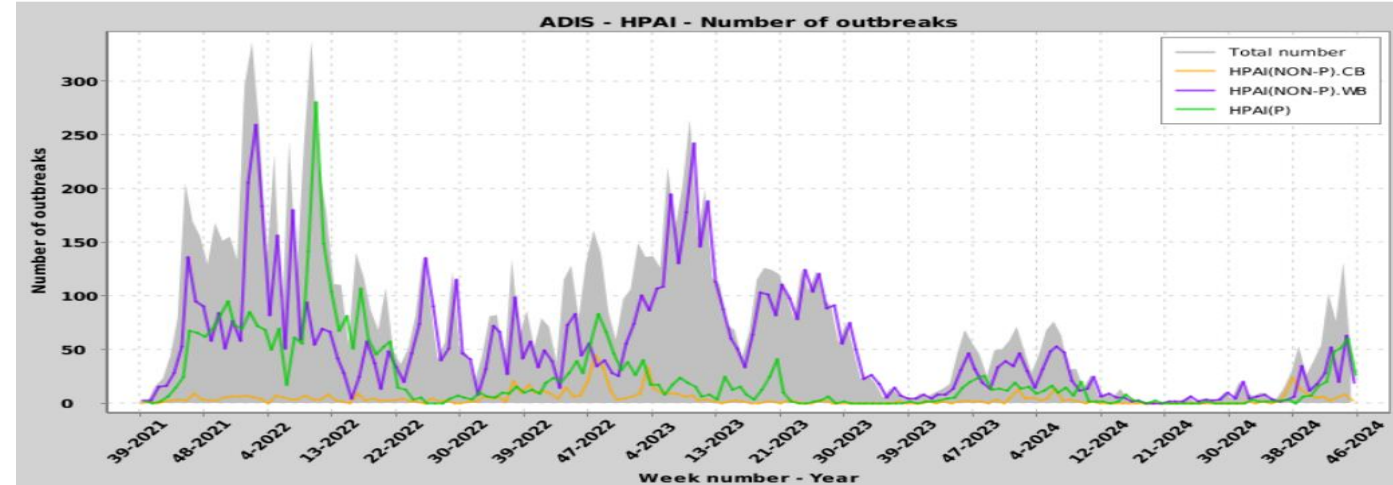
even with **higher number of outbreaks in wild birds, less poultry outbreaks** (improved biosecurity and preventive measures e.g. reduced density in high risk areas)

2023 – 2024:

less number of outbreaks in wild birds and poultry. **Start of poultry (ducks) vaccination in France**

2024 – 2025:

Earlier start of season, central part of EU more affected. **Vaccination in France continues.**



Animal Health Law (AHL) framework for HPAI prevention and control



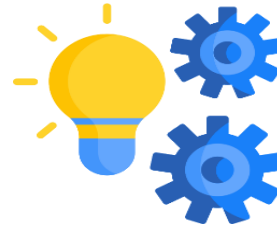
Surveillance

- harmonized (**USP**)
- birds **and** mammals
- early detection
- monitor LPAI
- learn on zoonotic risk



Biosecurity

- **farm** biosecurity
- **high risk areas** identified
- **confinement** orders



Notification

- immediate (**within 24h**)
- within EU (**ADIS**)
- internationally (**WAHIS**)
- by **Info Notes to trading partners**: 995 since 2020



Eradication

- **stamping out**
- **regionalization**
- **restrictions** (risk mitigation measures)
- **surveillance** in the restricted zone



Complementary measures

- **vaccination**
- **compartments**

What are the Avian Influenza USP?

Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Territorial scope: in all Member States, on their entire territory

Targeted animal population: listed species (wild birds and poultry) + non-listed species (e.g. mammals) when epi situation indicate a risk for animal and human health

Objectives:

- Early detection of HPAI in poultry and in wild birds
- Detection of HPAI in poultry species not showing significant clinical signs
- Detection of LPAI that may spread between flocks
- Contribution to increase the knowledge of zoonotic risks

Sampling and laboratory methods:

- Number of establishments/frequency/tests

EU legal framework for regionalisation

Commission emergency measures

- When necessary
- Bigger areas can be restricted (e.g. based on administrative / geographical borders)
- Risk mitigation measures
- The Commission may also adopt immediately applicable implementing acts

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2023/2447 of 24 October 2023
concerning **emergency measures** in relation to outbreaks of **highly pathogenic avian
influenza** in certain Member States

EU regionalisation: principles

- **Transparency**
- Clearly **defined roles** for Member States and the Commission
- **Clear criteria, principles and measures**
 - based on science, experience, EU legislation and international standards (WOAH)
- **Rapid** flow of information
- **Urgent adoption** of emergency measures
- **Agreed with Member States** (regular Committees)
- **Immediately applicable**
- Legal acts **published in the Official Journal** of the European Union in all 24 EU languages

Vaccination against HPAI

complementary prevention/control tool

harmonized specific rules (Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361)

Vaccines

- that **do not contain live AI virus** (attenuated or not)

Reinforced surveillance

- **clinical** and **laboratory** (official activity)
- to **early detect infection** with HPAI virus

Risk mitigation measures

- General **prohibition** for movements of vaccinated poultry and their products
- **Derogations** to move, **under conditions**

Traceability/Certificates

- **Emergency vaccination:** certificates for movements from vaccination zone within MS and to other MS
- **Preventive vaccination:** certificates for live birds and hatching eggs when moved to other MS

Decision Making - Implementation process for the use of vaccines against HPAI

Member State

- **Assessment of the situation** based on specific criteria (*Annex II of DR (EU) 2023/361*)
- **DECISION TO VACCINATE** (*strategy selection etc.*)
- Preparation of official vaccination plan (*in accordance with information required in Annex III of DR (EU) 2023/361*)

Member State

- Preliminary information sent *to the other MS and the COM* (*at least 2 days before start of vaccination*)
- **INITIATION OF VACCINATION**
- Official vaccination plan sent *to the other MS and the COM* (*at the latest 2 weeks after start of vaccination*)

COM

Review of the national measures in the official vaccination plan. May act with additional measures in accordance with Article 71 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429

Member State

- **Disease-specific surveillance – Risk mitigation measures** (*Annex XIII of DR (EU) 2023/361*)
- **Regular reports** sent *to the other MS and the COM* (*content / intervals according to the vaccination strategy – Annexes V and VI of DR (EU) 2023/361*)

EFSA opinion on HPAI vaccination – part 1




Vaccination strategies recommendations

HPAI vaccination is recommended as part of an integrated disease control approach

Vaccination should not replace other preventive and control measures, such as infection monitoring, early detection and biosecurity




Emergency protective vaccination

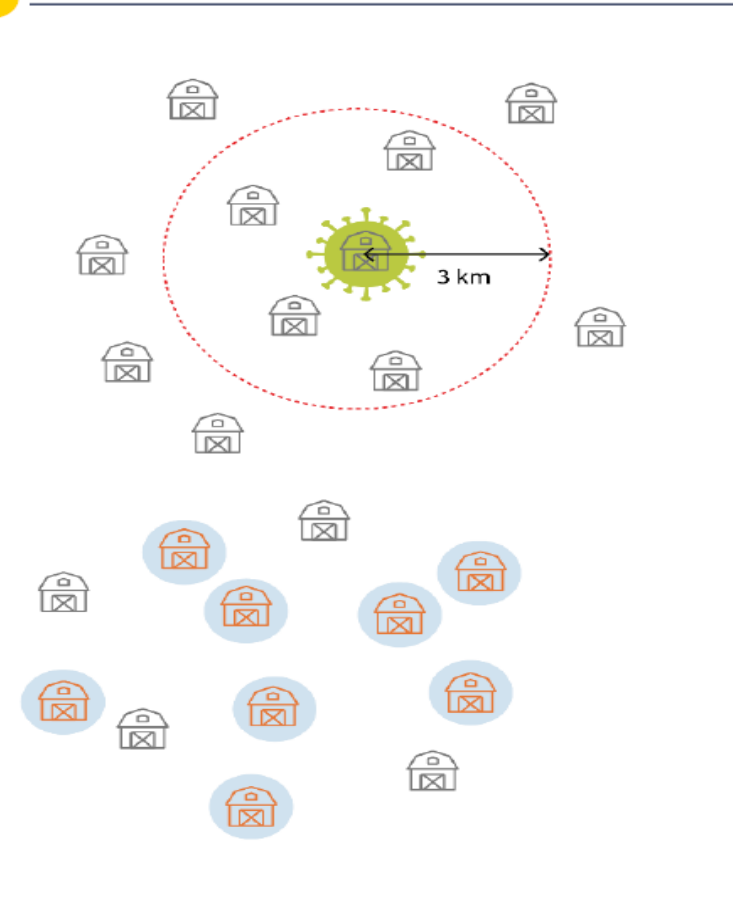
Emergency protective vaccination is recommended in a 3-km radius of an outbreak for poultry species in high-risk transmission areas

-  Area of emergency vaccination
-  Poultry farm
-  HPAI outbreak

Preventive vaccination

Preventive vaccination of the most susceptible and infectious poultry species in high-risk transmission areas is recommended to minimise the number of infected and culled birds, as well as the number of farms vaccinated, and the epidemic duration

-  Vaccinated farms
-  Poultry farm
-  Most susceptible/infectious poultry farms



EFSA opinion on HPAI vaccination – part 2

Surveillance and risk mitigation strategies

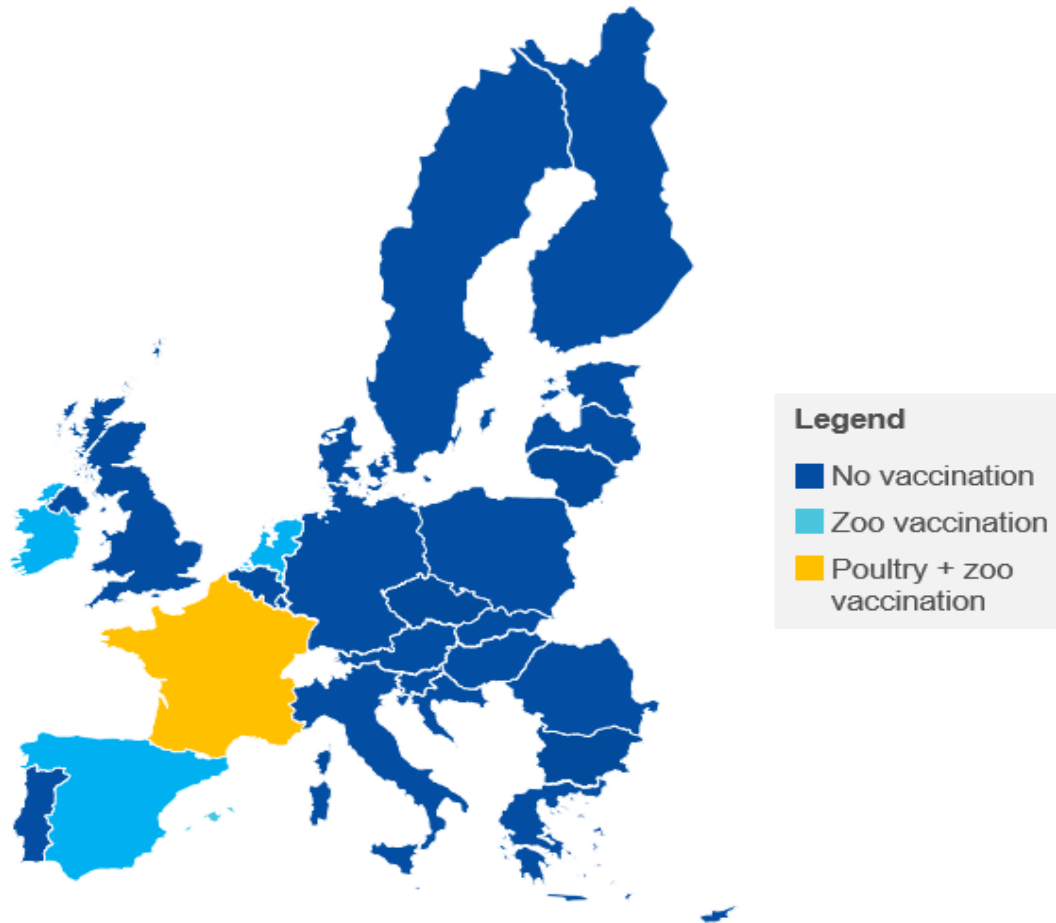
Surveillance

- **molecular** virological testing of **up to 15 dead birds every 30 days** in vaccinated flocks is recommended to effectively **demonstrate disease freedom with > 99% confidence** within high-risk zones for HPAIV infection
- if the aim is to **increase the early detection** surveillance sensitivities, then it is recommended to **reduce the sampling intervals**
- maintaining passive surveillance efforts in unvaccinated establishments in vaccinated zones is recommended to enhance the overall sensitivity of the surveillance system

Risk mitigation measures

- **existing rules** set out in DR 2023/361 and DR 2020/687 **are valid**, and
- **molecular testing is recommended** (emergency vaccination): all up to 15 dead birds no earlier than 72h before movement

Vaccination against HPAI in EU



Poultry vaccination in France

Strategy

- **Preventive** vaccination

Species

- **Ducks for meat/foie gras production** (Barbarie, mulard and Pékin)

Period

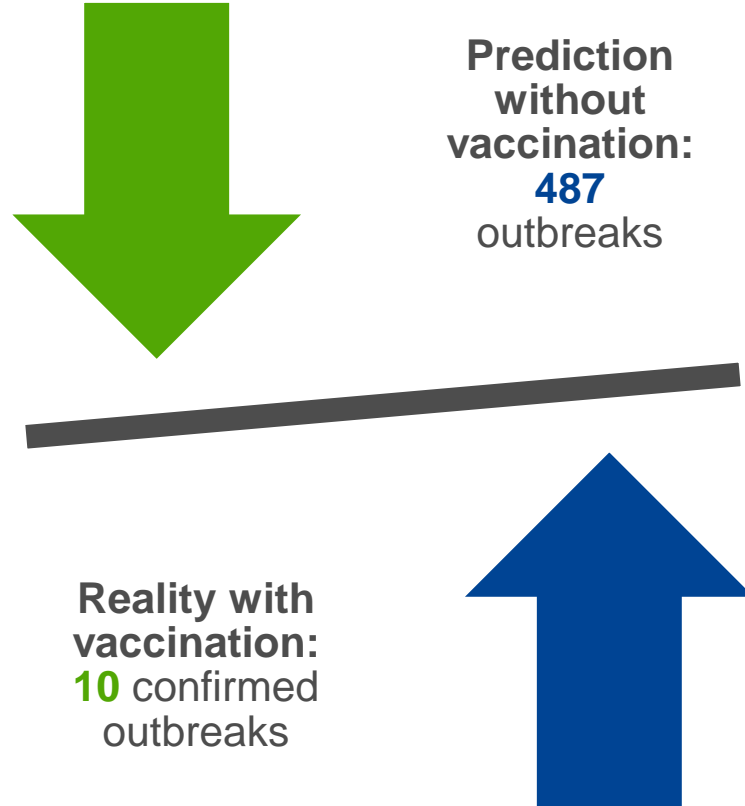
- **Started** 1 October 2023, **now extended for one year**, until end September 2025

Number of ducks

- Up to 30 Sept 2024: **63,1 million vaccinated**, in **2295 establishments**

HPAI SEASON 2023/2024 IN FRANCE

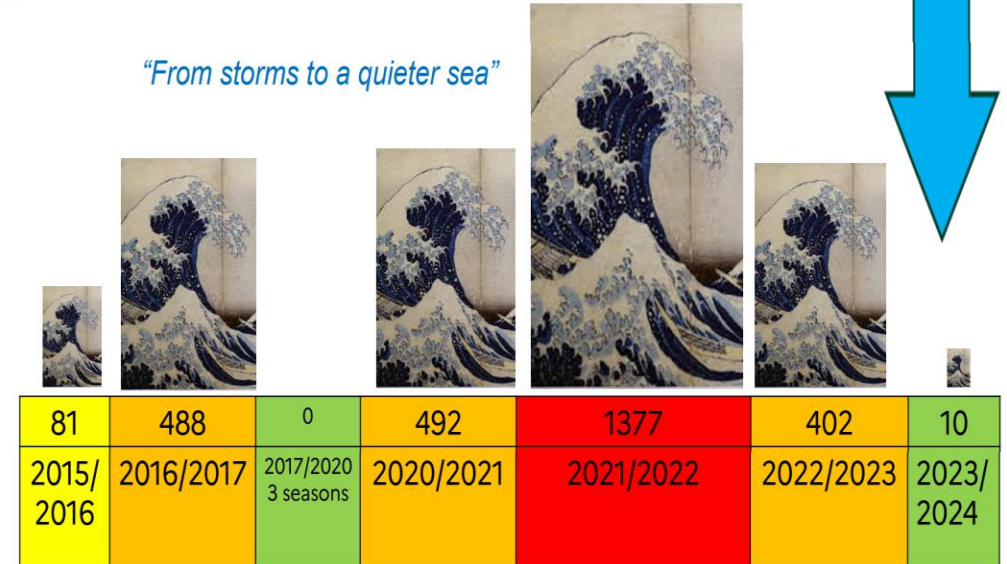
NUMBER OF OUTBREAKS AND EFFECT OF DUCK VACCINATION



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ
ALIMENTAIRE

1st vaccination campaign started 1st October 2023

"From storms to a quieter sea"



New: Compartments for HPAI in the EU

based on AHL (Art. 37) + Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2623

General rules:

- Member States **may** apply for recognition of disease-free status of compartments, if:
- **introduction** of the disease **can be effectively prevented** at compartment level
- compartment is subject to a **single common biosecurity management** system for all establishments forming part of it
- has been **approved by the Competent Authority**

Specific rules:

- Compartments possible **for HPAI and ND**
- Compartment status based on higher level of **biosecurity management and surveillance plans** developed and implemented by operators, and verified and approved by Competent Authorities
- **not an alternative to regionalisation/zoning**, but a voluntary mechanism, complementing it
- **not a replacement** but an addition **to compulsory biosecurity (higher level)** according to EU and national legislations



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Thank you



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