



IABS-EU Meeting on Preparedness and response to emerging veterinary disease outbreaks

March 25-26, 2025 - Brussels, Belgium

ABSTRACT

Emerging infectious diseases in livestock are on the increase in the European Union (EU), as well as the rest of the world. In the last four years, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Bluetongue and Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease have had a profound effect on farmers and the food supply chain. And the trend continues with other emerging (or re-emerging) diseases like Peste des Petits Ruminants and Sheep and Goat Pox. Proven strategies exist to help control the impact of emerging and re-emerging diseases, including surveillance, epidemiological modelling, animal movement control, biosecurity and vaccination. Appropriate vaccines are not always readily available, however, especially in emergency situations.

IABS recognizes the financial and animal welfare consequences that result due to this gap between the (re-) emergence of an infectious animal disease and the availability of appropriate vaccine(s) in the EU. To help address this gap, the IABS is conducting a conference on the topic, which will take place on 25 and 26 March 2025 in Brussels, Belgium.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO EMERGING INFECTIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES

After a review of the current legal, regulatory, epidemiological and economic landscape in the EU, the conference will sponsor presentations from a series of expert speakers from different EU stakeholders that will analyse the issues preventing (or delaying) access, availability or use of relevant vaccines. Regulatory procedures, economic incentives and disincentives, surveillance policies and legal and policy framework will be examined by the presenters with careful attention to barriers that must be addressed to expedite vaccine availability and improved emerging disease control. Regulatory officials, disease control experts, veterinarians, academia, animal health companies, and allied industries will all participate in this phase of the meeting.

The conference will conclude with an open general session allowing all participants to input. The aim will be to propose practical solutions that should lead to having relevant vaccines more quickly available in the EU in case of emergence or crisis.

Scientific / Organizing Committee

Frédéric **Descamps**, Co-Chair, Zoetis
Jean-Christophe **Audonnet**, IABS-EU
Max **Bastian**, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI)
Annemarie **Bouma**, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture
Ivo **Claassen**, European Medicine Agency (EMA)
Sjaak **de Wit**, GD Deventer
Olivier **Espeisse**, IABS-EU

Gabor **Kulcsar**, Co-Chair, Nébih
Cyril **Gay**, USDA
Miia **Jakava-Viljanen**, IABS, Finnish Food Authority
Carmen **Jungbäck**, IABS-EU
David **Mackay**, IABS VBC Member
James **Roth**, Iowa State University

AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

- 1.30pm *Registration & Welcome Coffee*
- 2.00pm **Introduction**
Olivier **Espeisse**, IABS-EU, France
- 2.10 pm **Preparedness for the day**
Olivier **Espeisse**, IABS-EU, France

Session I – Review of current status and obstacles

Moderator: Frédéric Descamps, Zoetis, Belgium

- 2.20pm **Animal Health Legislation**
Francisco **Reviriego-Gordejo**, EU Commission, DG Santé
- 2.40pm **Veterinary medicinal product Legislation**
Dries **Minne**, EU Commission, DG Health and Food Safety
- 3.00pm **Regulatory Implementation**
Ivo **Claassen**, EMA
- 3.20pm **Ten years of EU funded research on vaccine development**
Jean-Charles **Cavitte**, EU Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Experience of Member States

- 3.40pm 1. The Netherlands
Annemarie **Bouma**, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands
- 4.00pm 2. France experience with poultry HPAI vaccination
Olivier **Debaere**, Ministry of Agriculture, France
- 4.20pm 3. Make them available – a bumpy road to the BTV-3-vaccine
Max **Bastian**, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Germany

4.40pm *Break*

5.10pm **What is happening outside the EU?**
Dónal **Sammin**, EuFMD, Italy

5.30pm **Point of view of EU Pharmaceutical Industry**
Ely **Bénére**, AnimalHealthEurope, Belgium

Session II – Panel discussion

5.50pm **Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Jean-Christophe Audonnet, IABS, France

Francisco **Reviriego-Gordejo**, EU Commission, DG Santé, Belgium

Dries **Minne**, EU Commission, DG Health and Food Safety, Belgium

Ivo **Claassen**, EMA, Netherlands

Jean-Charles **Cavitte**, EU Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Belgium

Annemarie **Bouma**, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands

Olivier **Debaere**, Ministry of Agriculture, France

Nancy **De Briyne**, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, Belgium

Ely **Bénére**, AnimalHealthEurope, Belgium

Dónal **Sammin**, EuFMD, Italy

Max **Bastian**, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Germany

6.20pm *End of Day 1*

Day 2: Wednesday, March 26, 2025

8.30am *Registration and Welcome Coffee*

Session III – Review of remedies

Moderator: Gabor Kulcsar, Nébih, Hungary

9.00am **Economic aspects of vaccination – Analysis from the situation in The Netherlands**
Ron **Bergevoet**, Wageningen University & Research Center, The Netherlands

9.20am **Drivers of emergence of infectious animal diseases: what are the challenges?**
Claude **Saegerman**, University of Liège, Belgium

Regulatory and Technological responses

9.40am 1. A regulatory perspective on authorisation under exceptional circumstances, the BTV-3/NET2023 case.
Jacqueline **Poot**, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands

10.00am 2. Perspective from EU Pharmaceutical Industry
Ely **Bénére**, AnimalHealthEurope, Belgium

Session IV – Panel discussion

10.20am **Panel Discussion with all Stakeholders**
Focus on solutions to key barrier

Moderator: Gabor Kulcsar, Nébih, Hungary & Frédéric Descamps, Zoetis, Belgium

Ron **Bergevoet**, Wageningen University & Research Center, The Netherlands

Claude **Saegerman**, University of Liège, Belgium

Jacqueline **Poot**, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands

Ely **Bénére**, AnimalHealthEurope, Belgium

Martin **Beer**, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Germany (*virtual*)

11.00am Break

Session V – Recommendations

11.30am **All participants**

12.30pm **Closing remarks**

Jean-Christophe **Audonnet**, IABS-EU, France

End of Meeting