

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN BULGARIA**

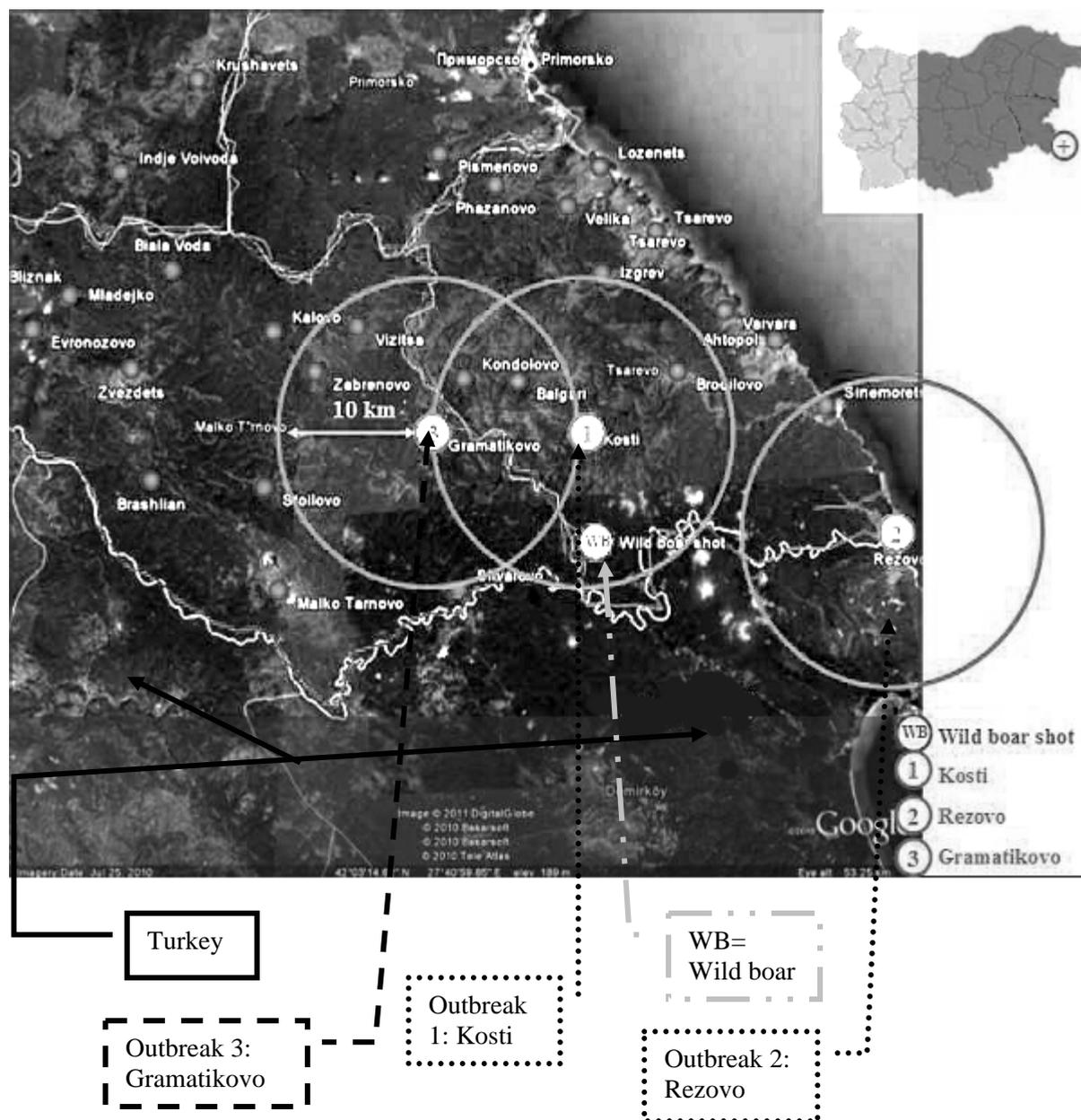
Communication from the European Union

The following communication, received on 15 March 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

---

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. On Wednesday 5 January 2011, the Bulgarian authorities confirmed a case of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in one of three wild boars shot on 30 December 2010 in the municipality of Malko Tarnovo, Burgas region, around 2 km from the border with Turkey.
2. Bulgaria has implemented the measures in the framework of Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on EU measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease. The measures provided for in the Directive include epidemiological investigation, suspension of hunting and a ban in feeding wild animals, placing under official surveillance holdings keeping animals of susceptible species, inspection by an official veterinarian of all wild animals shot or found dead, surveillance programmes and prevention measures applicable to the holdings keeping animals of susceptible species and if necessary, in its surroundings, including the transport and movement of animals of susceptible species within, from and to the area, etc.
3. The Bulgarian authorities established a protection zone of 3 km and a surveillance zone of 10 km radius around Kosti and launched a sero-epidemiological surveillance programme within the surveillance zone and in all villages and settlements in the municipalities of Sredets, Malko Tarnovo and Tsarevo.
4. As a result of the sero-epidemiological investigations, the Bulgarian authorities detected, on 9 January 2011, domestic animals reacting positively to a test for the detection of antibodies to non-structural proteins (NSP) and declared an outbreak in Kosti village, Tsarevo municipality, region of Burgas. According to EU legislation, the animals of susceptible species on the outbreak holdings were culled and buried.
5. On 15 January 2011, mouth and feet lesions were found in cattle in Resovo village, Tsarevo municipality, located 22 km south-east of Kosti village, and the presence of FMD-virus was subsequently confirmed by laboratory testing carried out on samples taken in that village.
6. Furthermore, on samples taken one incubation period of 21 days after the first sampling from FMD susceptible animals in the surveillance zone around Kosti, FMD was confirmed on 31 January 2011 in Gramatikovo village, Malko Tarnovo municipality, in previously NSP-antibody negative animals.



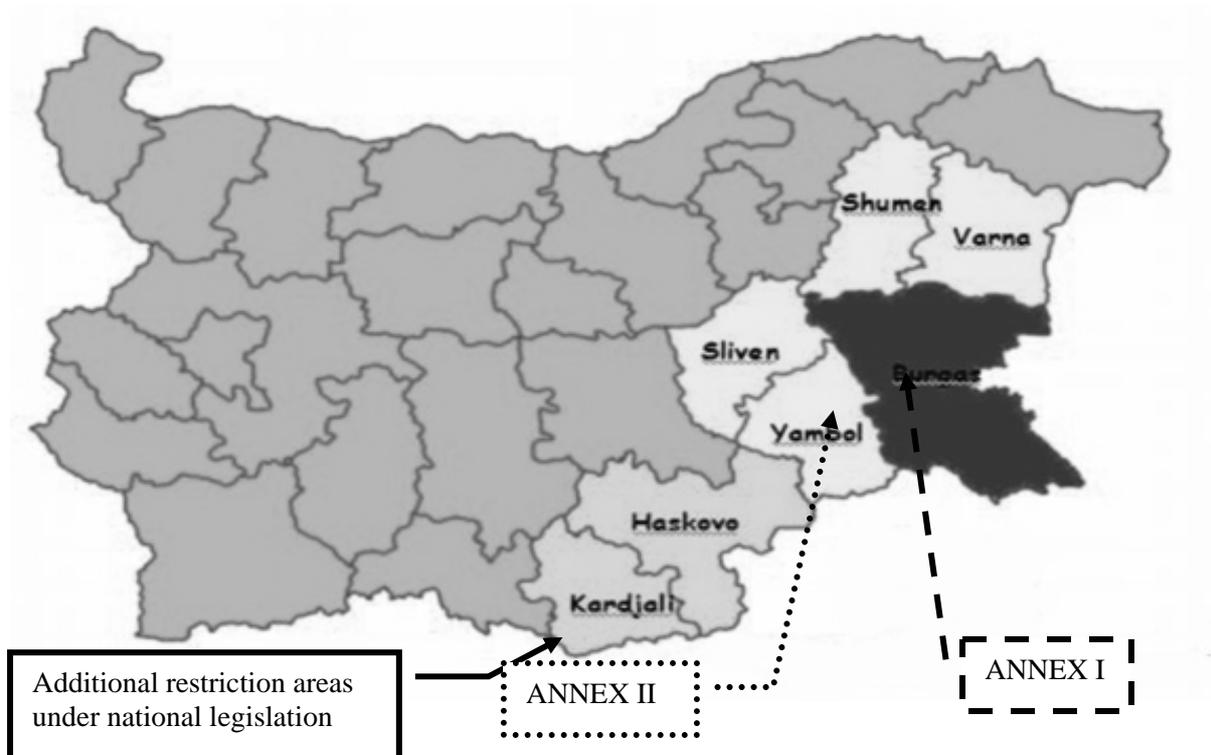
7. So far, other susceptible animals sampled within the second and third sampling round in the other municipalities of Burgas' region tested negative to antibodies against the FMD virus.

## II. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

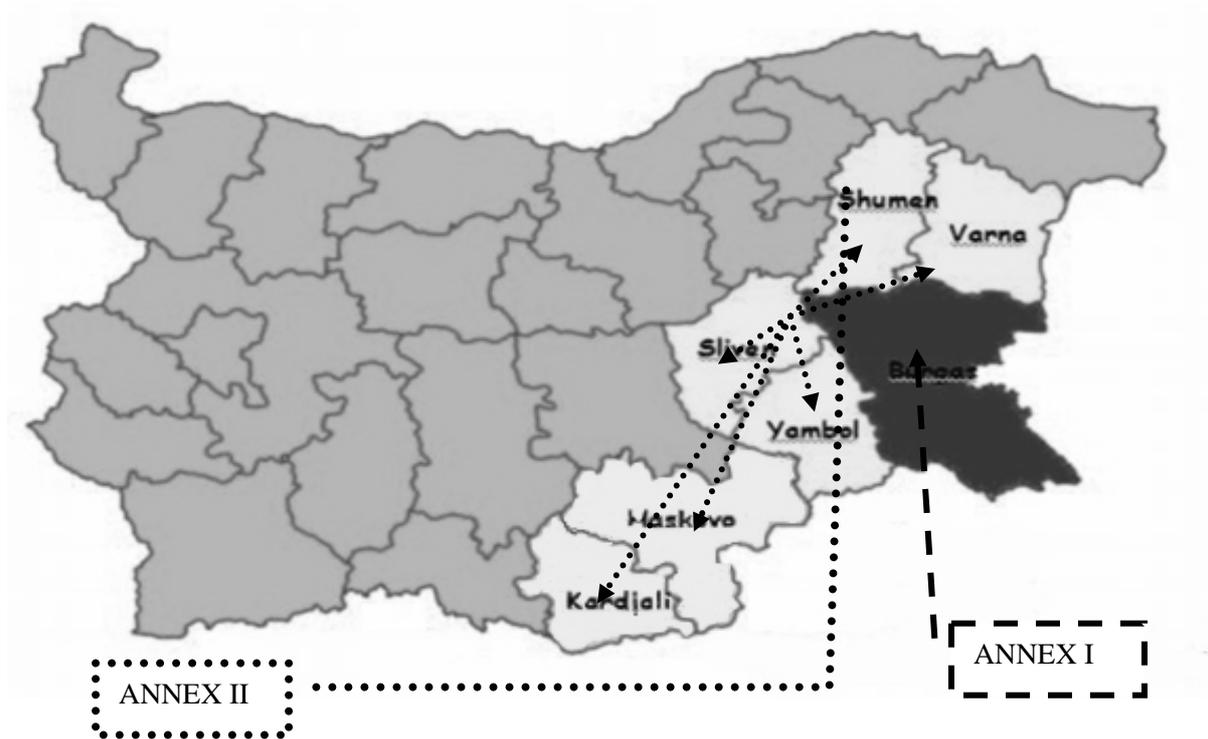
8. On Thursday 6 January 2011 the European Commission adopted Commission Decision 2011/8/EU concerning interim protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Bulgaria.

9. The decision defined high-risk (Annex I) and low-risk (Annex II) areas, prohibiting the dispatch of susceptible animals from both these areas and the dispatch of products derived from susceptible animals from the high-risk area. This decision also provides for the rules applicable to the dispatch of safe products from those areas.

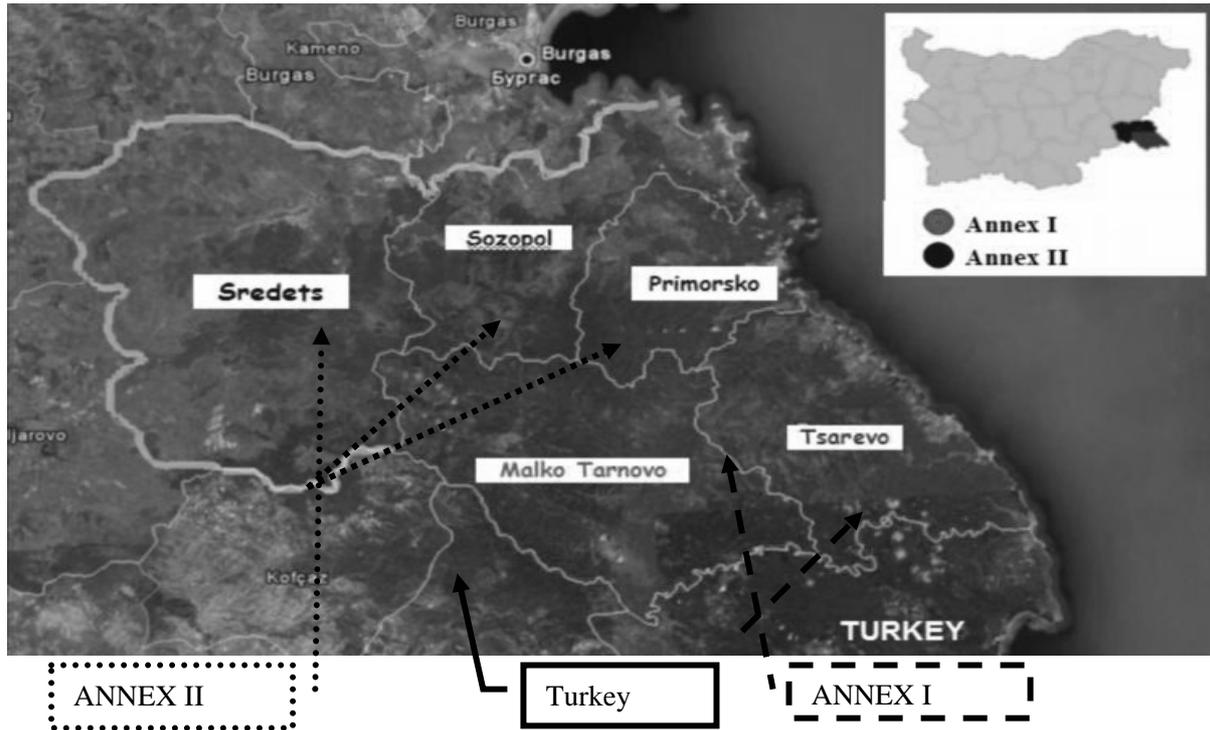
10. It is important to note that the prohibition of dispatch includes the prohibition on exports to third countries.



11. Following unanimous support from all the EU member States at the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFAH) on 12 January 2011, the European Commission adopted, on Wednesday 19 January 2011, Commission Decision 2011/44/EU concerning protection measures against foot-and-mouth disease in Bulgaria which repeals and replaces Commission Decision 2011/8/EU. The decision confirmed the definition of the high-risk areas (Annex I) and extended the low-risk areas (Annex II) by two more provinces, prohibiting the dispatch of susceptible animals from both these areas and the dispatch of products derived from susceptible animals from the high-risk area until 31 March 2011. This decision also provides for the rules applicable to the dispatch of safe products from those areas.



12. In the light of the favourable evolution of the disease situation, given that no new outbreaks have been reported since 31 January 2011 and surveillance has been implemented with satisfactory results in Bulgaria, the European Commission reviewed Decision 2011/44/EU during the SCoFCAH meeting on 1 March 2011 by reducing the size of the high-risk area to two municipalities only (Malko Tarnovo and Tsarevo - Annex I) and including in the low-risk area (Annex II) only the three surrounding municipalities of the Burgas region. The revised Decision was unanimously supported by the EU member States. It will be formally adopted by the European Commission and it shall apply until 30 April 2011.



13. The European Commission has regularly dispatched information to international trade partners on the evolution of the FMD situation in Bulgaria and on the actions undertaken to prevent any spread of disease from the affected area, including trade restrictions.

14. For further information, a chronology of the main events and actions taken by the European Commission is available on the web: [http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/fmd\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/controlmeasures/fmd_en.htm).