

COMMUNICATION FROM ROMANIA

The following communication has been received from the Permanent Mission of Romania.

With the aim of aligning its approach with the practice of the veterinary services of the European Union, the Central and Eastern European countries and the other countries from Europe regarding import-export and transit activities on the Romanian territory, the National Sanitary Veterinary Agency as Romanian Veterinary Administration notifies the following:

1. Romania is a FMD-free country not practising vaccination against this disease. Also, Romania is a list "A" diseases free country, officially recognized by document RR/KS-30.787-OIE.
2. The last outbreak of FMD in Romania was recorded in 1973. No suspicion, no clinical evolution and no FMD positive lab-tests-results have been recorded since 1973.
3. Romania stopped the vaccination against FMD since 1991 and interrupted definitively the FMD vaccine production as from 1992.
4. A very strict supervision programme for vesicular diseases is in force in Romania and a "National Programme to prevent FMD" as well as a "National Emergency Programme for FMD" were also applied.
5. The "National Contingency Programme for FMD" and the "National Alert Programme for FMD" were also activated.
6. During the month of July, the National Sanitary Veterinary Agency from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, together with specialists from the "Pasteur Institute and Central Laboratory for Veterinary Diagnosis from Bucarest, instructed all directors, lab coordinators, chiefs of veterinary police services and those of the anti-epizootic services from the departmental ("judets") veterinary directions concerning the detailed situation created in the Balkans related with FMD, the national programmes of surveillance, prevention, emergency, contingency and alert for FMD.
7. Due to the situation in the Balkans area, to protect romanian territory against FMD, the National Sanitary Veterinary Agency has put in alert the Central Anti-epizootic Commandment National Commission for Disasters Prevention and, at the same time, its departmental structure.
8. According to the OIE-Animal Health International Code Part II, Chapter 2.1.1., Article 2.1.1.3, and taking into consideration the decisions 96/367/EC; 96/368/EC; 96/414/EC; 92/118/CEE; 96/439/CEE si 96/440/EC and also the WTO provisions of the Agreement on the

Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the Romanian Veterinary Administration has adopted some protective measures concerning:

- specific veterinary control measures and disinfection of means of transportation and entry in the Romanian territory;
- restrictions regarding import and transit on the Romanian territory of live animals of receptive species of the FMD virus; some of the products originated from these animals; as well as other products and materials which can affect the animal health status;
- the setting up of a special supervision regime especially in high risk epizootic zones (aside the frontiers and main routes of transit), around international harbours and airports, in dense population areas of susceptible animals.

9. In order to eliminate any suspicion on live animals exported from Romania, we have introduced again serologic examination by ELISA of 5 per cent of these animals, conforming Directive 93/242/EEC.

Taking into consideration this notification we would ask you to record the above-mentioned up-to-date epizootic situation of Romania and therefore to have a suitable approach, regarding import-export-transit activities in, from and through Romania.