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January 2001

ANNUAL REPORT (1)
ON TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF "EVROS"
(Year 2000)

INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the European Commission (DG SANCO /E2) in compliance with Commission Decision 2000/71/EC (2), and in particular article 2 (c) and Annex III thereof.

Its aim is to provide an overview of actions undertaken, and results obtained thereof, during the reporting period in the framework of an epidemio-surveillance programme - code-named EVROS - in Greece.

Additional relevant information, not specifically provided for in Decision 2000/71/EC, may also be provided if considered timely and relevant.

The full modalities of EVROS, as well as texts relating to technical, administrative and financial aspects thereof, may be downloaded from our web site at :

<http://www.minagric.gr/greek/2.3.1.html>

(1) Prepared for and presented at the Standing Veterinary Committee on 15-16 January 2001
(2) OJ No L 24 / 29.01.2000 / p.53

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ANNEX III TO COMMISSION DECISION 2000/71/EC : TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF EPIDEMIO-SURVEILLANCE IN GREECE .

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Section A : Technical Report on Epidemio-Surveillance

Reporting Period : From 1st January to 31st December 2000

Part 1 : Inspection of animals and insect collections

Place of Action	Number of clinical inspections of		Number of insect collections in traps
	Sheep & Goats	Bovines	
EVROS : Zone A	4.395	704	6
Zone B	6.161	2.625	5
RODOPI	8.702	1.211	6
LESVOS	8.170	512	5
CHIOS	1.984	126	2
SAMOS	2.153	80	2
DODEKANISA	4.778	484	7
Total	36.343	5.742	33

➤ **Comments on Part 1 :**

- a) With regard to clinical inspections of sheep and goats, the figures for **Evros** refer only to animals routinely inspected in the framework of the programme. Effort was made to distinguish these animals from those subjected to special and increased clinical surveillance due to the occurrence of FMD and sheep pox during the reporting period. The additional number of animals falling in this last category alone was >23.000.
- b) The same principle applies to clinical inspections of bovines in **Evros**. The additional number of bovines subjected to special clinical inspection due to FMD alone was >3.500.
- c) With regard to insect collections, the following comments refer :
 - Under normal conditions (absence of blue tongue) vector surveillance in the context of "EVROS" would have been carried out seasonally during the second half of the year (July - December).
 - In the year 2000, however, vector surveillance was initiated earlier in the framework of a special epidemio-surveillance for BT based on Decision 2000/350/EC.
 - Insect collections indicated in Table 1 correspond to classified catches, while there is an additional number of collections not sorted out yet.
 - In establishing and operating light traps, priority was given to mainland Greece rather than the Islands because the geographical distribution and seasonal variation of BTV vectors in the latter is well documented and published since the early '80s.

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Part 2 : Clinical examinations of animals

Place of Action	Number of clinical examinations of :	
	Randomly selected sheep & goats	Sheep, goats & bovines prior to movement
EVROS : Zone A	440	0
Zone B	616	0
RODOPI	870	0
LESVOS	820	0
CHIOS	200	0
SAMOS	215	0
DODEKANISA	480	0
Total	3.641	0

➤ Comments on Part 2 :

- a) With regard to clinical examinations of sheep and goats, the figures for **Evros** refer only to animals routinely inspected in the framework of the programme. Effort was made to distinguish these animals from those subjected to special and detailed clinical examinations due to the occurrence of FMD and sheep pox during the reporting period. The additional number of animals falling in this last category alone was >2.000.
- b) Clinical examinations of animals prior to movement was inapplicable because during the reporting period all areas covered by "EVROS" were subjected to movement restrictions due to various diseases. Specifically :
- Evros, was subjected to restrictions due to blue tongue (until July), FMD (until end of November) and sheep pox (until end of December),
 - Rodopi, was subjected to restrictions due to blue tongue (until July) and FMD (until end of November),
 - All the Islands were subjected to restrictions due to blue tongue throughout 2000.
- c) Naturally, some movements of animals were allowed and indeed took place. These movements were invariably short distanced, either to a slaughterhouse or to different premises belonging to the same holding or to different holdings inside the area of jurisdiction of the same Local Veterinary Office. Such movements were subjected to clinical examinations, especially when the animals were destined for a slaughterhouse, but the results were not recorded separately.
- d) As a general rule, animals subjected to detailed clinical examination were also sampled for serological tests.

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Part 3 : Collection of blood samples

Place of Action	Number of blood samples collected from :			
	Sheep & Goats (randomly selected)	Sentinel bovines	Animals prior to movement	Animals at slaughterhouse
EVROS: Zone A	3.615	40 X 7 = 280	0	185 S/G + 56 B
Zone B	1.009	20 X 7 = 140	0	No SH in Zone B
RODOPI	3.309	52 X 13 = 676	0	198 S/G + 70 B
LESVOS	692	63 X 15 = 945	0	198 S/G + 40 B
CHIOS	1.315	65 X 6 = 390	0	134 S/G + 24 B
SAMOS	807	24 X 13 = 312	0	82 S/G + 22 B
DODEKANISA	824	60 X 16 = 960	0	87 S/G + 47 B
Total	11.571	3.703	0	884 S/G + 259 B

➤ Comments on Part 3 :

- a) Samples figuring in Table 3 do **not** include 4.500-plus samples collected for the purpose of a specific serological surveillance in **Evros** aiming to prove eradication of FMD and allow lifting of restrictions in that Prefecture.
- b) Under normal conditions (absence of blue tongue) sampling of sentinel bovines in the framework of "EVROS" would have been carried out seasonally during the second half of the year (July – December).
As it happened, during 2000 there was a certain overlapping between "EVROS" and a specific epidemio-surveillance for BT laid down in Decision 2000/350/EC.
- c) With regard to pre-movement sampling, comments made in Part 2 (b) and (c) refer. In this case, however, samples were recorded separately.

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Part 4 : Examinations carried out at diagnostic laboratories

Place of Action	Number of blood samples tested for :				No. of batches of insects collected in light traps
	Foot-and Mouth Disease	Sheep & Goat Pox	Small Ruminant Pest	Blue - Tongue	
1.Virology Laboratory, Athens	0	9.123 S/G	0	8.705 S/G 3.703 B	0
2.FMD & Exotic Diseases Inst., Athens	7.896 S/G 259 B	0	9.156 S/G	0	0
3.Parasitology & Entomology Lab Athens	0	0	0	0	33
Total	8.115	9.123	9.156	12.408	33

> Comments on Part 4 :

- a) A combined total of **38.802** samples was tested for the 4 targeted diseases in the framework of "EVROS" during the reporting period (year 2000).
Due to the strict protocol of sampling, results of serological surveillance allow a complete, accurate and continuous evaluation of the epidemiological profile of the areas of implementation and supplement results of clinical surveillance.
- b) Tests for FMD figuring in Table 3 do **not** include 4.500-plus samples collected for the purpose of a specific serological surveillance in **Evros** aiming to prove eradication of FMD and allow lifting of restrictions in that Prefecture.
- c) Tests for blue tongue in sheep and goats were intended to determine the geographical spread of infection during the 1999 epizootic, to establish the sero-prevalence and to monitor its anticipated decline in the sheep population. This type of surveillance is not strictly required by "EVROS", but advantage was taken of the fact that large numbers of samples from sheep were readily available in the framework of "EVROS".
Results of these tests are presented and discussed in Part 5.3 of this report.
- d) Tests for blue tongue in bovines were carried out on sentinel animals with a view to monitor for possible circulation and activity of BT virus.
Results of these tests are presented and discussed in Part 5.3 of this report.
- e) Insect collections were carried out with a view to monitor the presence, geographical distribution and seasonal variation of BTV vectors.
Findings of vector monitoring supplement epidemio-surveillance for BT and allow a more accurate evaluation of the epidemiological trends.
Provisional findings of BTV vector monitoring are presented and discussed in Part 5.3 of this report.
- f) As a general rule, sera collected from the same animals (sheep and goats) were tested for each pair of diseases examined in the same Laboratory and often samples were exchanged between Laboratories.
This pattern was broken in cases of re-sampling for additional tests when results of the first tests were inconclusive.

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Part 5 : Description of epidemiological situation

5.1 Results of clinical inspections and analysis thereof

During the reporting period clinical inspections in the framework of "EVROS" have produced the following **direct** results :

- a) In July, 2 cattle herds in Evros Delta were deemed suspect of FMD in the context of pre-movement clinical inspections. Suspicion was eventually confirmed.
- b) In July, 1 cow in Lesvos Island was identified as a suspect of FMD in the context of routine clinical inspections. Suspicion was eventually ruled out.
- c) In October, a sheep flock in Rodopi was identified as a suspect of blue tongue in the context of routine clinical inspections. Suspicion was eventually ruled out.
- d) In November, a sheep flock in Evros was identified as a suspect of sheep pox in the context of routine clinical inspections. Suspicion was eventually confirmed.
- e) Absence of clinical cases of blue tongue was demonstrated in all geographical areas of implementation throughout 2000.
- f) Absence of clinical cases of PPR was demonstrated in all geographical areas of implementation throughout 2000.
- g) Absence of clinical cases of Rinderpest was demonstrated in all geographical areas of implementation throughout 2000.

In addition, the regular contact between the various agricultural communities and the Local Veterinary Services achieved through "EVROS" has **indirectly** but appreciably increased disease awareness and vigilance among all parties concerned.

5.2 Results of clinical examinations and analysis thereof

Clinical examinations were always reliable and subsequently confirmed by results of laboratory tests. In several cases led to an early initiation of disease control and safeguard measures or, alternately, avoided unnecessary mobilization due to false alarms. Specifically.:

- a) In the case of Evros Delta, a provisional diagnosis of FMD was set on the basis of detailed clinical examinations of suspect cattle.
The diagnosis was set on the same day (10th July) and subsequently confirmed by laboratory tests as FMD type Asia 1.
- b) In the case of Lesvos, FMD was ruled out on the basis of detailed clinical examination of the suspect animal and epidemiological investigations in the herd.
The disease was officially ruled out by subsequent laboratory tests.
- c) In the case of sheep pox in Evros, the disease was provisionally confirmed on the basis of a detailed clinical examination and the affected flock was stamped out before laboratory confirmation was obtained.
This practice allowed a prompt and efficient eradication of the disease with only a single primary outbreak recorded and no "fall out" at all.

5.3 Results of serological tests and analysis thereof

5.3.1 General comments

- a) It should be noted that, in the normal course of "EVROS" and in the absence of disease, samples were routinely tested for FMDV types A22 and O1.
However, in the light of the epidemiological situation during the reporting period, after July 2000, all samples collected in the framework of "EVROS" were tested for sero-type Asia 1 as well, irrespective of their origin.

However,, samples collected in Evros Pref. for diagnostic or epidemiological purposes were only tested for FMDV type Asia 1.

- b) Results of specific serological tests for diagnostic or epidemiological purposes of FMD in the Pref.of Evros and Rodopi, carried out in the context of the last epizootic, are presented and discussed in detail in the special follow-up reports on the evolution of FMD which are published elsewhere.

5.3.2 Specific comments

- a) Results of serological tests carried out routinely in the framework of "EVROS" were as follows :

- A total of 149 sheep were re-sampled due to inconclusive results for **FMD** in the first test.
Out of these animals, 2 sheep in Evros produced a titre of 1:60 to FMD virus Type O₁ and were duly eliminated.
The animals belonged to different flocks and follow-up clinical examinations and epidemiological inquiries failed to identify any risk factor or suspicion of disease.
Laboratory results may have been due to non-specific reactions.
- A total of 8 goats originating in Lesvos were re-sampled due to inconclusive results for **PPR** in the first test. On re-testing, all animals were negative. Otherwise, all samples tested for PPR were consistently negative in all areas of implementation throughout 2000.
- With the notable exception of the **sheep pox** primary outbreak in Evros, all samples tested for sheep pox were consistently negative in all geographical areas of implementation throughout 2000.
- Results of tests for **BT** in **sheep** and **goats** are presented below. Positive results were consistent with clinical prevalence observed in 1999 and are attributed to old infection. In no area were clinical signs of BT observed.

Prefecture	No.of samples	No.of positive	Percentage (%)
Evros	2.773	86	3,10
Rodopi	2.900	92	3,17
Chios	1.263	95	7,52
Samos	688	134	19,47
Lesvos	700	96	13,70
Dodekanisa	381	15	3,93
TOTAL	8.705	518	5,95 (average)

In all areas results of serological tests are consistent with clinical prevalence of BT observed in 1999 and were attributed to old infection.

It should be noted, however, that sero-prevalence is indeed declining in all areas as determined by comparing results of subsequent time periods. This decline is anticipated and is due to natural replacement of indigenous sheep population.

- Results of tests for **BT** in **sentinel bovines** are presented below. All sentinels remained negative through repeated samplings in all areas of implementation indicating that there is no circulation of BTV.

Prefecture	Sampling	Period	Results
Evros	From 07/03	To 26/11	60 sentinels X 7 = 420 samples No sero-conversion observed
Rodopi	From 15/03	To 24/11	52 sentinels X 13 = 676 samples No sero-conversion observed
Lesvos	From 14/03	To 13/12	63 sentinels X 15 = 945 samples No sero-conversion observed
Chios	From 07/03	To 24/11	65 sentinels X 6 = 390 samples No sero-conversion observed
Samos	From 08/03	To 22/12	24 sentinels X 13 = 312 samples No sero-conversion observed
Dodekanisa	From 16/03	To 15/12	60 sentinels X 16 = 960 samples No sero-conversion observed
Total			3.703 samples – All negative

5.4 Results of entomological examinations and analysis thereof

Entomological examinations were targeted for predominant BTV vectors, i.e. *C. imicola* and *C. obsoletus*.

During the reporting period there was considerable overlapping between monitoring in the framework of "EVROS" and a specific epidemio-surveillance for BT laid down in Commission Decision 2000/350/EC.

The overall results obtained in the framework of the latter are presented elsewhere. It should be noted, however, that available results of vector monitoring are only provisional because a large number of catches has not been classified yet due to a work load at the Laboratory of Entomology.

In any event, for the purposes of this report, it is sufficient to state that *C. imicola* has not been detected in any geographical area of implementation of "EVROS".

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Part 6 : Title and address of reporting authority

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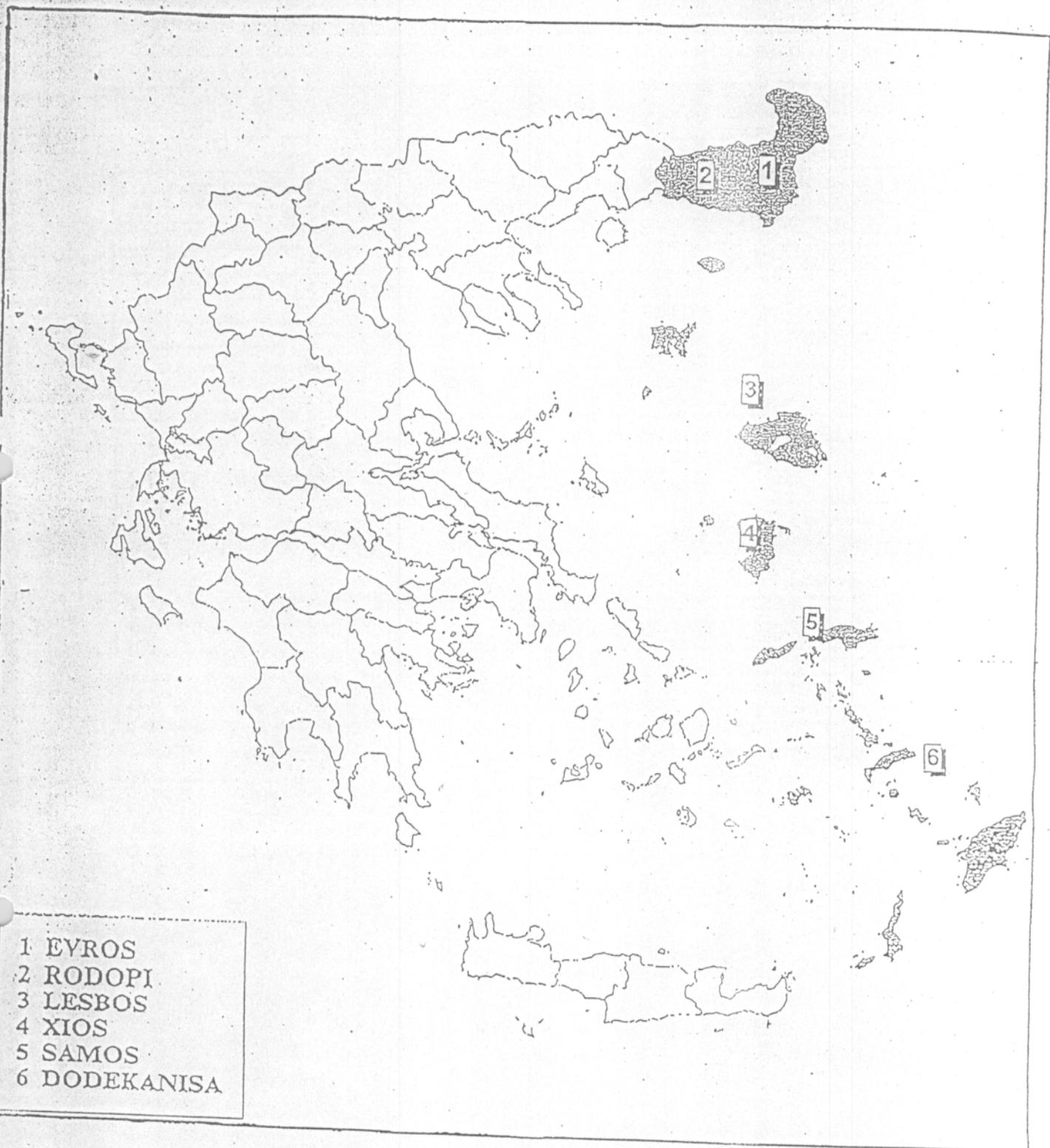
Section B : Statement on costs incurred for Epidemio-Surveillance**Reporting Period : From 1st January to 31st December 2000**

Costs incurred related to functions at / by	Costs incurred during the reporting period in Greek Drachmas (1)	
1. Virology Laboratory, Athens	30.590.000	
2. FMD & Exotic Diseases Institute, Athens	21.060.000	
3. Parasitology & Entomology Laboratory, Athens	7.590.000	
4. Regional Veterinary Services		
4.1 Evros	31.670.000	
4.2 Rodopi	10.165.000	
4.3 Lesvos	10.030.000	
4.4 Chios	2.500.000	
4.5 Samos	2.648.000	
4.6 Dodekanisa	5.097.000	
5. National Crisis Management Centre	13.000.000	
6. Purchase of hardware & development of software	15.000.000	(Committed but not actually paid yet)
GRAND TOTAL	149.350.000 GRD	(438.297,87 Euro)

(1) In compliance with Com. Decision 2000/71/EC granting technical approval and financial assistance

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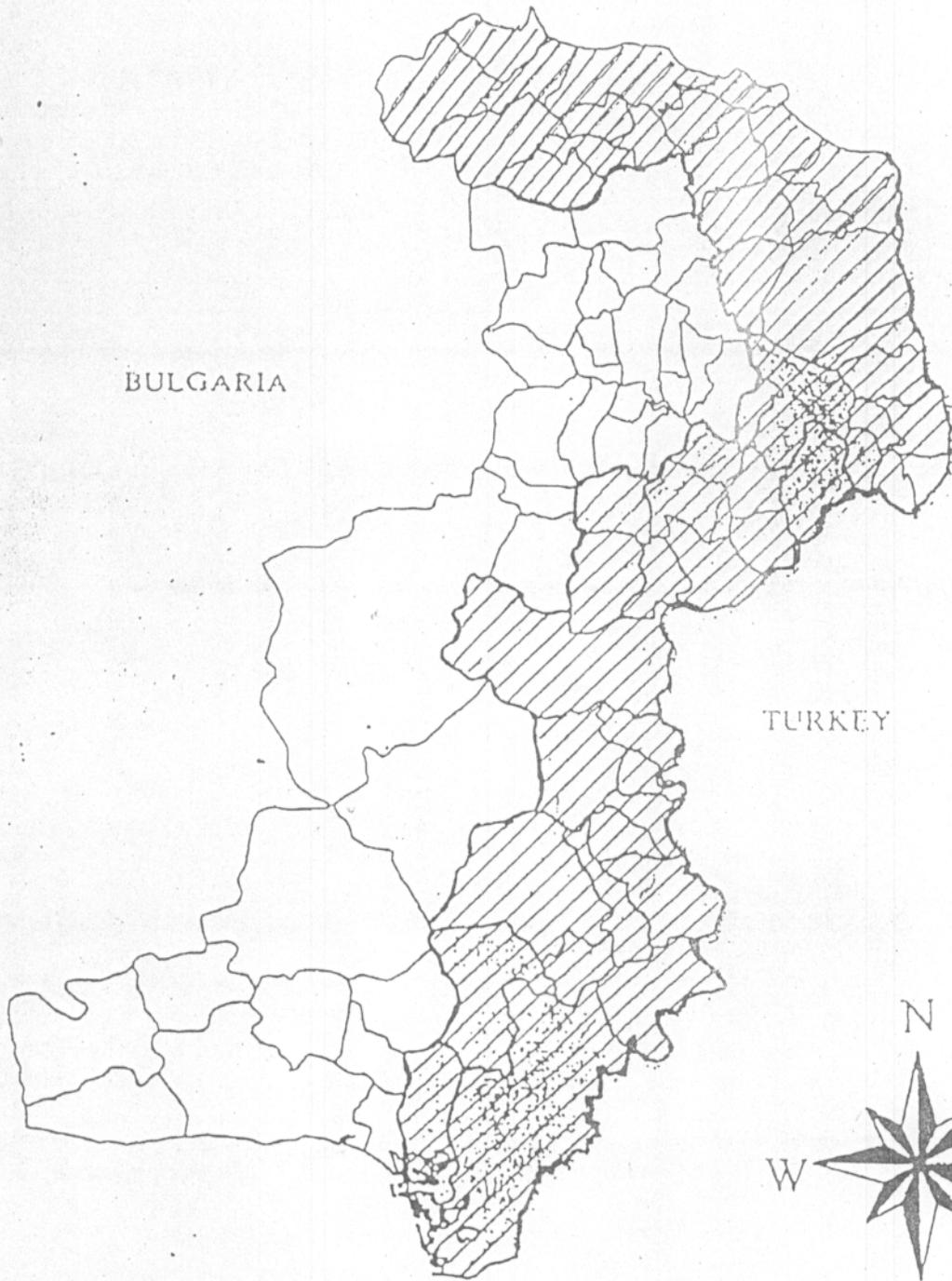
This concludes the Annual Report on the implementation of "EVROS" in 2000.



ΑΠΑΡΤΗΜΑ Ε : ΧΑΡΤΗΣ ΝΟΜΟΥ ΕΒΡΟΥ

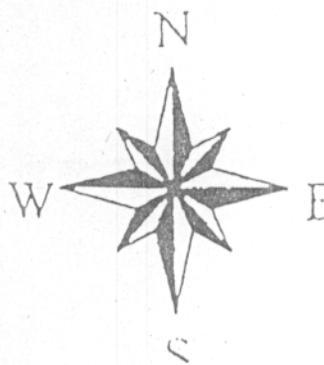
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