

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration



Copenhagen, 22 March 2001

To whom it may concern

On 21 March foot and mouth disease (FMD) has been confirmed in the Netherlands. The Dutch veterinary authorities have immediately put a FMD emergency scheme into effect. This implies restrictions on the movements of susceptible species, poultry, transport vehicles for susceptible species and poultry, semen, ova and embryos.

Further, on 21 March the Standing Veterinary Committee of the European Commission gave a positive opinion on protective measures for the control of FMD in the Netherlands. The protective measures are analogue to the measures implemented in France on 14 March 2001:

- The movement of live animals of susceptible species and their germinal products from the Netherlands to other Member States and to third countries is banned.
- The transport of fresh meat and meat products, milk and milk products, hides, skins and other products of animals of the susceptible species from the provinces of Gelderland, Overijssel, Flevoland and Noord-Brabant to other regions in the Netherlands, to other Member States or to third countries is banned.

Regardless of the declared outbreaks in the Netherlands, the FMD status of Denmark remains unchanged: Since 1983 no outbreak of FMD has been reported in Danish livestock and since 11 February 2001 **no live cloven-hoofed animals** have been imported to Denmark from other countries.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration is deeply concerned about the reported outbreaks in the Netherlands. Therefore, the entire Danish veterinary control and surveillance system is continuously on the alert, and all precautions will be maintained.

2

Veterinary authorities, other relevant authorities, industry and farmers' organisations are in close contact, and information is communicated smoothly.

Further today the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has decided to prohibit the import to Denmark of any kind of feed to cloven-hoofed animals from EU member states with declared outbreaks of FMD.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has the potential sources of spreading FMD to Denmark under control. The risk of FMD spreading from the UK, France and the Netherlands to Denmark is considered to be low as:

- No direct infectious contact can be ascertained.
- Comprehensive measures to limit infection have been taken as well in France, the UK, and the Netherlands as in Denmark.
- Airborne infection is not considered to constitute a serious risk.

The protective measures in Denmark and the EU are functioning well and the preparedness is kept at a high level.

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