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20 .07.1999 Nr. 1-6/445

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your fax from 15.06.1999.
It is our pleasure to answer a questionnaire on the animal health situation in our
country.

Yours sincerely,

Ago Pärtel
Director General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ago Pärtel', written over a faint, illegible stamp.

- Enclosure 1:** Animal health situation in Republic of Estonia
Enclosure 2: OIE – List of FMD free countries
Enclosure 3: The structure and functions of the National Veterinary and Food
Laboratory

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Animal health situation in Republic of Estonia.

NATIONAL VETERINARY AUTHORITY

The veterinary services in Republic of Estonia are organized in a pyramidal structure. At the top of the pyramid is the Ministry of Agriculture. In the middle, there are State Veterinary Institutions (Veterinary and Food Inspection, Veterinary and Food Laboratories,). In the framework of the Veterinary and Food Inspection one can find the District Veterinary Centers and Veterinary Border Control Inspection. At the bottom of the pyramide there is veterinary practice.

The number of government veterinarians is 210.

The number of private veterinarians is 841.

In approved laboratories work 43 veterinarians.

The number of trained technicians in laboratories is 34.

10 trained technicians working as assistants to veterinarians.

The central authorities issue legislation pertaining to public health and animal health. When animal or human health is in danger, Veterinary and Food Inspection has the legislative power to immediately issue the necessary regulations.

The basic veterinary regulation in the Republic of Estonia is the Law on Veterinary Service and Law on Control and Prevention of Animal Diseases and Food Law.

During the year 1992-1998, 20 border posts for veterinary inspection were opened. From the future enlarged EU-veterinary point of view, Estonia is having only one land border to non- EU territories. This is the border to Russia in the East of Estonia, starting in the North-East on the coast of the Baltic Sea with the land border post of Narva and running down South to the land border post of Luhaama. On top of that, there is the airport of Tallinn and the port of Muuga .

Border controls involve three aspects, for both animals and products:

- document check: (health certificate, import license, when this is required);
- identity check;
- physical inspection: this inspection may be more or less stringent, depending on the risk associated with the animal or product imported, or with the exporting country; and may involve sanitary impoundment (or quarantine) and further tests.

DISEASE STATUS

Republic of Estonia has been free from OIE List A diseases since 1994. Diagnosis for notifiable diseases is done in accredited laboratories.

The last occurrence of other List A diseases is as follows:

Foot and Mouth Disease 1982

Classical Swine Fever	1994
Newcastle Disease	1962

The following diseases have never been recorded in Estonia:

Vesicular Stomatitis
 Swine Vesicular disease
 Rinderpest
 Pest of Small Ruminants
 Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
 Lumpy Skin Disease
 Rift Valley Fever
 Bluetongue
 Sheep and Goat Pox
 African horse Sickness
 African Swine Fever
 Avian Influenza

Vaccination for FMD and other list A diseases is prohibited. The disease is absent from 1982.

The methods being applied are as follows:

- Notifiable disease
- Prohibition of import from infected countries
- Control program for the whole country
- Quarantine, movement control and precautions at the border and within the country
- Stamping-out policy
- Testing
- Vaccination prohibited

THE STATUS OF ADJACENT REGIONS.

Importation and transit of FMD susceptible animals is allowed only from FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised.

DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM

Cattle:

- *Bovine Tuberculosis
 All cows, heifers and breeding bulls examined every year.
- *Bovine Brucellosis
 Bacteriological examination – all abortions
 Serological examination – 40% of cattle and all breeding bulls every year
- *Leptospirosis
 All breeding bulls examined every year

- *Trichomonosis
All breeding bulls examined bi-annually
- *Bov. Genit. Campylobacteriosis
All breeding bulls bi-annually
- *Chlamydiosis
All breeding bulls examined bi-annually
- *Mucosal Disease
All breeding bulls examined every year
- *Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis
All breeding bulls examined every year
- *Bovine leucosis-all cows, heifers and breeding bulls examined every year

Swine:

- *Tuberculosis
All breeding swine every year
- *Brucellosis
Serological examination – breeding sows and boars every year
- *Leptospirosis
Serological examination – breeding sows and boars every year
- *Aujeszky's Disease
Breeding boars every year
- *Mycoplasmosis
Free herds examined every year
- *Swine Vesicular Disease
1% of herds examined every year
- *Classical Swine Fever
2% of herds examined every year

Horses:

- *Equine Infectious Anemia
Breeding horses every year
- *Glanders

Poultry:

- *Tuberculosis
10% of breeding birds examined every year
- *Pullorum Disease
10% of breeding birds examined every year
- *Salmonellosis(C855)
15% of breeding birds examined every year
- *Newcastle Disease
1% of birds examined every year

VACCINATION STATUS OF THE REGION

Vaccinations for list A diseases prohibited.

LIVESTOCK DEMOGRAPHICS

The number of bovines in Estonia is 348 300

The number of sheep and goats is 32 600

The number of pigs is 306 300

The number of poultry is 2 633 300

The number of horses is 4000

We have no buffalo's.

All markets and auctions for livestock in Estonia are under the supervision of the district veterinary officer. All animals entering a market or an auction are examined and inspected by the veterinarian responsible for the market/auction.

The major livestock-marketing centers are situated in Tallinn and Tartu.

According to of farm registration currently exist 25 000 farms.

The national system of animal identification is being implemented. Cattle born after the 1 January 1997 must be marked with the unique number on yellow ear tag, that would allow to trace the animals back to the place of origin.

Certificates for the movement of animals or the transport of products of animal origin out of the district are issued by authorized veterinarians. Export certificates are issued by 15 District Chief Veterinary Officers .

AUTHORIZED LABORATORIES

The Estonian National Veterinary and Food Laboratory (FMD National Laboratory) is approved by the Ministry of Agriculture to carry out tests on live animals and animal foodstuffs and accredited according to EW 45001

The Estonian Veterinary and Food Laboratory is the reference laboratory for notifiable bacterial and parasitic diseases and for all poultry diseases.

List A-viruses are not cultivated in Estonian laboratories.

If there is suspicion of FMD the types of test in use:

- a) antigen detection : ELISA
- b) antibody detection: ELISA

The World Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease in Pirbright provided technical expertise.

EMRGENCY RESPONSE TO OUTBREAK SITUATIONS

The main pillar in the epidemiological surveillance is the system of notifiability of animal diseases.

In case of suspicion of a notifiable disease, the district veterinary officer must react in accordance with the national contingency plans. In the case of an outbreak of a list A disease, full compensation is guaranteed by the national government. Stamping out is requested for all A diseases.

If there would be suspicion of FMD and after the definite official diagnosis of the disease, the herd and populations suspected of the infection are enclosed by suitable isolation measures and correspondingly labeled. All animals within the enterprise (farm or village) must be stabled at once.

The immediate vicinity (around 5 km) is declared an enclosed zone. Animals have to be stabled here as well. There are strict isolation measures including restriction for traffic and transport with strict disaffection regime and controls. Police enforce strict controls of movement and traffic.

Around enclosed zone buffer (approximately 10 km) zone is fixed.

Diseased animals and those suspected are killed at once and disposed by incineration. Contaminated materials on the premises such as milk, feedstuffs, manure, slurry and were disposed of without risk.

The structure and functions of the National Veterinary and Food Laboratory

National Veterinary and Food Laboratory		Functions
Location/ Adresse	Kreutzwaldi 30 Tartu EE2400	Central laboratory Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, virology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry National reference laboratory for the OIE list-A, B and C diseases of cattle, pigs and sheep. Food safety and quality control: National reference laboratory for heavy metals in foods of animal origin; for microbiological and chemical safety of meat and fish products
Telefon	27 421660	
Faks	27 421730	
Head	Olev Peetsu	
Employees	40	
Reports to	Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary and Food Inspectorate	Samples submitted: For the diagnosis of animal diseases: from all over the country; Heavy metals: from all over the country; Food microbiology and chemistry: mostly from southern districts, Tartumaa and Jõgevamaa:
Laboratory in Tallinn		Regional laboratory with certain functions of the central laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Väike-Paala 3 Tallinn	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, virology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry National reference laboratory for the OIE list-A, B and C diseases of equids, poultry and fish. Food safety and quality control: National reference laboratory for drug residues in foods of animal origin; for microbiological and chemical safety of milk and milk products.
Telefon	2 6380012	
Faks	2 6380010	
Head	Maarja Kristian	
Employees	40	
Reports to	The central laboratory	Samples submitted: For the diagnosis of animal diseases: from all over the country; Drug residues: from all over the country; Food microbiology and chemistry: mostly from northern districts, Harjumaa, Hiiumaa, Raplamaa, Läänemaa: From boarderinspection posts in Tallinn

Laboratory in Pärnu		Regional laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Haapsalu mnt. 86 Pärnu EE3600	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry OIE list-B and C diseases.
Telefon	244 33128	
Faks	244 33114	Food safety and quality control: Antibacterial drug residues in foods of animal origine qualitative tests. The food microbiology and chemistry on primary level.
Head	Allan Mets	
Employees	10	Samples submitted:
Reports to	The central laboratory	From Pärnumaa, Saaremaa, Läänemaa, Viljandimaa Ikla boarder inspection post
Laboratory in Saaremaa		The department of the Pärnu laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Tallinna mnt. 71 Kuressaare EE3300	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry OIE list-B and C diseases
Telefon	245 31495	
Faks	245 31273	Samples submitted from:
Head		
Employees	5	Saaremaa
Reports to	The laboratory in Pärnu	
Laboratory in Võru		Regional laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Võrumõisa tee 4a Võru EE2710	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry OIE list-B and C diseases.
Telefon	278 21679	
Faks	278 24051	Food safety and quality control: Antibacterial drug residues in foods of animal origine qualitative tests. The food microbiology and chemistry on primary level.
Head	Olav Reha	
Employees	10	Samples submitted from:
Reports to	The central laboratory	Võrumaa, Valgamaa, Põlvamaa Luhamaa boarder inspection post
Laboratory in Lääne-Virumaa		Regional laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Neffi tn. 2 Piira küla Vinni vald Lääne-Virumaa/ Neffi 2, Piira Rakvere sjk. EE2100	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry OIE list-B and C diseases. Food safety and quality control: Antibacterial drug residues in foods of animal origine qualitative tests. The food microbiology and chemistry on primary level.
Telefon	232 45406	
Faks		Samples submitted from:
Head	Eda Laas	
Employees	12	Lääne-Virumaa, Ida-Virumaa, Narva boarder inspection post
Reports to	The central laboratory	

Laboratory in Järvamaa		Regional laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Prääma tee 13 Paide EE2820	Diagnostics of animal diseases: Bacteriology, parasitology, clinical biochemistry OIE list-B and C diseases.
Telefon	238 50487	
Faks	238 51726	Food safety and quality control: Antibacterial drug residues in foods of animal origine qualitative tests. The food microbiology and chemistry on primary level.
Head	Imbi Nurmoja	
Employees	10	Samples submitted:
Reports to	The central laboratory	From Järvamaa, Viljandimaa, Raplamaa

The Food hygiene laboratory of the Estonian Agricultural University		Research laboratory
Location/ Adresse	Narva mnt. 84 Tartu EE2400	Attending in the national programm for the controll of drug residues in foods of animal origin
Telefon	27 433425	
Faks	27 433425	
Head	Aadu Kolk	
Employees	4	
Reports to	The central laboratory	Samples submitted: from all over the country

List of FMD free countries

RESOLUTION No. X

Recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, 'Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised', and 'Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries',
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII which asks that the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.1.1. of the *International Animal Health Code* ,
3. The Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free annually confirm by letter each November both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain the same,
5. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the International Animal Health Code,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate or incomplete information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code* ¹:

Australia	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria
Canada	Chile	Costa Rica	Croatia
Cuba	Cyprus	Czech Rep.	Denmark
El Salvador	Estonia	Finland	France
Germany	Greece	Haiti	Honduras
Hungary	Iceland	Indonesia	Ireland
Italy	Japan	Korea	Latvia
Lithuania	Luxemburg	Madagascar	Malta
Mexico	Netherlands	New Caledonia	New Zealand
Norway	Panama	Poland	Portugal
Romania	Singapore	Slovakia	Slovenia
Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom
United States of America	Uruguay	Vanuatu	

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code* :

Botswana², Colombia³, Namibia⁴ and South Africa⁵.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Country as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code* :

Brazil⁶

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as being FMD free countries where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *International Animal Health Code* ¹:

Argentina and Paraguay.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 1998)

(1) For information about the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised