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EU-25

Livestock and Products

BSE/TSE Situation in the EU-25 - update

2005

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Report Highlights:

This report focuses on recent BSE/TSE events and legislation in the EU. A first case of BSE was recently confirmed in a French goat, which was slaughtered in 2002. As a result the European Commission has adopted new legislation with relation to TSE and scrapie in ovine and caprine herds, as well as imposing trade restrictions on live animals, ova and semen of goats and sheep.

This report also offers an update on the BSE situation in the EU for 2004.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

BSE in goats

On January 28, 2005, the European Commission announced in a press release "[Case of BSE in a goat confirmed: Commission extends testing programme](#)", that BSE had been confirmed in a goat, which was slaughtered in France in 2002. While TSE and scrapie have been found more frequently, this is the first case of a small ruminant, which reportedly had been infected with BSE, out of 140 thousand goats and one million sheep tested. More background info is available in a Q&A document "[MEMO/05/29](#)". On January 31, 2005, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), asked for scientific advice by EC's DG SANCO, published a "Statement on the assessment of safety with respect to the consumption of goat meat and goat meat products in relation to BSE/TSE" at http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/biohaz/biohaz_documents/787/efsa_statement_bse-goat_28012005_en1.pdf. While EFSA concludes that current preventive measures are sufficient to ensure the safety of goat and sheep products, its Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) recognizes that more information is needed to assess the quantitative risk associated with the consumption of goat meat and goat meat products. The EC announced that it will step up its security measures for sheep and goat products, but it is unclear what the impact will be on the trade in sheep/goats and their products.

Recent BSE/TSE related legislation

While European [Regulation \(EC\) N° 999/2001](#) of 22 May 2001, laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), remains the centerpiece of BSE/TSE legislation. Several new amendments were made to it in 2004. The most important amendments were:

- [EC 876/2004 of 29 April 2004](#) Amendment of EC 999/2001 – trade in ovine and caprine animals for breeding, which sets new rules for the trade in goats and sheep, with the exception of sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype, which are exempted.
- [EC 1471/2004 of 18 August 2004](#) Amendment of EC 999/2001 – introducing requirements for the import of cervid products from Canada and the United States. This regulation imposes the removal of Specific Risk Materials (SRM) from all cervid meats exported to the EU and limits exports of wild game to areas free of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from January 1, 2005.
- [EC 1492/2004 of 23 August 2004](#) Amendment of EC 999/2001 – modification of eradication measures for bovine, ovine and caprine animals, trade and import conditions for semen and embryos of ovine and caprine animals and the list of specified risk materials. This regulation under certain conditions allows for the exemption of culling all animals of the cohort of a bovine infected with BSE, as well as setting rules for ovine and caprine herds, in which BSE is identified and the a movement restriction on herds identified with or suspected of having scrapie, until the results of further investigation are available. The regulation also restricts trade of live animals, ova and semen of goats and sheep, with the exception of sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype, which are exempted, starting January 1, 2005. Furthermore, the regulation redefines the list of SRM to be removed from bovines.

Other new regulations lifted trade restrictions on Portuguese exports of beef products, which had been in place since November 1998, as the BSE situation in Portugal was improving.

A comprehensive [Chronological list](#) of BSE/TSE legislation in the EU has been compiled and published on the EU website.

Evolution of BSE in the EU-25

BSE cases in the European Union (EU) continued to decrease to about 830 cases in 2004, from 1369 cases in 2003. Except for Germany, which had a small increase from 54 BSE infected cows in 2003 to 59 in 2004, all EU-15 member states identified fewer cases, with the United Kingdom dropping from 612 cases to 322 cases. In the New Member States (NMS), the situation is mixed, although the overall number of BSE cases is much lower. More background information on the BSE/TSE situation in the EU can be found at the Commission website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/food/biosafety/bse/index_en.htm or on the USEU website at <http://www.useu.be/agri/srm.html>.

Number of reported cases of BSE			
	2002	2003	2004
Austria	0	0	..
Belgium	38	15	11
Czech Republic	2	4	7
Denmark	3	2	1
Finland	0	0	..
France	239	137	54
Germany	106	54	59
Greece	0	0	..
Ireland	333	183	126
Italy	38	29	7
Netherlands	24	19	6
Poland	5	11	1
Portugal	86	133	92
Slovakia	6	2	7
Slovenia	1	1	2
Spain	127	167	131
United Kingdom	1,144	612	322
Total BSE cases	2,152	1,369	826

Germany date as of 30 November 2004

UK data are preliminar

.. Negligible

Source: OIE

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information.

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E35018	Livestock semi-annual	1/31/05
E35017	Poultry Semi-annual	1/31/05
E34089	Animal Welfare Legislation in the EU - Update	11/16/04

Czech Republic

Report	Title	Date Released
EZ4027	Czech Authorities Confirm 15th BSE Case	11/23/04

Germany

Report	Title	Date Released
GM5006	BSE in Germany - Update Covering 2004	1/26/05

Czech Republic

Report	Title	Date Released
EI4008	Second case of variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease discovered	11/17/04

Slovakia

Report	Title	Date Released
LO4016	Slovak Authorities Confirm 20th BSE Case	11/23/04

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