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Response of the competent authorities of Italy to the recommendations of report ref. DG(SANTE) 2022-7586 of the audit carried out from 07 March 2022 to 11 March 2022 in order to evaluate the application of measures for the control of avian influenza

<i>N°</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Action Proposed by the competent authority</i>
1	<p>To design and implement surveillance for early detection of HPAI in wild birds in a way that is appropriate and proportionate to the objectives pursued and to the risk factors involved to provide an early warning for the possible introduction of the disease in poultry so that operators can apply reinforced preventive measures without delay.</p> <p>Article 26(2) and (4), and 27 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Articles 4(a)(b) and 10(2) of, and Annex II (Section 4) to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689. Based on conclusion 37 and associated finding 15.</p>	
2	<p>To ensure that operators fulfil their responsibilities to immediately notify the competent authority where there is any reason to suspect the presence in the poultry they keep of HPAI.</p> <p>Article 18(1)(a) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Based on conclusions 36 and associated finding 19.</p>	

3	<p>To make appropriate arrangements to accelerate the analysis of the results of epidemiological enquiries in case of suspicion and confirmation of HPAI so that the competent authorities can take well informed decisions on the application of temporary restrictions before the disease is confirmed, and on the establishment, boundaries, and prioritisation of disease control measures in restricted zones.</p> <p>Articles 55(1)(e) and (f), 56(a)(ii), 57(2)(e), 62(1) and 64(1)(f) and (2)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and Articles 8(3), 9, 21(1)(c) and 23(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 – on the contribution of epidemiological enquiries to inform which disease control measures to apply and where.</p> <p>Articles 5(1)(a) and 12(2) and (3) (read with point 5 in Chapter II of Annex II thereto) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 – on procedures and/or arrangements to ensure the effectiveness of official controls and other official activities, to verify them, and to take corrective action and update them as appropriate when shortcomings with their application are</p>	
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	<p>identified.                      Article 43(2)(d)(iii) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on the availability of operational expert groups as part of the contingency plan for HPAI.                      Based on conclusion 38, 74 and 131, and associated findings 25, 27, 58 and 119.</p>	
4	<p>To take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the biosecurity measures applied by operators of poultry establishments, by: a) evaluating their suitability to mitigate the prevailing risk factors involved in the areas where they are situated according to the local circumstances and practices, b) organising awareness and training initiatives tailored to the results of that evaluation, and c) applying official controls to verify their proper application. Thus, they will be able to prevent the introduction and minimise the spread of HPAI, in particular in areas with a high risk of incursion of the disease via migratory wild birds.                      Articles 10(1)(a)(iii), (b) and (c), (4) and (5), and 11(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on responsibilities on disease prevention and biosecurity.                      Articles 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 – on general obligations of the competent authorities to have procedures and/or arrangements in place to ensure the effectiveness of official controls.                      Based on conclusion 132 and associated findings 115 and 116.</p>	
5	<p>To take full consideration of all appropriate criteria that should be analysed in the context of a potential HPAI epizootic to decide quickly on the establishment of a further restricted zone to prevent the spread of the disease in areas where the risk of transmission is especially high.                      Articles 64(2)(b) and 71(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and Articles 21(1)(c) and 23(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.                      Article 43(2)(a), (b) and (d)(i) and (ii) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on the application of the contingency plan for HPAI                      Based on conclusions 38 and 74, and associated findings 25, 27 and 58.</p>	
6	To render more functional the national and regional disease control	

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	<p>centres for HPAI ensuring that they have access to adequate technical and epidemiological analysis expertise at all times so that they can: a) take well-informed rapid and effective decisions to control the disease as soon as primary cases are confirmed to prevent its spread, and b) assist the services responsible for controlling the disease to have access to all the necessary resources to do that effectively and without delay.</p> <p>Article 43(2)(a) and (d) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on the application of the contingency plan for HPAI.</p> <p>Based on conclusions 38, 40, 73, 76, 92, 129 and 131, and associated findings 25, 27, 32, 56, 89, 119, 122 and 127.</p>	
7	<p>To make adequate arrangements to ensure that the competent authorities responsible for controlling outbreaks of HPAI have access to sufficient human resources to take all the necessary and appropriate measures, including visits to establishments situated within the restricted zone, to do that effectively and without unjustified delay.</p> <p>Articles 13(1)(a) and 43(2)(a), (b) and (c)(iv) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on responsibilities of the competent authorities to have an effective organisation and a contingency plan for HPAI that allow them to have access to personnel.</p> <p>Articles 25(1)(b), (d) and (e), and 26(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 – on visits to establishments in protection zones.</p> <p>Based on conclusions 73 and 129, and associated findings 51, 52 and 129.</p>	
8	<p>To take adequate administrative steps and make the necessary logistical arrangements to ensure sufficient capacity to apply killing of animals for disease control purposes and safe collection and disposal of the carcasses of dead and killed poultry and of other contaminated products in establishments where the presence of HPAI is confirmed and where preventive killing needs to be applied as a control measure.</p> <p>Articles 13(1)(a), 43(2)(c)(i) and (iii), and 61(1)(b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 – on the responsibilities of the competent authorities to</p>	

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	<p>have access to adequate facilities and equipment and to have an effective organisation to be capable to take the necessary disease control measures. Articles 12(1) and 22(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 – on the disease control measures that the competent authority shall apply immediately upon confirmation of an outbreak of HPAI, and on preventive killing. Based on conclusions 40, 73, 76, 92 and 129, and associated findings 32, 56, 89 and 127.</p>	
9	<p>To carry out audits of the animal health emergency preparedness system in place in the regions repeatedly affected by HPAI epizootics in recent years to ascertain their compliance with national and EU requirements and their suitability and readiness to control outbreaks of the disease rapidly and effectively. Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Based on conclusions 37, 38, 40, 73, 76, 92, 129 and 130, and associated findings 15, 25, 27, 32, 51, 52, 56, 89, 108, 122 and 127.</p>	