

## EUROPEAN UNION Day 3 INTERVENTION FOR GENEVA MEETING 7 - 9 November

November 9th: Supporting the implementation of integrated country programmes: financing and coordination issues

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the 25 countries of the European Union. The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania align themselves with this statement.

1. The EU welcomes this timely opportunity to focus on implementation of integrated country programmes, and on financial and co-ordination issues and hopes that we can make significant strides towards urgent short term and long term action.

2. The EU fully supports the global strategies developed and promoted by FAO, OIE and WHO.

3. In line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness the EU recommends that bilateral and multilateral donor assistance to country plans, and regional and global interventions and coordination, are pursued through existing relevant institutions in a harmonised way. This is in order to maximise coherence and effectiveness of international donor support and reduce the burden on countries affected, or at risk.

4. The EU has therefore adopted as **practical principles** that it will:

- Act in accordance with the mandates and priorities of the relevant multilateral organisations and the wider UN system co-ordinated by the UN System Co-ordinator (Dr David Nabarro).
- Provide technical and other assistance in support of the strategies of the multilateral organisations and national plans developed and owned by countries.
- Focus early assistance on immediate priority needs to deal with the most urgent problems, in line with UN agreed priorities. Thereafter, focus medium- and long-term measures on addressing the problem at its source, consistent with principles of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.
- Bear in mind that effective systems of animal disease control will limit the spread of avian influenza from endemic regions, contribute to the eradication of the disease in those regions and thus to the prevention of human pandemic influenza

5. In this respect, priority should be given to countries or zones where the animal disease is, or might become, endemic and that represent a permanent threat for global animal and public health unless the source of the animal virus is eliminated

6. On the basis of information available in advance of this meeting, the EU considers that immediate and urgent needs for action by affected countries, regional and multilateral institutions should include:

**a. As far as avian influenza is concerned:**

- To strengthen surveillance systems and to enable rapid implementation of effective counter-measures.
- To support the implementation of disease control measures.
- To make rapid assessments of the immediate socio-economic impact including compensation issues.
- To conduct information campaigns to increase public awareness and to increase appropriate behaviour
- To ensure the availability of adequate equipment for laboratories, personal protection etc.

**b. As far as a human pandemic is concerned:**

- To strengthen surveillance systems and to enable rapid implementation of effective counter-measures.
- To support the containment of potential human pandemic outbreaks at points of origin, including access to anti-virals and other essential commodities, and in the logistics of anti-viral deployment.
- To increase preparation and publication of information on influenza surveillance and control;

7. Similarly, the EU considers that **medium and long term priorities** for action by the relevant institutions should include:

**a. As far as avian influenza is concerned:**

To support strengthening of national veterinary services, with a view to improving the safety of animals and food production, such as enhanced bio-security on poultry units and small farms, including control of those factors affecting virus survival and opportunities to cross species barriers, as well as promoting sector reforms, including environmental reforms

To assist in market disease surveillance, hygiene and incentives to keepers of birds and animals and to traders to reduce disease risks in an equitable way.

**b. As far as a human pandemic is concerned:**

- To support strengthening of national public health services in order to improve quality and global coverage of influenza surveillance;

- To assist in an improved understanding of health and economic burden of influenza including benefits from epidemic control and pandemic preparedness;
  - To assist in the development of public health infrastructure.
    - To work on the development of global capacity to produce pandemic vaccines and anti-virals including through public-private partnerships.
8. Effective political and technical coordination of international efforts will be essential at both country and global levels; and mechanisms in affected countries, and countries at risk need to be streamlined to ensure that they do not divert excessive time from operational issues.

Ends