



International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/FMD-Turkey

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Foot and Mouth Disease - Turkey

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was reported and confirmed in early January in sheep and cattle located in Edirne, western Turkey (see map). The virus type has not yet been confirmed. The source of the infection is thought to be a local animal market. Control measures have been put into place. Turkey last reported an outbreak of FMD in July 2006 in Istanbul (OIE, 2007).

Situation Assessment

FMD is endemic in Turkey and the veterinary authorities maintain a programme of vaccination. Turkey reported 103 outbreaks during 2006. The last of these was in mid-



Foot and Mouth Disease in Turkey
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October. These were mostly due to a new strain of FMD serotype A that caused widespread outbreaks across the country before a more effective vaccine could be introduced. This new strain of FMD was introduced into Turkey from the East, most likely Iran, where the new strain was first detected in 2005 (OIE, 2006). It is suspected that many ruminant diseases may be introduced into this region via a corridor called the 'Eurasian ruminant street' which has dense populations of ruminants and extends from south Asia to the Mediterranean region (Slingenbergh and others, 2004).

The location of this outbreak in European Turkey, close to the borders of the EU member states of Greece and Bulgaria is of some concern. The European Union is supplying vaccine to Turkey to help control FMD and this will be deployed as soon as the serotype is known. The Greek and Bulgarian authorities have reinforced border controls and vigilance. British Customs are aware of the on-going threat from Turkey when prioritising action against illegal imports of animal products.

Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the likelihood of the introduction of FMD by legal trade from Turkey to the UK before and after this outbreak is considered negligible. The IAHD does not intend to carry out and publish a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor the situation.

References

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