Appendix 3

Protection Measures Implemented in France against Foot-and-Mouth Disease

1 - Measures for animals at risk

1.1. Veterinary surveys

Since 21 February 2001, a survey based on the ANIMO system has been underway on the introduction of animals of susceptible species onto the national territory since 15 January 2001. The findings reveal that 23 farms have served as first destination of sheep from the United Kingdom. The farms, spread over 17 departments, have received 60 consignments, with a total of 19,660 sheep. A survey of the movement of these animals on the national territory from point of first destination has:

- indicated that some 10,000 animals were destroyed before 21 February; the carcasses have been handed over, then destroyed or sent back to the United Kingdom; and
- identified 58 farms with sheep originating from the United Kingdom (of the 23 farms of first destination, 22 still had sheep originating from Britain; 36 farms received the sheep as their second destination). No movement of other susceptible species has been identified.

In addition, the findings of a survey conducted by the Netherlands veterinary services on the movement of UK sheep introduced into the Netherlands since 1 February 2001 and subsequently transferred to other Member States has identified a further 19 farms that have received animals "at risk", covering 14 departments: 37 animal consignments for a total of 9,372 sheep have been introduced this way.

This means that sheep from the United Kingdom have been delivered to 25 French departments.

The following preventive measures have been implemented on all farms with animals "at risk":

- quarantine of the farms and clinical test of the animals;
- on-site slaughter of sheep from the UK and of all animals of susceptible species that have come into contact with animals of British origin;
- on-site burial or incineration of carcasses of destroyed animals;
- blood sampling of 10% of destroyed animals of British origin (with a minimum of 30 samples per consignment) and dispatch of the samples to the AFSSA (national reference laboratory) for serological and virological analysis;
- animals of non-susceptible species present on farms where culling has occurred are placed in quarantine for a period of seven days following the last slaughter.

1.2 Results of ongoing surveys (as of 16 March 2001)

To date, 41,892 animals have been destroyed (18,202 sheep and 1 pig originating from the UK, 23,045 "contact" sheep, 486 "contact" cattle, and 158 other "contact" animals).
A total of 4,883 blood samples have been taken and the preliminary results communicated by the AFSSA (16 March 2001 - 18.00 hours) indicate:

- 3,497 negative samples;
- 288 seropositives from 15 holdings that have kept sheep originating from the UK.

The final results from the AFSSA have allowed surveillance to be lifted from 110 seronegative farms, after disinfection.

The 15 seropositive farms mentioned above are located in the following 13 departments:

- Aisne (02) - 1 farm on which 19 "contact" sheep and 900 other sheep originating from the UK have been destroyed. This farm no longer had any sheep of British origin;
- Cher (18) - 2 farms on which 90 sheep originating from the UK, 594 "contact" sheep and 65 "contact" cattle have been destroyed. Samples were taken from two bovines showing symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease but these proved negative (negative serology and virology);
- Loire-Atlantique (44) - 1 farm on which 30 sheep from the UK and 190 "contact" sheep have been destroyed;
- Loiret (45) - 1 farm on which 2,539 sheep from the UK and 1,410 "contact" sheep have been destroyed;
- Mayenne (53) - 3 farms on which 769 sheep from the UK, 523 "contact" sheep, 1 "contact" cow and 3 "contact" pigs have been destroyed;
- Oise (60) - 3 farms on which 291 sheep from the UK and 1,700 "contact" sheep have been destroyed;
- Rhône (69) - 1 farm on which 42 sheep from the UK, 45 "contact" sheep, 80 "contact" cattle and 40 "contact" pigs have been destroyed;
- Seine-et-Marne (77) - 1 farm on which 400 sheep from the UK, 1,400 "contact" sheep, 30 "contact" cattle, and 12 "contact" pigs have been destroyed;
- Vienne (86) - 1 farm on which 346 sheep from the UK, 2,220 "contact" sheep and 10 "contact" cattle have been destroyed;
- Seine Saint-Denis (93) - 1 farm on which 810 sheep from the UK have been destroyed;

All animals of susceptible species have been destroyed. Prefectoral decrees have also been issued establishing 3 km exclusion zones around these farms in the departments concerned.

Results of reported clinical suspicions

Since implementation of the tighter surveillance measures for foot-and-mouth disease, a total of 54 clinical suspicions have been formally reported to the veterinary services in 31 departments. To date, all the results have been negative, except for the outbreak.

1.3 Information on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease declared on 13 March 2001 at the OIE.

Following the discovery of six cattle with clinical signs of foot-and-mouth on 12 March 2001 on a farm in the department of Mayenne, samples were taken and the six cattle were
immediately slaughtered. As the preliminary results of the tests carried out at the AFSSA of Maisons-Alfort were positive, the 114 dairy cows and bull calves also present on the farm were all slaughtered during the night of 12-13 March, then destroyed and incinerated on-site.

The infection came from proximity contact with sheep imported from the United Kingdom. These sheep kept on a farm 500 metres away were slaughtered then destroyed on 27 February (as were the contact animals). They had come from British outbreak number 11 (Llancloudy, Hereford).

The activation of the foot-and-mouth alert by the prefecture of Mayenne resulted in the introduction of a 3 km protection zone and a 10 km surveillance zone around the farm concerned, as envisaged in community and national regulations.

In addition, two pig farms (total of 2,500 animals) located in an area with potential airborne exposure to the virus had their stock slaughtered and destroyed as a precautionary measure on 14 March 2001. Pigs from these two farms that had been transferred to seven other farms were also slaughtered as a preventive measure.

A decision by the Commission was approved by the European Union's Standing Veterinary Committee on 13 March. This decision calls for action on two fronts:

The departments of Mayenne and Orne are to be subject to the same measures as those imposed in the United Kingdom: ban on the movement of livestock of susceptible species (ruminants, pigs), of their genetic material (semen, ova, embryos), and of animal products from such animals (unless the products are from animals slaughtered before 16 February, or from animals raised and slaughtered outside these departments, or if they have been treated against the foot-and-mouth virus).

It is also made mandatory to systematically cleanse and disinfect, after each journey, vehicles used to transport animals in these departments.

At the same time, there is a ban in all other departments of metropolitan France on the movement of livestock of susceptible species and their genetic material (shipments to other Member States or exports to third countries).

Trucks collecting milk from farms with animals of susceptible species have to be cleansed and disinfected before leaving the department.

This decision was formally adopted at midnight on 14 March 2001 and will remain in effect until 27 March. It will be reviewed in the light of developments by the Standing Veterinary Committee meeting of 20 March.

2 - Measures to control the movement of animals

2.1 Measures for departments where serological tests have proved positive.

Measures restricting the movement of animals were introduced by prefectoral decree on 4 March 2001 in the departments concerned:

- ban on the movement and transportation of animals of susceptible species;
restrictions within a 3 km radius of farms testing positive:
- ban on the grouping of animals of all species (markets, fairs, shows);
- ban on the transportation of all animals (whatever the species);
- ban on animals of susceptible species entering or leaving the demarcated zone;
- identification, isolation and quarantine of farms with animals of susceptible species;
- disinfection of animals and containers used for the transportation of animal carcasses, milk, meat and other materials that could carry the virus;
- ban on artificial insemination;
- introduction of disinfection facilities for tyres of vehicles and shoes of personnel in establishments at risk (abattoirs, rendering plants, dairy plants, feed stores...);
- introduction of a separate milk collection route for farms located in the zone under increased surveillance.

2.2 Other measures to control movement on the national territory

The movement and transportation on the national territory of animals of susceptible species (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other cloven-hoofed animals) and horses has been banned by ministerial decree. These restrictions apply to domestic movement, exports, imports, as well as to the transit on the national territory of animals from other countries.

The transit of animals for slaughter in holding centres and the collection on any one journey of animals from different farms before delivery to the abattoir are forbidden.

However, livestock may be taken directly from farm to French abattoir. In the case of transfer from French farm to French abattoir, the animals need a veterinary permit allowing their transportation.

Animals for slaughter may also be introduced into the national territory on condition that they have a veterinary certificate as animals for slaughter issued by the veterinary authorities of the country of origin and that they are directly taken to the abattoir of destination situated in France or in another country.

There are exemptions for horses on the ban on movement and transportation, subject to notification of travel to the veterinary services of the departments of departure and arrival, and subject to compliance with regulations on the disinfection of vehicles, horses and accompanying persons.

These conditions also apply to horses introduced into France from other countries: notification of introduction must be made to the veterinary services of the department of destination on French territory.

All transit of horses on French territory is authorized subject to the following conditions: no intermediate reloading;
- routing exclusively on main trunk roads;
- cleansing and disinfection of vehicles before animal loading.

Hauliers transporting horses from the United Kingdom must have a certificate of disinfection. Such horses must be accompanied by a health certificate stating that they have not been in a protection or surveillance zone in the 14 days prior to the date of certification.