

Parma, 18 November 2016

Management Board Weekly Media Round-Up

14-18 November 2016

Bird Flu

- Newswire [Reuters](#) said an outbreak of bird flu (H5N8 virus) was recorded in Germany and Switzerland. The same strain of the virus had already been found in Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, Hungary, Croatia and Poland. German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt was quoted after the Agriculture EU summit held in Brussels, saying 'Germany is considering ordering its poultry farmers to keep their flocks indoors'. Wild birds coming from the far North of the Siberian Tundra were suspected of being the source of the current bird flu outbreak. Brussels-based [Politico](#) wrote that 'according to sources, EU Commissioner Andriukaitis also recommended keeping poultry indoors and making sure farmers apply disinfection procedures.'
- Official sources in various media outlets have reportedly announced that 'since the migrating season has only begun, there is a risk that more countries will be affected.'
- As a consequence of the above, France - Europe's largest poultry producer - imposed additional precautions at farms and restricted hunting and bird gathering.
- According to a press release by German authorities in the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and South Africa decided to ban poultry imports from Germany. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state agriculture minister Till Backhaus said in a statement that 'the restrictions underline the need for farmers to rigidly apply rules to restrict the spread of animal illnesses'.

Corporate

- Chinese specialised magazine [Produce Report](#) carried an interview piece with EFSA's Executive Director. The piece focused on EFSA's official visit to China and the importance of scientific cooperation between the European and the Chinese food safety authorities.
- EFSA's Alberto Spagnoli was interviewed at live radio programme 'La Radio ne Parla', broadcast by Italian [RAI RADIO 1](#) on Monday. Questions touched on palm oil, the role of EFSA and the EU alert system on emerging risks.
- Few articles appeared in Italian media after a conference was held in Milan to announce the city's candidature to hosting the future seat of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Various personalities were present at the conference, including Italian minister for Health, Beatrice Lorenzin.

Bees

- Italian daily La Repubblica carried an interesting piece providing an outlook on local solutions adopted by bee keepers to tackle bees decline. The article provided eye witness accounts from Italy and India. The online article was complemented by videos and infographics. EFSA's Agnes Rortais was quoted in the piece, which also included a link to EFSA's website.

Processed contaminants

- German leading daily Süddeutsche Zeitung wrote about the on-going debate around palm oil in Italy and focused on the marketing battle between two big producers, Barilla and Ferrero. The piece factually mentioned EFSA's scientific opinion on processed contaminants in vegetable oils.

Glyphosate

- Italian TV programme called Le Iene (broadcast by Italia1 channel) carried a piece on glyphosate, which focused on the extent to which Italian consumers are exposed to residues of glyphosate through their diets. The angle of the report was biased. Various people featured in it through interviews, including experts from the IARC and the Istituto Ramazzini. EFSA's José Tarazona, also interviewed, provided some strong corporate messages.

Endocrine disruptors

- Brussels-based Politico picked up an open letter calling on EC President Juncker and Health Commissioner Andriukaitis to change and clarify the redrafted criteria for identification and regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals. The letter, which was signed by 15 experts in the area of endocrine disruptors as well as environmental chemistry, also included specific comments to be addressed where EFSA was mentioned a couple of times in the context of the criterion #2 'endocrine mode of action' as well in the move between 'negligible exposure' to 'negligible risk'. On this, scientists asked whether there is a consensus view on EFSA's opinion that endocrine disruptors' can be adequately risk-assessed'.

Document history

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