



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

# The European Union animal health policy: now and in the future

Christianne Bruschke  
Annemarie Bouma



## EU Animal health policy



- Main elements of the existing policy were drawn up largely between 1988 and 1995 → evaluation / adjustment / update
- Trade in animals and animal products increased in EU and with third countries
- Science, technology and institutional framework have evolved substantially

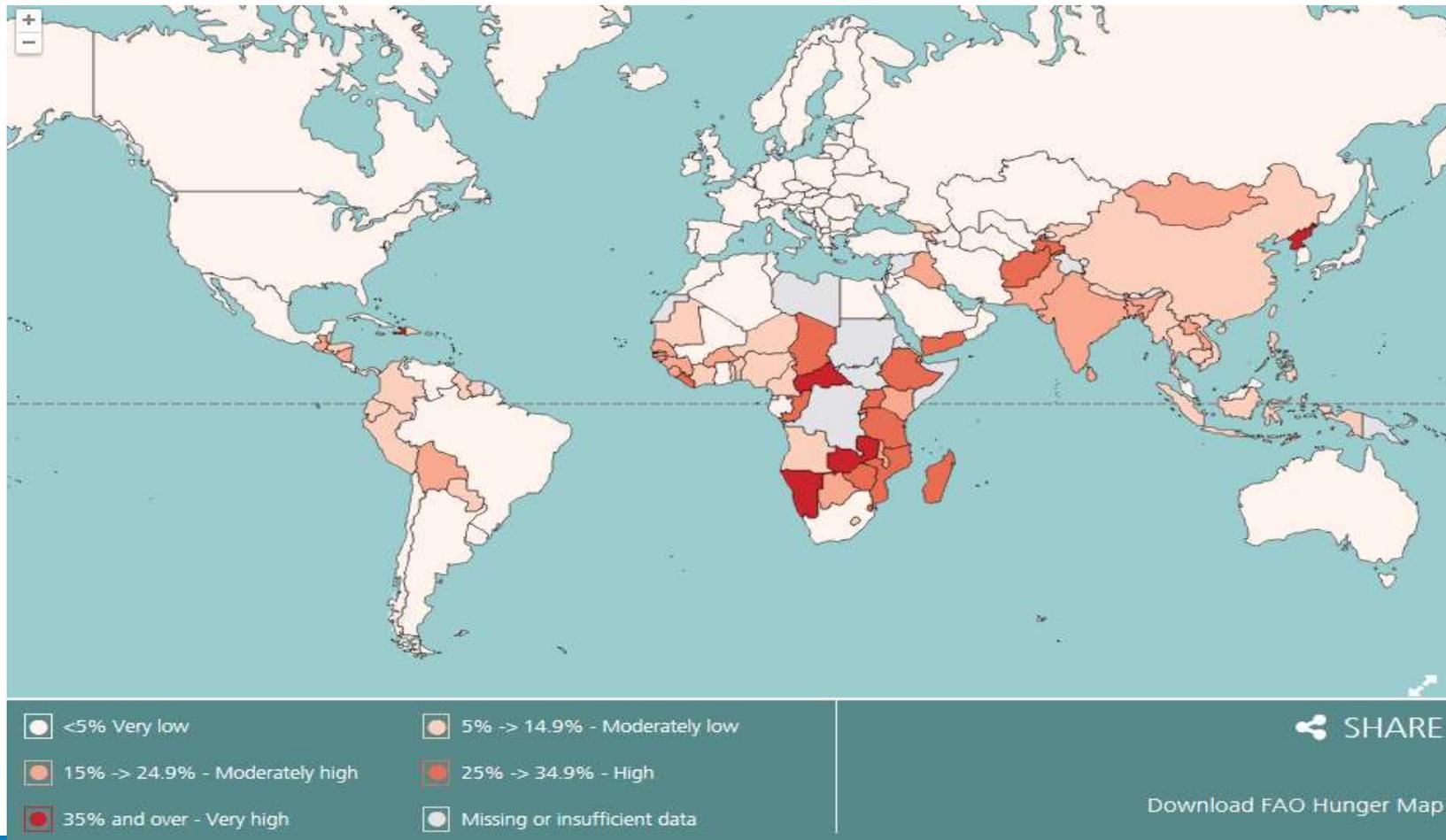


# Changing world



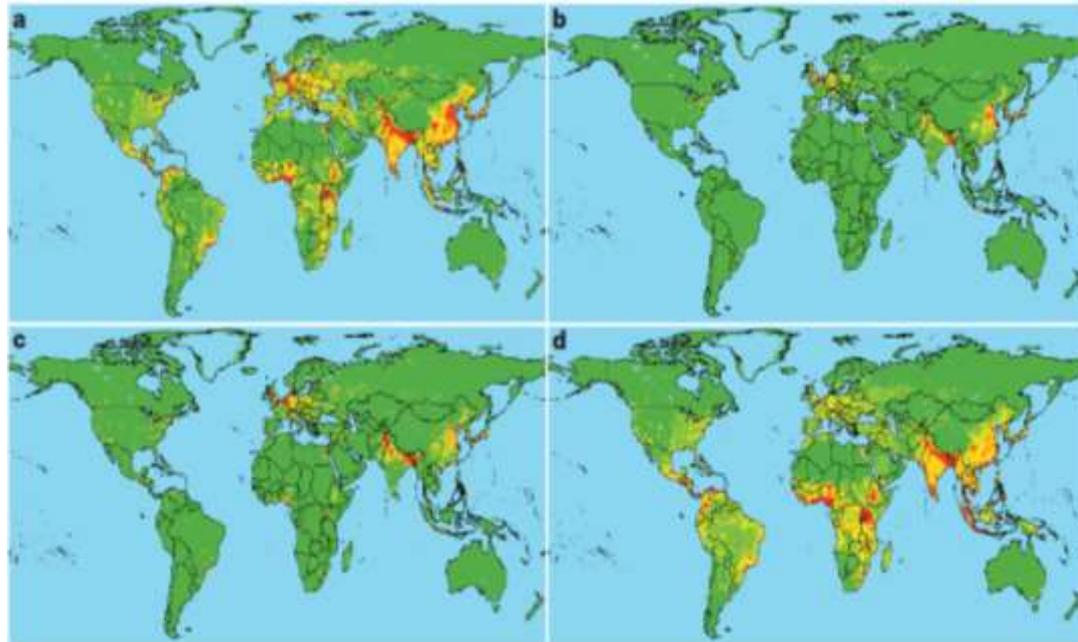


# FAO hunger map 2015

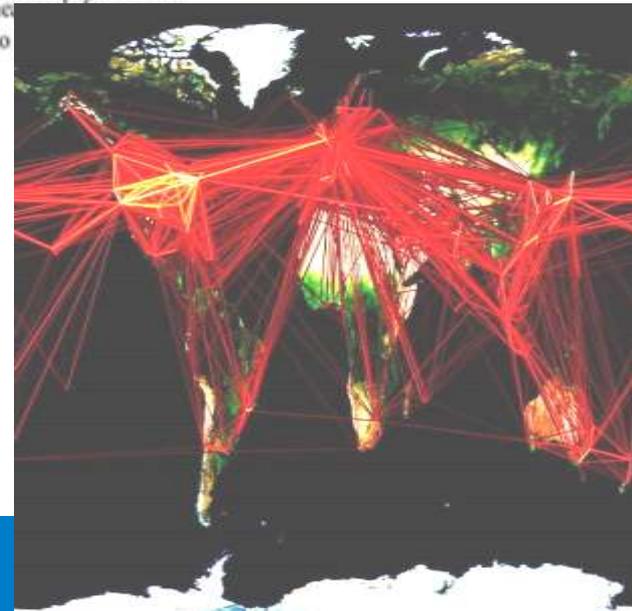




# Emerging risks



**Figure 3 | Global distribution of relative risk of an EID event.** Maps are derived for EID events caused by **a**, zoonotic pathogens from wildlife, **b**, zoonotic pathogens from non-wildlife, **c**, drug-resistant pathogens and **d**, vector-borne pathogens. The relative risk is calculated from regression coefficients and variable values in Table 1 (omitting the variable measuring reporting effort), categorized by standard deviations from the mean and mapped on a line scale from green (lower values) to red (higher values).



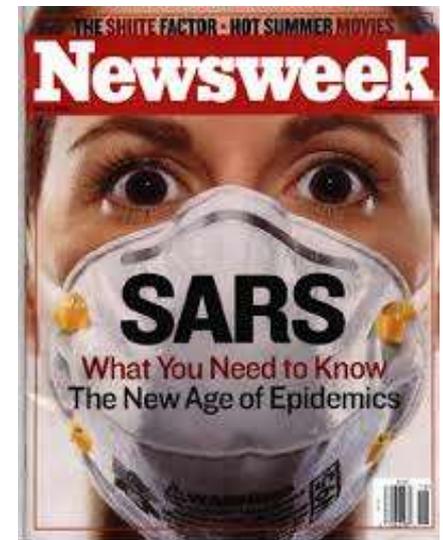
Global Trends in Emerging Infectious Diseases; Kate. E. Jones et al.  
NATURE;Vol 451| 21 February 2008| doi:10.1038/nature06536



# EU reconsideration of animal health policy



- New challenges have emerged
  - Emergence unknown diseases
  - Non-vaccination policy
  - New challenges (still risk) with well-known diseases
- One Health





## EU Animal health strategy 2007

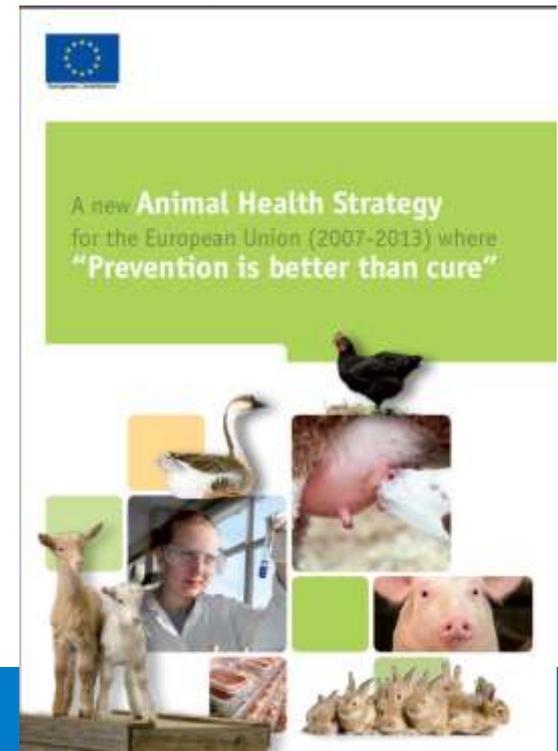
- Result of long development in the fight against transmissible animal diseases
- Aim: focus on preventive measures, disease surveillance, controls and research
- More robust but flexible, efficient and effective
- Covers all animals kept for food, farming, sport, companionship, entertainment, kept in zoos, wild animals and animals used in research



# EU Animal health strategy 2007



- Motto "prevention is better than cure"
- High animal health status by controlling outbreaks and by surveillance and eradication programmes
- Smooth and safe internal EU market





# EU Animal Health Law (2013)



## The EU Animal Health Law

- The main instrument to implement the objectives of the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)
- *More risk based, proactive, preventive behaviour*
- *Horizontal principles and rules for transmissible diseases*
- *Simplify existing rules:*
  - **Numerically**
  - **In substance**
- *Align with Lisbon Treaty*
- *Fit for decades to come*
- *No revolution, but evolution*



## Animal health regulation

- **From** a fragmented legislation of ca. 40 Directives and Regulations
- **To** a single and robust legal framework for animal health
- Laying down the overarching principles for:
  - Disease prevention (awareness, registration, traceability, biosecurity)
  - Disease control and eradication
  - Intra-EU movements and entry into the EU of animals and animal products
  - Emergency measures
- Supplementing rules needed to ensure complete implementation: included in delegated and implementing acts



## Animal health regulation

- 2007            Animal Health Strategy
- 2013            Legal proposal AHR
- 2015            Political agreement
- 2016            Publication
- 2019            Delegated acts / implementing acts
- 2021            Application



## Animal health regulation:

- The Lisbon Treaty:
  - **Delegated acts**: general application to supplement or amend elements of a legislative act
  - **Implementing acts**: uniform conditions for implementing legally binding Union acts
- Decision making
  - **Delegated acts**: European Commission + European Parliament (power to scrutinise and control the process); consultation of experts
  - **Implementing acts**: Member States



## Process: easier said than done:

- Example: listing and categorisation

- Safe trade
- Transparency
- Monitoring
  
- Measures
- Exchange of info
- Eradication



- DA : Listing diseases: to which diseases does the AHR apply
- IA: Categorisation: which rules apply



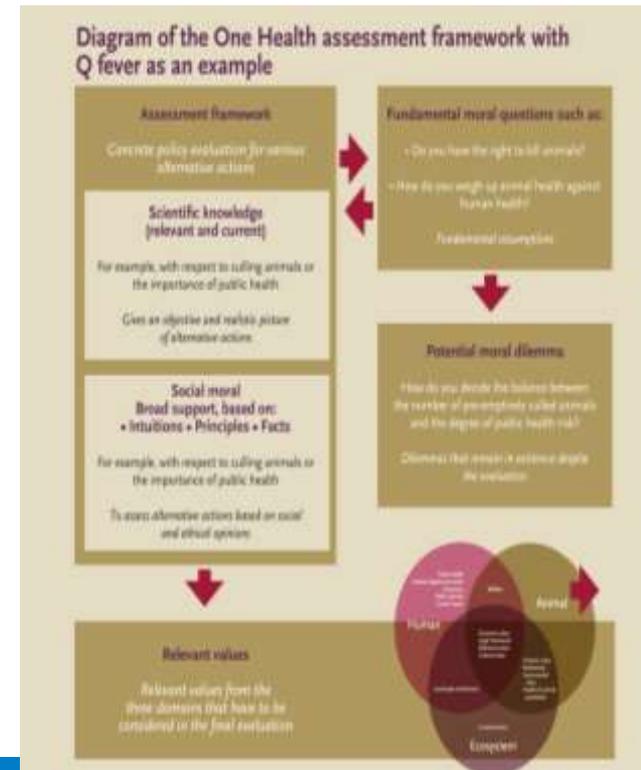
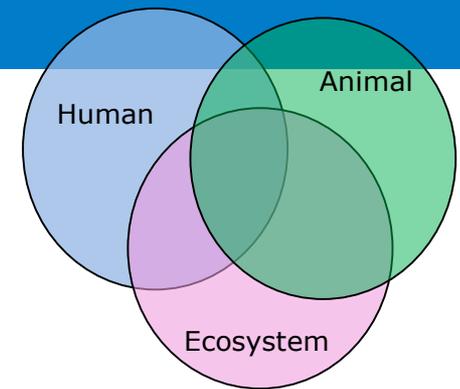
# AHR: example listing disease

## OIE

- International spread
- Significant morbidity/ mortality
- Zoonotic potential
- Diagnostic methods available

## AHR

- Economic impact
- Crisis/bioterrorism
- Environmental impact
- Societal acceptance





## Listing: art 5 disease shall be included on the list

- (a) all of the following criteria:
  - (i) scientific evidence indicates that the disease is **transmissible**;
  - (ii) animal species are either **susceptible** to the disease or **vectors and reservoirs** thereof exist in the Union;
  - (iii) the disease causes **negative effects on animal health** or poses a risk to public health due to its **zoonotic** character;
  - (iv) **diagnostic** tools are available for the disease; and
  - (v) risk-mitigating measures and, where relevant, surveillance of the disease are **effective and proportionate to the risks** posed by the disease in the Union;



## Listing: Art 5 disease shall be included on the list

(b) at least one of the following criteria:

(i) the disease causes or could cause **significant negative effects in the Union on animal health**, or poses or could pose a significant risk to public health due to its **zoonotic** character;

(ii) the disease agent has developed **resistance** to treatments which poses a significant danger to public and/or animal health in the Union;

(iii) the disease causes or could cause a **significant negative economic impact** affecting agriculture or aquaculture production in the Union;

(iv) the disease has the potential to generate a **crisis or the disease agent could be used for the purpose of bioterrorism**; or

(v) the disease has or could have a significant **negative impact on the environment, including biodiversity**, of the Union.



## Categorisation: Art 9 Prevention and control rules

- (a) that do not normally occur in the Union and for which **immediate eradication measures** must be taken
- (b) which must be **controlled in all MS with the goal of eradicating** them throughout the Union
- (c) which are of **relevance to some MS** and for which measures are needed to prevent them from spreading to MS that are disease-free or have eradication programmes
- (d) for which measures are needed to **prevent them from spreading** on account of their entry into the Union or movements between Member States
- (e) for which there is a need for **surveillance** within the Union



## Listing and categorisation

- How to weigh the different criteria?
- How to find compromise between 28 Member States
  
- Export, import, trade, society differs between Member States
- Different interest / responsibilities government vs private sector
- Costs of regulation
- Diseases (all vs none)
- Responsibilities of EC, national governments, private sector
- Politics: e.g. subsidiarity



## Regulation of diseases

- Both a technical discussion and a political discussion
- How to include political issues ?
  - National level
  - EU level



