



ANSES takes part in the national platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health

*The conclusions of the national consultation on the health sector (EGS - États généraux du sanitaire) were presented on 16 September 2010 to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fishing, Rural Affairs and Territorial Development in a document entitled **Une politique de sécurité sanitaire renouvelée pour l'agriculture française en 40 actions** ("Forty initiatives for a renewed health and safety policy for French agriculture").*

Initiative no. 1 within the framework of these conclusions was presented as one of the key initiatives to come out of the EGS. It involves "Creating an epidemiological surveillance platform for animal surveillance" through a partnership between the French authorities, ANSES and professional organisations.

The national epidemiological surveillance platform is the operational entity that coordinates epidemiological surveillance activities under the responsibility of the National committee for epidemiological animal health surveillance with the support of a scientific and technical council and produces the epidemiological data needed 'to provide health risk analysis and to enable management and control of these risks'. Its mission is to ensure the smooth running of the entire epidemiological surveillance system for animal health on a national level including its capacity for quick response. Its role is to ensure harmonisation between the various systems.

The platform joins together entities involved in the epidemiological surveillance of animals, including the following: the Directorate General for Food, ANSES, professional and veterinary organisations (FNGDS, Coop de France, SNGTV, etc.), laboratories (ADILVA) and technical and scientific organisations (INRA, CIRAD, ONCFS, etc.).

The activities implemented by the platform include:

- **Contributing to the collection**, standardisation and consolidation of health data, including for the monitoring of outbreaks during the emergence of epizooties;
- **Analysing the data** gathered and interpreting them in coordination with the various stakeholders involved;
- **Defining, measuring and monitoring** the operational indicators of the different epidemiological surveillance systems;
- **Producing epidemiological reports** which present the changes in prevalence and incidence of the diseases the platform covers;
- **Identifying, suggesting** and, when needed, **coordinating** epidemiological investigations to be conducted on the national level;
- **Leading and implementing** an overall strategy for providing data feedback to those managing and working in surveillance according to a planned procedure, i.e. through the Bulletin épidémiologique;
- **Coordinating the pooling** of international health risk monitoring data.

The platform is being set up with a major contribution from ANSES, which in doing so will reinforce its involvement in its network of reference laboratories and epidemiological units for animal health surveillance.

On a practical level, ANSES is providing equipped premises and four staff members, including two epidemiology experts. Several subjects will be handled as a top priority by the platform, including the surveillance of Mycobacterium bovis, bluetongue disease and syndromic surveillance of spontaneous abortions in ruminants. The platform will publish a complete inventory of the existing epidemiological surveillance systems that will serve as a foundation for the pooling of the data produced and the identification of any complementary systems that may be required. Performance indicators will be developed, published and monitored regularly to guarantee optimal surveillance coordination.

