INDEX e-WEB n°237

- A(H5N1) Avian & Human influenza – None
- “INSIDE” events: Dengue (ruled out) – Greece
- “OUTSIDE” events: Dengue - Portugal

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Greece
Event: Dengue (ruled out)

- On 3rd October 2012, following the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) announced that the case initially reported as a probable autochthonous dengue case on 3rd September 2012 in the municipality of Agrinio (located in the Aetolia-Acarnania regional unit of Western Greece, cf. eWEB n°234) has been ruled out.
- Additional laboratory tests have allowed ruling out dengue fever as a diagnosis for this case.
- Entomological investigation has confirmed the presence of Aedes albopictus, a competent vector of dengue virus, in the area of the patient’s residence, although reports of the presence of the particular mosquito genus in the wider region exist since 2003. In the 1920s, a large dengue outbreak was reported in Greece, mainly in Athens area. This was the last dengue outbreak reported in Greece.

REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA
(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)

Location: Portugal
Event: Dengue

- On 3rd October 2012, the Portuguese health authorities reported dengue cases in the autonomous region of Madeira, Portugal (cf. map 1).
- To date, 2 confirmed and at least 20 suspect cases of dengue have been reported. Further investigation and laboratory results are on progress. The place of infection (autochthonous versus imported) has yet to be specified.
- To date, no autochthonous dengue cases have been reported in Madeira autonomous region.
- In regard to the number of cases, the presence of the vector, and the possible autochthonous transmission, the situation needs to be carefully monitored.
- Due to the presence of the Aedes aegypti vector on the archipelago, the season and the climate, an amplification of the epidemic

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, the French public health institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI), in order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience. Information related to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

The EpiSouth-Plus Project is cofunded by the European Union (DG-SANCO/EAC) and EuropeAid together with the participating national partner institutions. The financial support of the Italian Ministry of Health and ECDC is also acknowledged. Yet, the contents of this bulletin can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.
Presence of Aedes aegypti vector in the Portuguese archipelago is known since 2004-2005 (cf. *Eurosurveillance* article, 2007). In this respect, an autochthonous transmission cannot be excluded.

Health authorities closely follow the situation and international mandatory measures of desinsectisation of aircrafts from Madeira are applied.

The occurrence of dengue cases in Madeira archipelago indicates that a possible establishment of dengue in the Mediterranean region cannot be excluded.

Sporadic cases of dengue were already reported in the past years in several EpiSouth countries, such as Croatia (cf. eWEB n° 133), France (cf. eWEB n° 131) and Egypt (cf. eWEB n°116).