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TITLE	DRAFT PAPER
HOW TO MAKE SURE THAT ON-FARM BIOSECURITY MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED?	

STAKEHOLDER <i>defining the problem</i>	Union of European veterinary practitioners (UEVP)
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CONTEXT (SUMMARY DESCRIPTION)
<p>In the case of an outbreak of animal disease, there is a risk of propagation beyond national borders, and many recent cases confirmed it. There is therefore a need for a European answer to this European phenomenon.</p> <p>Prevention is of major importance, in order to avoid these crisis and their costs of sanitary, economic and image impact. This is the main goal set up by the New Animal Health strategy, and the UEVP welcomes it and believes that veterinarians have a major role to play in this regard. Pillar three of the New Animal Health Strategy actually acknowledges the importance of “<i>veterinary controls</i>”, in order to support on-farm biosecurity measures.</p> <p>However, the UEVP wishes to highlight some barriers that need to be removed, that go against this prevention objective, and to focus in the same time on the efficient output that could be implied by a more intense collaboration between veterinarians and farmers, who are the closest people to the animals.</p>

PROBLEM DEFINITION
<p>Despite the objectives fixed by the European Union as regards animal health, very few is planned as regards animal diseases prevention within the EU territory, and more specifically within the farms, where are actually most of the animals. There is no tool implemented at the EU level to check whether on farm bio security measures are actually respected.</p> <p>As a consequence, in some areas, some farms are not visited by veterinary services on a regular basis, in order to proceed to an examination of major issues that have a direct impact on bio security measures: sanitary protection, housing and facilities, sanitary management of the animals, animal welfare, management of veterinary medicines, book keeping... Some farms therefore do not conform with any “good practices” in terms of sanitary protection, which constitutes a major threat of animal disease outbreaks.</p>

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There is therefore a gap between the objectives fixed and the measures implemented to reach it. Without any process enabling an accurate prevention, there is no way to ensure a real prevention of animal diseases.

Moreover, in some remote areas, this absence of process implementing a regular visit of farms and animal husbandries or rearing stations by veterinarians leads to the dissolution of a veterinary network throughout the EU territory, which happens to be a real problem in case of an animal disease outbreak.

HOW does the problem affect the OBJECTIVES of the EU Animal Health Strategy?

Without the implementation of an accurate system enabling a regular examination of biosecurity measures implemented in farms, the objective fixed in pillar three of the New animal health strategy cannot be reached properly.

To ensure a real prevention of animal diseases, according to the motto of the New animal health strategy, the expected outcomes of the Communication (guidelines taking into account the level of risk associated with different types of production systems and species, and provision of funding to finance and promote on-farm biosecurity measures) are not sufficient. Only a European framework implementing a common process of regular farm visitation throughout the EU can help promoting prevention rather than cure.