**IP/03/305**

Brussels, 3 March 2003

# Commission adopts control measures to contain avian influenza outbreak in the Netherlands

Suspicion of an outbreak of avian influenza in the province of *Gelderland* arose on the evening of 28 February. The Dutch authorities, in co-operation with the Commission services, immediately put in place measures foreseen in Directive 92/40/EC. These measures include a nation-wide standstill for the transport of **live poultry** and hatching eggs and a prohibition on dispatching any live poultry or hatching eggs from the whole territory of the Netherlands.

The Commission Decision specifies that no live poultry and hatching eggs may be dispatched from the Netherlands to other Member States or third countries. They may also not be transported within the Netherlands.

The measures contained in the Commission Decision are applicable until 6 March 2003.

The Commission will continue to work closely with the Dutch authorities to ensure proper co-ordination within the EU.