PRESS RELEASE

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ANSES and GDS France renew their partnership of over ten years in veterinary public health

Today, Benoit Vallet, Director General of ANSES, and Christophe Moulin, President of the French Federation of Animal Health Protection Groups (GDS France), renewed their framework partnership agreement aimed at strengthening the prevention, surveillance and control of certain animal diseases that have a major impact on French livestock farming.

This new three-year agreement reflects the desire of the two organisations to extend the collaboration they began more than 10 years ago in order to strengthen the analytical reference system for three diseases of major economic importance to French livestock farming: mucosal disease/bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD), infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), and paratuberculosis.

This partnership will enable further work to be undertaken at the Niort site of ANSES's Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort Laboratory with the aim of producing ever more effective diagnostic tools in line with the management measures taken. It will also provide an opportunity to continue research in support of these reference activities.

Over the last 10 years, the ANSES-GDS France collaboration has helped strengthen the activities of ANSES's Niort site in its role as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for IBR; it has also led to the appointment of an NRL for BVD and to the creation of an expert laboratory for paratuberculosis, enabling numerous reagents to be developed and tested for the diagnosis of these three diseases. The research work carried out has contributed

to the European Union's acceptance of France's IBR eradication programme, the introduction of a sanitation programme for BVD, and the development of a dedicated paratuberculosis programme.

The collaboration with GDS France is also an asset enabling ANSES to fulfil its mission regarding epidemiological surveillance in animal health, as the National Epidemiological Surveillance Platform for Animal Health (ESA Platform) requires close partnerships with players in the field.

The renewal of the agreement with GDS France and the active involvement of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region both reinforce the position of the Niort site of ANSES's Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort Laboratory as a centre of innovation in animal health.

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The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) provides public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks needed to protect humans and the environment from health risks. It studies, assesses and monitors all the chemical, microbiological and physical risks to which humans, animals and plants are exposed, thereby helping the public authorities take the necessary measures, including in the event of a health crisis. A national agency working in the public interest, ANSES comes under the responsibility of the French Ministries of Health, the Environment, Agriculture, Labour and Consumer Affairs.

The collective health action carried out for the past 70 years by Animal Health Protection Groups and their National Federation, GDS France, has been based on three pillars: surveillance, prevention, and control. Their activities and expertise work in the interest of animals, farmers and the livestock economy and help improve food safety for the end consumer. Animal Health Protection Groups work on a daily basis with the whole community of professionals involved in animal health, including farmers, professional farming organisations, veterinarians, engineers, and research centres. Their scope covers a wide range of species such as cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, horses, poultry, bees, and those farmed in aquaculture. Through their missions, the GDS France team and its network all aim to achieve a common goal: ensuring the good health of French livestock.