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de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



73rd General Session

Paris, 22-27 May 2005

2005

Final Report



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List of abbreviations

AFSSA	Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, United States of America)
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AU-IBAR	African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCFH	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CEBEVIRHA	Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (United Kingdom)
CIRAD-EMVT	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement - Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire
DEFRA	United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DIVA	Differentiating infected from vaccinated animals
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EISMV	Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMPRES	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPA	fluorescence polarisation assay
GF-TADs	Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
IABs	International Association for Biologicals
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICPM	Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
IDF	International Dairy Federation
IETS	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFAH	International Federation for Animal Health
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	International Meat Secretariat

IMTSSA	Institut de Médecine Tropicale du Service de Santé des Armées, Marseille, France
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
LPNAI	low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health
PACE	Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PAHO/PANAFTOSA	Pan American Health Organization / Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PANVAC	Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEAFDEC	South-East Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SPS Agreement	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (WTO)
VICH	Veterinary International Co-operation on Harmonisation
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WAVLD	World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WVA	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 73rd General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held at the OIE headquarters¹, 12 rue de Prony, Paris (France) from 22 to 27 May 2005 under the chairmanship of Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (Senegal), President of the International Committee. Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand) chaired the second plenary session and Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) chaired the third plenary session.
2. Delegations from 145 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from three non-member countries or territories and 44 international or regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the General Session.
4. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa) and Dr Anne A. MacKenzie (Canada), the Rapporteurs for the Technical Items, also participated in the General Session.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of certain Ad hoc Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.
7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Dr Norman G. Willis and Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, and Dr Louis Blajan and Dr Jean Blancou, Honorary Directors General of the OIE, were also present.
8. Twelve Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 22 MAY 2005 ≡

Opening Session

9. President Niang welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence during the opening ceremony: Mr Ali Mohamed Gedi (Prime Minister of Somalia), Ms Angela Thoko Didiza (Minister of Agriculture of South Africa), Mr David Lokyan (Minister of Agriculture of Armenia), Mr Martiņš Roze (Minister of Agriculture of Latvia), Mr Trad Hamadeh (Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon), Mr Muhyiddin Bib Haji Mohd Yassin Tan Sri Dato' Haji (Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia), Mr Oumar Ibrahima Toure (Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Mali), Mr Peter Letlhogonolo Siele (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Botswana), Mr Abdullah Ahmed Bin Abdal Aziz (Assistant Deputy Minister for Agricultural Affairs of the United Arab Emirates), Mr George Makharashvili (Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Cesar M. Drilon, Jr (Vice-Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture of the Philippines) and Dr Oscar Manual Gutiérrez (Director General of OIRSA²).
10. Following the President's address, a preview of the new OIE presentation film was screened. His Excellency Mr Gedi then took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Ms Didiza, Mr Roze, Mr Hamadeh, Mr Muhyiddin Bib Haji Mohd Yassin Tan Sri Dato' Haji, Mr Toure, Mr Letlhogonolo Siele, Mr Aziz, Mr Makharashvili, Mr Drilon Jr and Dr Gutiérrez.

¹ All the meetings during the first three days were held at the Salons Hoche (Paris)

² OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health

11. Mr Fatiou Akplogan, Minister of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery of Benin, participated in the 73rd General Session and, on behalf of his country, received a certificate testifying that his country had been recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest infection. The following countries also received certificates from the OIE testifying that they had been recognised as free (zone or country) from specific diseases: Argentina, Bhutan, Brazil, Colombia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo and Turkey.

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

12. Dr Niang reminded the participants that in 1985 the International Committee had decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then presented the persons selected by the Administrative Commission to receive the awards: Dr James E. Pearson (United States of America) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Pierre-Paul Pastoret (Belgium) for the Meritorious Service Award.
13. The Director General indicated that the Administrative Commission had decided to send Dr Gavin R. Thompson (Kenya) the Meritorious Service Award he had been awarded in 2004. It had not been possible to present him with the Award during the 72nd General Session as he had been unable to attend.
14. Dr Niang commended Dr Pearson and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding service to veterinary science and to the OIE and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Pastoret and presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal. The recipients thanked the President and the International Committee.
15. Following the ceremony, Dr Niang declared the 73rd General Session of the OIE International Committee open.

≡ MONDAY 23 MAY 2005 ≡

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

16. The President welcomed the Delegates, especially the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as members or observers.
17. President Niang welcomed Mr Richard Fadden, President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and handed him the floor.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

18. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.
19. In the absence of any comments, the Committee adopted the agenda and the timetable of the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 75th and 76th General Sessions

20. The Committee appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 75th and 76th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), is composed of the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Commission

21. The Committee appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the deliberations and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
22. In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Commission, they communicated to the Chairman the list of Delegates who were ineligible to receive the allowances for their participation in the current General Session, due to their country's situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004

(Doc. 73 SG/1)

23. The Director General indicated that the activities conducted in 2004 continued to take into account the priorities of the 3rd Strategic Plan for the period up to the end of 2005. The targets set out in the Plan having already been achieved in 2004, 2005 will be devoted to strengthening them while preparing for the adoption of the 4th Strategic Plan 2006–2010. He indicated that the future Strategic Plan will primarily be based on consolidating the OIE's existing activities. It will also include new policies aimed at strengthening regional activities, capacity building for the national Veterinary Services and the definition of global animal health policies. It will be submitted for adoption to the International Committee during the current General Session.
24. The policy of modernising the tools available to the Central Bureau and the Regional Representations was maintained: increased office space by renting new premises next to the OIE headquarters, implementation of the new Computer Systems Master Plan, adoption and implementation of a new staff training scheme and continual modernisation of the Web Site.
25. Dr Vallat stressed that despite the small number of staff, given the importance of the OIE's mandates (63 permanent members of staff of 28 different nationalities, including 45 in the Central Bureau and 18 in the Regional Representations), the ever-increasing activities of the organisation had been successfully accomplished, in particular through the dynamism of the staff of the Central Bureau and the five OIE Regional Representations, and the staff of the global network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which totalled 170 units at the end of 2004.
26. Thanks to the scientific expertise provided by those units and the work of the experts authorised by their countries to assist the OIE, the work of scientific surveillance and preparation of proposed new standards and guidelines for submission to the International Committee was particularly intense in 2004.
27. Two international conferences were organised in 2004: "Animal Welfare" and "Control and Prevention of Animal Diseases by Vaccination" and two other conferences were prepared for 2005: "Avian Influenza" and "Rabies in Europe".
28. The reform of the animal health information system, voted by the International Committee in May 2004, was launched.
29. The ratification and signing of new Agreements with the FAO³ and the WHO⁴ have helped to revive fruitful cooperation with these two Organisations, create new synergies and avoid duplication of effort. Joint application of the GF-TADs⁵ programme by the OIE and the

³ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁴ WHO: World Health Organization

⁵ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

FAO has already borne fruit, notably with the launching of harmonisation of animal health policies in each of the regions covered by the OIE's five Regional Commissions. Agreements with new regional organisations and international professional organisations were also prepared.

30. Thanks to the financial support given to the STDF⁶ mechanism by many new donor institutions, the OIE has been made responsible for implementing three projects on behalf of its Member Countries: development of a self-evaluation tool for the use of Veterinary Services; training of OIE Delegates; preliminary studies for the strengthening of public and private veterinary services in Africa. The ALive (African Livestock) platform, in which the OIE is deeply involved, will become fully operational in 2005. Implementation of these different projects, and of those still in preparation, will enable Member Countries that are developing or in transition to participate fully in the activities of the OIE.
31. The OIE has begun to develop a new global database intended, with the support of all the Member Countries, to disseminate OIE information and publications to all sectors, both public and private, of animal health and production, veterinary research, laboratories and veterinary teaching establishments throughout the world.
32. Recovery of Member Countries' contributions and contribution arrears continued to improve in 2004 and once again exceeded forecasts. This will have the effect of reducing the time needed to implement existing programmes. Several countries also agreed to change their contribution category. Voluntary contributions from Member Countries also progressed favourably..
33. In 2004, the OIE's activities in the field included the organisation of nine international meetings and participation in 114 scientific meetings in 49 different countries.
34. The President emphasised the need for transparency and communication between the Delegates of Member Countries. He also emphasised the efforts made by the OIE to enable the 120 developing countries to participate in international negotiations. He stressed the need to maintain efforts to pay contributions and arrears, and the need for all countries to play an active part in implementing the 4th Strategic Plan 2006-2010.
35. The Committee noted the report of the Director General.

Composition of Working Groups

36. The Director General announced that, in agreement with the Administrative Commission, a system of chairmanship for the Working Groups could be proposed to their members based on a rota to be determined for each of the Groups. He then reported on the composition of the Working Groups:
 - Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
 - Dr Marc Artois (France)
 - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa) (Chairman)
 - Dr Christopher Bunn (Australia)
 - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
 - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
 - Dr Michael H. Woodford (United Kingdom)

⁶ Standards and Trade Development Facility

- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
 - Dr Alain Dehove (European Commission)
 - Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO)
 - Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
 - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
 - Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO)
 - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
 - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)
- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand)
 - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
 - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
 - Prof. Tore Håstein (Norway)
 - Dr Walter N. Masiga (Kenya)
 - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
 - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)

37. The International Committee approved the composition of the Working Groups.

Planned Working Programme for 2006

(Doc. 73 SG/6 – Appendix I)

38. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2006, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Delegates elected to the Administrative Commission.
39. The Planned Working Programme for 2006, submitted to the Delegates for approval, is presented at Appendix I of Document 73 SG/6. The Director General laid particular emphasis on:
- the importance of reforming the animal health information system, given the new possibilities offered by the computer system currently being installed;
 - the importance of the international network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and the dedication of experts in this network working for the OIE free of charge;
 - the importance of seeking donors to promote the training of Delegates and their personnel as well as the development of the veterinary scientific community in developing countries (training of officials and organisation of reference laboratories in these countries) so that they can participate more actively in all stages of the preparation of future OIE standards;
40. He also read out several minor corrections to be made to document SG/6 given to the Delegates.
41. The President stressed the importance of Member Countries actively contributing to the various activities of the OIE, including within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

42. President Niang welcomed Mr Dominique Bussereau, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, France, and handed him the floor.
43. In his address, the Minister placed particular emphasis on the commitment of France to enabling the OIE to undertake its activities under optimal conditions and continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the terms of the International Agreement of 1924 and the Headquarters Agreement of 1977.

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Implementation of OIE standards in the framework of the SPS Agreement⁷
(Doc. 73 SG/9)

44. Dr Barry O'Neil, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this Technical Item, Dr Gideon Brückner.
45. Dr Brückner presented his report, which was principally based on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
46. OIE Member Countries are increasingly under pressure to improve the performance of their Veterinary Services as a prerequisite for entering the competitive arena of international trade in animals and animal products. The demands for compliance with international sanitary standards have also put increasing pressure on the financial, human and technological resources of Member Countries. The SPS Agreement of the WTO⁸ and the guidelines and recommendations of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*), are interlinked and have a direct bearing on the eventual acceptance or refusal of animals or products of animal origin by importing countries.
47. The responses to a recent questionnaire distributed to the 167 OIE Member Countries revealed that, although there is general satisfaction with the intent and understanding of both the *Terrestrial Code* and the SPS Agreement to facilitate international trade, specific concerns related to both developed and developing countries need to be addressed to make the *Terrestrial Code* and the SPS Agreement more relevant as reference documents in international negotiations for trade in animals and animal products. The purpose of the questionnaire was to assess the perception and experiences of OIE Member Countries in applying the underlying principles, guidelines and recommendations of both the *Terrestrial Code* and the SPS Agreement to the trade of animals and animal products. A particular focus was on the application of the rights and obligations embedded in both the *Terrestrial Code* and SPS Agreement and to what extent Member Countries consider the application thereof as facilitating or hindering the trade in animals and animal products. The questionnaire also tried to assess those aspects in both the *Terrestrial Code* and SPS Agreement that need either to be reviewed or improved to facilitate the use of these texts by Member Countries in the international trade in animals and animal products.
48. All of the above points concerning the *Terrestrial Code* are also relevant to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.

⁷ SPS Agreement: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (WTO)

⁸ WTO: World Trade Organization

Discussion on Technical Item I

49. Dr O'Neil thanked Dr Brückner and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He recalled that, in 2004, he had expressed concern at the lack of timely reporting of disease outbreaks and the non-implementation of OIE standards by Member Countries. He hoped this would be improved through the implementation of the 4th Strategic Plan. He then opened the discussion on this topic.
50. The Delegate of Australia congratulated Dr Brückner on his presentation and observed that it was pleasing that the survey showed that the OIE is on the right track. He then made three observations: 1) as compartmentalisation is a new concept to both developed and developing countries, the OIE needs to explain the concept in both technical and lay terms, so that it is clear to all users of the *Codes*, including industry. 2) Regarding special and differential treatment, he asked how developing countries can take advantage of the SPS Agreement. The OIE has a responsibility to explain, in practical terms, how to meet and apply the rules. 3) Australia has been active in promoting the development of animal welfare guidelines by the OIE. However, Australia opposes any attempt to include animal welfare in the SPS Agreement, as it is not appropriate to the scope of the Agreement; the guidelines are not in a sufficiently advanced stage of development, and there is a need to concentrate on the main point, which is encouraging countries to participate actively in using this Agreement.
51. The Delegate of the United States of America congratulated the speaker and expressed concern at the difference between the acceptability of OIE standards and their implementation. He advocated more active participation in the development of standards in order to reduce this discrepancy. Dr Brückner responded that written comments to the Specialist Commissions are a good indication of the level of participation, in addition to participation in the International Committee.
52. The Delegate of Japan commended the speaker for his excellent presentation. He observed that most Member Countries are probably facing a similar situation – the growing awareness of OIE standards among the public, including the media, producers and consumers. This requires greater transparency in the standard-setting process so that governments can carry out their responsibilities regarding risk communication. He also stressed the importance of consensus building when adopting international standards, especially when issues such as compartmentalisation and 'safe' commodities are involved.
53. Dr Alejandro Thiermann (President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission) congratulated Dr Brückner and invited all Member Countries to participate in discussions on the introduction of the new concepts of compartmentalisation and 'safe' commodities. He also encouraged Delegates to consult the paper prepared by Dr David Wilson on compartmentalisation, which was distributed at the IPPC⁹ ICPM¹⁰ general meeting in March 2005. He noted the cooperation between the OIE and IICA¹¹ in preparing an evaluation tool to improve the performance of national Veterinary Services in developing countries.
54. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated Dr Brückner on his excellent presentation but indicated his concerns that some aspects of the guidelines on equivalence were not being respected. He used bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as an example of the problem faced by African countries.
55. The Delegate of Zimbabwe congratulated the speaker on his presentation. He was encouraged that the OIE was seen to be moving in the right direction. He expressed concern about the flow of information during the standard-setting process and encouraged better linkages among various OIE Specialist Commissions.

⁹ IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

¹⁰ ICPM: Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

¹¹ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

56. The Delegate of Canada thanked Dr Brückner for his presentation. He recognised that the high turn-over of OIE Delegates was a problem and that the OIE had attempted to address this in the 4th Strategic Plan and through Regional Commissions. He noted the importance of good communications at the national level between Delegates to the OIE and those to the SPS Committee. He then questioned whether there were any non-institutional factors influencing the implementation of international standards, such as consumer concerns as mentioned by the Delegate of Japan. Dr Brückner agreed with the Delegate of Canada about the difficulty in cross-communication between SPS and OIE Delegates at the national level, and introduced an example of non-institutional factors from his presentation that “a high income high import country” tends to be concerned less with international standards and more with consumer concerns. He also mentioned the possibility of OIE Regional Representations addressing WTO Committees as a possible solution to the problem.
57. The Delegate of Chile congratulated the speaker. He expressed concern at the low participation especially among developing countries, despite detailed explanations for the various concepts used in the *Codes*. He wondered whether a global explanatory document would help. For example, compartmentalisation was an excellent concept but was still being discussed. He asked whether there was any comment by Member Countries in the response to the questionnaire about the time required for the equivalence process. Dr Brückner replied that such a question had not been included.
58. The Delegate of India congratulated the speaker and drew attention to the analysis in the presentation indicating that the majority of respondents thought that the *Codes* favoured industrialised countries. Dr Vallat replied to the Delegate of India that, among developing countries, some were importing countries that wanted to use restrictive standards to safeguard their imports, while others were exporting countries that seek better market access. The OIE needed to find a balance between the two trends.
59. The Delegate of Singapore, after commending the OIE for moving in the right direction, agreed with the Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia on the importance of transparency. He suggested increased participation in OIE Specialist Commissions, as it was very difficult to have in-depth discussions during the General Session. He added that information should be more readily available.

Dr Vallat replied that the OIE is in a position to produce new standards within 1 or 2 years, in contrast to other international organisations that take 5 to 8 years, allowing a quick response to animal diseases and minimising, as far as possible, international crises. He also commented that the members of Commissions are elected by the International Committee on the basis of their qualifications and geographical spread. He also encouraged active participation in the commenting process on the drafts prepared by Specialist Commissions, through the appointment of suitable people by Member Countries.

60. The Delegate of Haiti thanked the speaker and stressed the weakness of Veterinary Services in many developing countries and the resulting lack of ability to perform satisfactory risk analyses. He then expressed concern that this tends to result in greater restrictions to trade.

Dr Vallat explained the responsibilities of the OIE under the SPS Agreement, but noted that Member Countries are allowed to use other measures if they are based on risk analysis. He nevertheless pointed out that, as the OIE *Codes* are established by leading experts, it would be difficult for a country to justify different standards from those of the OIE. He also mentioned that the advice of the same OIE experts would no doubt be sought if the WTO convenes a panel to resolve a dispute.

61. The Delegate of Luxemburg, speaking on behalf of the 25 Member States of the European Union, thanked the speaker for the high quality of his analysis, and noted that he had highlighted the discrepancy between the standard-setting process and implementation of the standards. He requested that the OIE provide more information and improve its communication. For example, further explanation would be very useful to clarify the concept of compartmentalisation.
62. Dr O'Neil again congratulated Dr Brückner for the quality of his presentation and his willingness to answer some difficult questions. At his request, the representatives of the following countries agreed to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution: Chile, India, Japan, Luxemburg, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

TECHNICAL ITEM II

**Applications of genetic engineering for livestock
and biotechnology products**
(Doc. 73 SG/10)

63. Dr Romano Marabelli, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr Anne A. MacKenzie.
64. Dr MacKenzie presented her report, which was based mainly on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
65. The influence that biotechnology is having and will have in the future on animal health is now being realised well beyond the researchers' laboratories. An examination of the evolution of reproductive biotechnologies was presented. The latest techniques allow for the use of transgenic farm animals as sources of specific proteins and bio-pharmaceuticals, as donors in xenotransplantations and for further research into gene therapy, all of which are important applications in human medicine. The beneficial applications of embryo transfer include disease control, transboundary movement of livestock and the provision of sexed sperm and sexed embryos. Although cloning of livestock is a complex, multi-step process and the technology needs further evaluation, benefits such as the multiplication of desired traits and the conservation of animal germplasm are clearly substantial. With the application of transgenesis in livestock, disease resistance, improved meat, milk and wool quality and increased specific-protein production in milk and meat are major benefits. It is predicted that biotechnology-derived vaccines will become common in animal health programmes when they can be shown to have improved efficacy and safety compared to conventional products.
66. When carrying out risk assessments for genetically engineered animals, conventional techniques and tools are useful but it is important to be aware that, because limited data are available, hazard identification will be a considerable challenge. As the new technologies and their applications evolve, standard setters and regulators will be faced with the challenge of keeping pace with technological advances.
67. In response to a questionnaire sent to Delegates of OIE Member Countries, only 40% of respondents indicated that their animal health regulatory administrations had the capability to conduct risk assessments on biotechnology-derived animals or products. Likewise, 20% of respondents did not consider the guidelines for risk analysis helpful for

carrying out an import risk analysis on biotechnology-derived animals or products. Furthermore, 50% of respondents did not have a regulatory framework in place to govern cloning, transgenic production or products of biotechnology such as vaccines. Public perception of cloning and biotechnology-derived animals will present a considerable challenge to Member Countries, with 79% reporting no public support for cloning and 52% reporting that biotechnology-derived animals are perceived as controversial.

68. There is considerable work that must be initiated by both Member Countries and the OIE to allow appropriate progression in the very important field of biotechnology and animal health.

Discussion of Technical Item II

69. Dr Marabelli thanked Dr MacKenzie and congratulated her on an excellent presentation, which covered sensitive issues, ranging from pharmaceuticals to animal production matters, of concern to many Member Countries and international organisations. He then opened discussions on this item.
70. The Delegate of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, congratulated Dr MacKenzie on her elaborate and well-researched presentation. He pointed out that the role of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in livestock development was discussed in depth during the last Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Khartoum, Sudan. This issue had important implications for African countries and the possible negative impact was causing much concern to many governments. He suggested that the Recommendations adopted in Khartoum be incorporated into the Resolution to be adopted during the plenary session on this Technical Item. The President of the OIE assured him that all the recommendations from the Khartoum Conference would be proposed for adoption during the current General Session and that Dr MacKenzie's conclusions would also be taken into account in a separate Resolution. Dr MacKenzie added that the interest being shown by Africa was indeed encouraging.
71. The Delegate of Togo thanked the speaker for her outstanding presentation and agreed with the Delegate of Uganda that the issue of biotechnology was of interest to Africa and to other developing countries. In his view, developing countries needed a higher level of expertise and equipment to be able to apply the principles of biotechnology properly. He also suggested that Dr MacKenzie's conclusions be proposed for adoption by the OIE.
72. The Director General of ILRI¹² expressed appreciation for the enlightening presentation given by Dr MacKenzie. He stated that, as an institution, ILRI was deeply involved in research in biotechnology matters. He cautioned, however, that a clear distinction needed be made between transgenesis and other biotechnology applications to avoid possible confusion, especially as regards the use of biotechnology in controlling animal diseases. He was also of the opinion that the survey carried out in OIE Member Countries should have made provisions to categorise Member Country responses according to the United Nations Classification in order to clarify possible differences in the appreciation of the use of biotechnology by different categories of country.
73. The Delegate of Canada suggested that the impact of biotechnology on various issues, such as animal health and food safety, is so great that the OIE should take into account the knowledge acquired by other international organisations such as Codex Alimentarius, the FAO, VICH¹³ and the IETS¹⁴ as such knowledge can further assist the OIE in its standard-

¹² ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

¹³ VICH: Veterinary International Co-operation on Harmonisation

¹⁴ IETS: International Embryo Transfer Society

setting responsibilities. Dr Mackenzie agreed with this observation and pointed out that in her presentation she had emphasised that the OIE should not work in isolation.

74. The Delegate of Egypt wanted further information on the negative impact of transgenesis. Dr MacKenzie replied that due to the complexity of the problem, and in order to save time, she was prepared to have separate discussions on the subject with the Delegate.
75. The Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO stated that the issue of conservation of genetic material of animal origin should not be undermined and that biotechnology should also be applied for that purpose. He added that the FAO is providing significant resources, especially to countries in Africa and Asia, for gene preservation in agriculture. Dr MacKenzie replied that, although she did not elaborate on that subject, her presentation did mention the use of biotechnology for the preservation of rare and endangered species.
76. Dr Marabelli once again congratulated Dr MacKenzie on her outstanding presentation and on her willingness to reply to the questions from the floor. He invited the Delegates of Chile, Egypt, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Uganda, the United States of America and Zimbabwe to form a group along with Dr MacKenzie to draw up the draft Resolution on this Technical Item.

Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE

77. The Director General stated that presentations at a Plenary Session were made only by intercontinental international organisations and by regional organisations that had just signed an agreement with the OIE, the other regional organisations making their presentation within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
78. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional international organisations.

World Bank

79. Dr François Le Gall, representing the World Bank, thanked the OIE for inviting him to present his institution.
80. He stated that the key mission of the World Bank is the fight against poverty. As livestock farming is one of the rare resources available to the poor, it is important to diminish the risk of exposure to numerous animal diseases resulting from a heavy disease burden and a low capacity for surveillance and control.
81. There is an ever-present need to invest in strengthening the technical, scientific and operational capabilities of developing countries. Transboundary diseases, whether transmissible to humans or food-borne (priority diseases), now pose a very serious threat to poor populations, national economies and those of neighbouring or importing countries.
82. Strengthening technical, scientific and operational capabilities must be seen as a global public good and be placed under the responsibility of the official Veterinary Services.
83. Four years ago, the World Bank and the OIE signed a cooperation agreement with a view to coordinating their animal disease control activities. At Doha, Qatar, the Bank undertook to support, along with its partners, national capacity-building programmes for developing countries. This undertaking is due to take effect within the framework of the STDF mechanism, the Steering Committee of which the OIE is a member.

84. Since the last General Session of the OIE, exchanges have continued and the following important events have taken place: the General Assembly of the ALive partnership, under the presidency of the OIE (June 2004); the three meetings of the Executive Committee of ALive, chaired by the OIE; the OIE/AU-IBAR¹⁵ seminar in collaboration with the FAO on 'Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions' (Cairo, Egypt, October 2004); several meetings in support of the official Veterinary Services of developing countries, in particular in Africa; the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Khartoum, Sudan, February 2005); and a high level debate between the Director General of the OIE and the World Bank on emerging and re-emerging diseases, which has helped to raise the awareness of the management team of the World Bank of the need to involve itself in animal disease control.

World Health Organization

85. Dr François-Xavier Meslin, representing the WHO, presented the activities of that organisation during the previous year.
86. He presented the current avian influenza situation in Asia from the standpoint of the WHO, referring to the human cases and deaths in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. The WHO was greatly concerned that this avian influenza crisis could lead to the development of a pandemic.
87. The WHO has promoted the exchange of information on food safety among its Member Countries and greater collaboration between the authorities responsible for health, agriculture, and trade at a national and international level. To achieve this aim, the WHO, in collaboration with the FAO, has established an international network of food safety authorities (INFOSAN). The network administrators can be contacted at the following address: infosan@who.int
88. The revised version of the International Health Regulations (IHR) has just been approved by the 58th World Health Assembly. It has helped to establish official links with the OIE in the same way as with other international organisations such as the FAO, the ILO¹⁶ and the WTO.
89. The WHO is working closely with the OIE and the FAO within the framework of the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS), in order to predict, prevent and control animal diseases, including zoonoses. The three organisations met twice in 2005 to improve the text relating to GLEWS appended to the FAO/OIE GF-TADs Agreement. A revision of the organisational mechanisms for surveillance and response is due in September 2005 within the framework of the signing of an agreement on this subject between the three organisations.
90. Collaboration has developed on the exchange of information on occurrences of H5N1 strain in animals and humans in Asia and through the epidemiological work of WHO, FAO and OIE networks of specialist laboratories on HPAI¹⁷ viruses in animals in Asia. During the past 12 months, within the context of this collaboration, the WHO has co-sponsored or participated in numerous regional or international conferences or technical consultations organised by the OIE and the FAO on HPAI. During the same period, the WHO has invited the OIE, the FAO and national Veterinary Services to take part in numerous consultations on avian influenza surveillance or preparedness for an influenza pandemic.
91. The 11th annual coordination meeting between the three organisations, the FAO, the OIE and the WHO, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 and 2 February 2005, was marked by a better understanding between the institutions and the holding of the first meeting of an executive committee at the Director General and Deputy Director General level.

¹⁵ AU-IBAR: African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources

¹⁶ ILO: International Labour Organisation

¹⁷ HPAI: highly pathogenic avian influenza

92. On the subject of avian influenza, Dr Vallat supported the permanent dialogue with the WHO but regretted that the WHO prediction was not always based on scientific evidence. He pointed out that, in this respect, the OIE had requested, along with the FAO, that a scientific study be conducted to evaluate the probability of the pandemic occurring and that a part of the resources allocated by international organisations and developed countries for the prevention of a possible pandemic be used for controlling the animal disease at source.
93. On the subject of the new IHR, Dr Vallat said he was pleased with the way the text had evolved and that it was much better than the one proposed the year before. He pointed out that this had required a great deal of energy and months of lobbying on the part of the OIE. He regretted that the words 'zoonosis' and 'veterinarian' did not appear even once in the 60 pages of the IHR. He stated that further improvement in the collaboration between the OIE and the WHO was therefore still needed, in particular in the area of zoonoses.
94. Lastly, regarding the INFOSAN network, the OIE advised the Member Countries that food safety controls should not be fragmented throughout the food chain but should be well coordinated.
95. The Delegate of Swaziland was pleased that the OIE was collaborating with the other international organisations on zoonosis control, but he emphasised that this collaboration should also exist at the national and local level. He felt it was relevant for the IHR to take account of this collaboration.
96. With regard to the comments of the Director General of the OIE on avian influenza, Dr Meslin confirmed that, to date, no scientific analysis was capable of predicting the occurrence of a pandemic. He nevertheless wished to point out that the Director General of the WHO considered preparations for a possible pandemic to be a priority at the present time. With regard to the financial resources allocated to controlling the disease, he emphasised that Thailand had indicated that 75% was being allocated to the control of the disease in animals.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

97. Prof. Stuart Slorach, Chair of the CAC¹⁸, gave a presentation on the organisation and its activities.
98. Both the OIE and the CAC have recognised the need for closer cooperation in order to ensure the safety of foods of animal origin throughout the food chain. As two of the three international standard-setting organisations specifically referred to in the SPS Agreement of the WTO, it is important that we avoid any overlap, gaps and inconsistencies in areas of mutual interest.
99. At its 27th Session in July 2004, the CAC reiterated its interest in increased cooperation with the OIE and suggested that the FAO and the WHO initiate discussions with the OIE in accordance with an earlier recommendation of the Executive Committee of the CAC. At present there is still no specific agreement between the OIE and the CAC, but cooperation is continuing based on the OIE's observer status in Codex. Codex appreciates the OIE's active participation in and contribution to the work of its subsidiary bodies, and the CAC has also recommended that collaboration between the OIE and Codex be strengthened at the national and regional levels. The current thinking in Codex is that cooperation with the OIE should be maintained throughout the process of developing standards, including the initial phase of the drafting of texts, as well as through enhanced mutual information exchange.

¹⁸ CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission

100. The following Codex activities, which have taken place since May 2004, may be of special interest to the OIE:
- The Codex Committee on Meat and Poultry Hygiene (CCMPH) completed its current mandate and forwarded a draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat to the CAC for adoption at its next session in July 2005. The draft Code has consolidated several existing documents into a single Code and provides a risk-based approach to ante- and post-mortem inspection. The OIE has taken an active part in the development of this Code, which provides an excellent example of what can be achieved by close cooperation between the two organisations.
 - The Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) has finalised the draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (aquaculture and other sections) and forwarded these sections to the CAC for adoption.
 - The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) has progressed in its work on the control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods, the revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products, and principles and guidelines for microbiological risk management.
 - The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) has finalised its work on the draft Principles for Electronic Certification and forwarded them to the CAC for adoption. The CAC has agreed on a definition of traceability/product tracing and CCFICS is going to develop principles for the application of traceability/product tracing through a working group.
 - A Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding was adopted by the CAC in July 2004. Codex Member Countries and observers have been asked for their opinion as to whether further work by Codex is required and, if so, how that work should be carried out. The OIE has provided comments on this issue, which will be considered by the CAC in July 2005.
 - In October 2004 the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods finalised its discussions on a draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance and forwarded it to the CAC for adoption. The CAC has not yet decided whether to approach further work on antimicrobial resistance through the creation of a Codex Task Force or to deal with it in another manner, but the issue will be discussed at its meeting in July 2005.
101. Codex looks forward to continuing its close collaboration with the OIE for the mutual benefit of the two organisations. The CAC appreciates and encourages the OIE's active participation in the development of Codex standards. Several experts with a background in Codex work participate in the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, and its Chairman will be reporting on the Working Group's activities tomorrow. Codex will explore ways and means to develop more effective use of its expertise in the work of the OIE.

Most OIE Members Countries are also members of Codex. Prof. Slorach expressed the view that, in addition to collaboration at the international level, greater coordination, cooperation and information exchange at the national and regional levels should also be encouraged.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

102. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, reported on the activities of that organisation.
103. In application of the new FAO–OIE Agreement, signed in May 2004, and the specific agreement on the GF-TADs, collaboration between the FAO and the OIE has developed throughout the period 2004–2005:
- This is notably the case with HPAI in Asia. Several regional or international conferences have been organised jointly, in collaboration with the WHO, notably a Regional Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (23–25 February 2005) and an International Scientific Conference in Paris, France (7 and 8 April 2005). The OIE/FAO network of reference laboratories and expertise on avian influenza (OFFLU: OIE/FAO Avian Influenza Network) was officially launched on 8 April 2005.
 - The FAO and the OIE are also together in supporting the PACE¹⁹ programme of AU–IBAR.
 - The FAO will be joining the Technical Steering Committee of the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign, conducted for the past 7 years by ASEAN²⁰ with the support of the OIE.
 - Many other interactions can also be cited, such as the participation of FAO experts in several OIE Ad hoc Groups (avian influenza, emerging diseases, rinderpest, foot and mouth disease) and the participation of OIE experts in the work of the FAO European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD).
 - The GF-TADs programme has been launched and two Steering Committees have already met, one in Tokyo, Japan, for Asia (6–10 March 2005) and the other in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the Americas (14 and 15 April 2005). Those for the Middle East and Europe will follow before the end of the year, and the one for Africa is due to meet at the beginning of 2006.
 - The FAO and the OIE are also both present in the new initiative for the development of livestock farming in Africa (ALive: African Livestock) along with the African Union, all the African Regional Organisations and the donor agencies (World Bank, African Development Bank, European Commission, bilateral cooperation initiatives, etc.).
 - The FAO and the OIE have also worked together on several issues relating to the WHO, such as on the revision of the WHO International Health Regulations and on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Moreover, an FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Meeting is held every year to review areas for collaboration between the three organisations.
104. These joint actions are the expression of a renewed desire for collaboration between the FAO and the OIE, based on the complementary nature of their respective missions and mandates, in areas ranging from the development of standards and strategies to national and regional development programmes and information (whether for the dissemination or the analysis of epidemiological data) on the strengthening of Veterinary Services.
105. Lastly, it should be noted that, to improve its capacity to respond to major animal health crises, the FAO has established the EMPRES²¹ Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), managed by the Chief of the Animal Health Service, who was appointed CVO (Chief Veterinary Officer) of the FAO in December 2004.

¹⁹ PACE: Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics

²⁰ ASEAN: Association of South-East Asian Nations

²¹ EMPRES: Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases

World Trade Organization

106. Ms Lee Ann Jackson, Economic Affairs Officer at the WTO, reported on the activities of the SPS Committee and other relevant WTO activities from 2004 to the present.
107. Since January 2004, the SPS Committee has held four regular meetings (March, June and October 2004, March 2005). From 1995 to the end of 2004, 40% of the questions raised were related to animal health and zoonoses. In 2004, seven questions were raised for the first time (for example, measures relating to poultry) and 18 concerns regarding previous discussions were raised again. These meetings have also helped to resolve disputes.
108. The revised directives on equivalence were finalised in March 2004, with the active participation of the OIE.
109. With regard to regionalisation (corresponding to zoning/compartimentalisation in OIE standards), some countries want the WTO to develop guidelines while others consider that the work carried out by the OIE and the IPPC is sufficient to reach a decision on the subject.
110. An analysis of the functioning and application of the SPS Agreements is now under way. It began in December 2004 and concerns all aspects of these Agreements.
111. The WTO wishes to maintain its cooperation with the OIE within the framework of SPS technical workshops, notably for trainer training, to enable the rights and obligations enshrined in the SPS Agreements to be clearly understood.
112. Within the framework of the STDF programme, multi-donor funds have been provided, notably by the World Bank, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Canada. Resources are therefore available to finance new projects. These will have to be submitted in June 2005 so that they can be examined at the STDF Committee meeting in September 2005.

European Commission

113. Ms Jaana Husu-Kallio (the European Commission's Deputy Director-General for health and consumer protection) reported that there had been an exchange of letters with the OIE in 2004 to formalise the collaboration between the two institutions and the Commission's observer status at the OIE.
114. There were numerous examples to illustrate the Commission's collaboration with the OIE, such as the International Conference on Avian Influenza and tripartite activities in support of foot and mouth disease control in the Caucasus region. The Commission participates in many activities of OIE Working Groups and Ad hoc Groups. It is also contributing to the First International Conference on Rabies in Europe (to be held in Kiev, Ukraine, in June 2005) and to OIE Regional Conferences in Africa and Asia.
115. The Commission underlined the importance of animal disease control measures and called for agreements to be reached to ensure that conditions of trade are proportionate to the risks of spreading a disease, notably by taking into account transparency in the notification of mildly pathogenic avian influenza and by not penalising countries that show proof of honesty. The Commission also stressed the need to reach a satisfactory agreement on the system of zoning and compartmentalisation, saying that Commission experts were willing to work on the subject. With regard to BSE, while the Commission welcomed the revision of

the *Terrestrial Code* it feels that a lot more remains to be achieved, especially with regard to BSE surveillance. The Commission is satisfied with the new standards on animal welfare being proposed and underlined how important it is for standards to be based on up-to-date scientific knowledge.

116. With regard to the implementation of the OIE's new animal health information system, the Commission was not certain that all countries had integrated these new measures and it advocated the rapid notification of outbreaks in order to maintain a high level of confidence and transparency between countries.
117. The Commission recognised the importance of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan and the future activities that it will generate. It suspects that the OIE's basic texts may perhaps no longer be adapted to the current situation and that they may need to be revised in order to reinforce decision-making processes within the OIE.

World Veterinary Association

118. Dr Herbert Schneider, Representative of the WVA²², reported on that organisation's activities. The WVA and the OIE signed an agreement in May 2002 encouraging collaboration between the two organisations on issues of common interest.
119. In 2004, the President of the WVA actively participated in the OIE Ad hoc Group on the Role of Private Veterinarians and Para-Professionals in the Provision of Animal Health Services, as well as in the OIE Ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. Various international OIE meetings and congresses were attended by representatives of the WVA, and the cooperation and active partnership between the two organisations has been further strengthened. The OIE will be actively involved in the forthcoming World Veterinary Congress 2005, due to take place in Minneapolis, United States of America. The OIE will organise, in collaboration with the FAO, a special whole-day seminar on 'Challenges in responding to new international and social demands on the veterinary profession'. Furthermore, the active and positive promotion of World Veterinary Day by the OIE and the strong support of the Director General of the OIE, Dr Vallat, will greatly contribute to making this a global veterinary activity.
120. The Director General of the OIE stated that the participation of certain elected members of OIE Regional Commissions in the World Veterinary Congress would be defrayed by the OIE. On the subject of the World Veterinary Day, he stated that a proposal would be sent to the Delegates: it would suggest organising a competition with a prize for originality and effectiveness in the work carried out by Member Countries to celebrate the day.

International Dairy Federation

121. Mr Edward Hopkin, Director General of the IDF²³, reported on that organisation's activities.
122. The IDF is an independent, non-political body established by the dairy sector (in 1903) to find solutions to scientific, technical and economic problems by international cooperation. The IDF currently has 41 member countries, representing 73% of world milk production.

²² WVA: World Veterinary Association

²³ IDF: International Dairy Federation

123. Over the years, the IDF has produced a number of publications on mastitis. Since 2001, the IDF and the OIE have cooperated in the organisation of scientific events. The next such event is the International Mastitis Conference, which will be held in Maastricht, Netherlands, in June 2005. OIE personnel have attended IDF's Standing Committee on Animal Health and the most recent IDF World Dairy Summit (2004). The IDF has responded to the OIE's invitations to comment on draft documents. IDF looks forward to strengthened cooperation with the OIE in the future. The IDF invites the OIE to send a representative to the next World Dairy Summit, in Vancouver, Canada, in September 2005.
124. The IDF was consulted on the development of two draft OIE texts (Guide to Good Farming Practices, BSE diagnosis). The IDF is seeking wider cooperation with the OIE, notably on antibiotic resistance, good farming practices, tuberculosis and export certification.

International Meat Secretariat

125. Mr Laurence Wrixon, Representative of the IMS²⁴, reported on that organisation's activities.
126. Since the adoption of the OIE-IMS Agreement at the 72nd OIE General Session, cooperation has been enhanced between the two organisations, particularly in the area of animal welfare. As the IMS and the OIE get to know each other's procedures better, an optimal level of cooperation will be reached whereby each organisation will benefit from each other's knowledge and experience.
127. The IMS is seeking regular communication with the OIE and wishes to announce that the 3rd World Pork Conference will be held in Washington DC, United States of America, in 2005, a European conference on meat relating to the effects of enlargement of the European Union will be held in October 2005, and the 16th World Meat Congress will take place in Brisbane (Australia) in April 2006. The IMS hopes that the OIE will participate in these events.

≡ TUESDAY 24 MAY 2005 ≡

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

128. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), commenced her presentation by stating that the past 12 months had been very productive. She sincerely thanked members of the Aquatic Animals Commission and other participants at its meetings, especially the Commission's Ad hoc Groups, without whose contributions significantly less work would have been accomplished.
129. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bernoth gave special recognition to the dedicated efforts of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and staff of the Central Bureau, notably Dr David Wilson, Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Dr Alejandro Schudel and Ms Sara Linnane. She also expressed great appreciation for the readily available assistance of the President of the

²⁴ IMS: International Meat Secretariat

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), Dr Alejandro Thiermann. However, she explicitly stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission is well aware of the work conducted by other staff within the Central Bureau, and she made a specific point of acknowledging their support too.

130. During the past 12 months, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice, from 11 to 15 October 2004 (Bureau meeting; Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 A) and from 13 to 19 January 2005 (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). During both meetings, the Commission met with members of the Terrestrial Code Commission to address the on-going process of harmonising the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. The Bureau of the Aquatic Animals Commission also met in May 2005 before the 73rd General Session to examine comments received from Member Countries on the report of the Commission's January 2005 meeting.
131. On behalf of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Dr Bernoth welcomed the increased number of Member Countries providing comments, noting that the time frame for commenting on the October 2004 report had been extremely short. She informed the International Committee that the next meeting (of the Bureau of the Commission) is planned for August 2005, to provide more time for comment prior to the January 2006 full meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission. Dr Bernoth also reminded the Committee that Dr Vallat had sent a letter to all the Delegates earlier this year, suggesting that they consider appointing a specific official as the OIE contact person for aquatic animal diseases with responsibility for sending, under the authority of the Delegate, comments on the Commission's proposals for new standards. She further reported Dr Vallat's agreement that in the future, the Commission's reports would be circulated to OIE Reference Laboratories for comment; again, responses would need to be sent to the OIE through the relevant Delegate.
132. Dr Bernoth presented a brief outline of her presentation. She stressed that she would focus on the draft disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and the suggested changes to the list of aquatic animal diseases. These items are also proposed for adoption for the eighth edition of the *Aquatic Code* (2005).
133. **Disease chapters for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, based on the new template**

Dr Bernoth reminded the International Committee of Resolution No. XIX (Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*), adopted at the 72nd General Session in 2004. The International Committee had agreed that the Aquatic Animals Commission should develop, in consultation with the Terrestrial Code Commission, a template on which to base individual disease chapters. These chapters should be submitted for progressive adoption and would serve as models for the development of all disease chapters of the *Aquatic Code*, based on the work of international experts, including experts from OIE Reference Laboratories.

Dr Bernoth re-emphasised that there had been several reasons behind this complete overhaul of disease chapters. Firstly, the chapters needed to take into account the new requirements for surveillance regarding declaration of freedom from disease. Secondly, there was the usefulness of introducing the concepts of compartments and commodities. Regarding commodities, Dr Bernoth explained that the purpose was, where possible, to identify those commodities for which Competent Authorities, when authorising import or transit, should not require any conditions pertaining to the disease under consideration,

regardless of the status for that disease of the exporting country, zone or compartment. The chapters also needed to provide guidance on disease-specific measures to manage the risk associated with the importation of other commodities. She also emphasised the need to harmonise the approaches presented in the *Aquatic Code* and *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Bernoth informed the International Committee that three such chapters had been prepared with the assistance of the Commission's Ad hoc Groups on disease chapters as well as other international experts. She pointed out that Member Country comments on earlier versions of these drafts had been taken into account when preparing the proposed versions. While she was pleased to report such considerable progress, she emphasised that the Aquatic Animals Commission agrees that scientific justification needs to be provided before listing a commodity as 'safe'. Therefore, the OIE will convene Ad hoc Groups to assist in providing such justification. In the meantime, so as not to delay the other required updates to the disease chapters, the Aquatic Animals Commission has not listed any 'safe' commodities in the proposed draft chapters; instead, the relevant section is marked as "under study".

In the past, some Member Countries had queried the choice of 25 years, 10 years and 2 years for obtaining disease-free status as arbitrary time periods and suggested that measures, such as generation lengths or other scientifically validated periods of time, be used instead. Dr Bernoth reported that whilst these arbitrary time periods are consistent with the *Terrestrial Code*, in the proposed three draft chapters, disease-specific periods of time were provided wherever possible.

The draft chapters now provide for four pathways to self-declaration of freedom from the disease under consideration: absence of susceptible species; historical freedom; targeted surveillance with negative results; and regaining freedom after an outbreak. Dr Bernoth emphasised that each of these avenues requires that basic biosecurity conditions are met.

Recommendations for importation have been made for live animals – and separately for products – from a country, zone or compartment declared free from the disease, or not declared free (that is, for four 'categories' of commodities). Live animals from areas not declared free were further split into those destined for aquaculture activities and those for human consumption, because the identified risk and recommended mitigation measures are different.

The three draft chapters had been appended to the January 2005 meeting report (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B) as Appendices VIII, IX and X. Some of the text was modified after considering Member Country comments on the January 2005 report.

134. Revision of disease listing and notification criteria in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

Dr Bernoth reminded the International Committee of Resolution No. XXIII on OIE Categorisation of Animal Diseases, adopted at the 69th General Session in 2001. By adopting this Resolution, the Committee had agreed that the OIE revise the then current categorisation system for animal diseases, including the classification of aquatic animal diseases, to create a single disease list, but with two new categories: animal diseases that require immediate notification (within 24 hours) due to their zoonotic and epidemiological significance; and animal diseases that require periodic notification (at least annually or more often if necessary). The inclusion of any animal disease in the category of immediate notification was to be based on its potential for dangerous and widespread dissemination (directly or through vectors).

The Aquatic Animals Commission had cooperated closely with the Terrestrial Code Commission in preparing revised listing criteria for aquatic animal diseases. These were adopted by the International Committee at the 71st General Session in 2003 and had been refined in 2004. Some minor, mostly editorial changes are proposed for adoption at this General Session (see Appendix IV to the January 2005 report, Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). The EU²⁵ had suggested adding “high costs of control measures” as an item that can contribute to production losses through increasing production costs (criterion 1). Dr Bernoth explained that because morbidity, mortality and effect on product quality are disease-specific features, these are listed under the explanatory note on assessing a disease for its consequences. In contrast, the cost of control measures will largely depend on the country applying the measures; for example, the cost of labour differs significantly among Member Countries. Therefore, such an item should not be one on which to base a decision on listing a disease.

The Aquatic Animals Commission also proposes to introduce criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease, to better accommodate diseases that may not yet fully meet the current criteria for listing. These proposed criteria are consistent with those provided in the *Terrestrial Code* (Appendix IV to the January 2005 report, Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). Some of the text was modified after considering Member Country comments on the January 2005 report.

Dr Bernoth noted that a major problem remains unsolved, namely how to list and how to report on multi-agent diseases. She explained that especially in invertebrates (molluscs and crustaceans), several agents can often be found associated with a transmissible disease – but also in healthy animals – while the role of each individual agent remains unclear. The lack of cell lines to grow viruses of invertebrates and the lack of robust experimental challenge models are only two of the impediments to prove Henle-Koch’s postulates and to develop simple case definitions. Some critical appraisal of the tacitly assumed appropriateness of the vertebrate-derived ‘one-disease-one-agent’ paradigm is urgently required, and implications for disease reporting will need to be carefully assessed.

135. **Revision of the list of diseases in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

At the 69th General Session in 2001, Resolution No. XXIII on OIE Categorisation of Animal Diseases was adopted paving the way for the establishment of a single list of OIE diseases. This single list (for aquatic animal diseases) was published in the sixth edition (2003) of the *Aquatic Code*, following adoption by the International Committee at the 71st General Session in 2003. The single list combined all diseases previously listed as ‘notifiable’ and as ‘other significant’. Since then, reviewing all the listed diseases against the new listing criteria has been a high priority for the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Dr Bernoth stressed that the disease assessment process had not been easy. She mentioned the paucity of peer-reviewed information, especially on newer diseases, as one of the impediments to providing a scientifically sound assessment. Even for some of the longer-known and more thoroughly researched diseases, specific information was often not available. Some problem areas are differentiating between strains of higher and lower virulence, and assessing economic impact from a global view-point.

Dr Bernoth expressed her gratitude to the members of the fish, mollusc and crustacean teams of the Ad hoc Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases. Together with additional experts, they had assisted the Aquatic Animals Commission with documenting the scientific support for suggested changes to the disease list. The revised list proposed for

²⁵ EU: European Union

adoption at this General Session takes into account comments received from Member Countries on previous versions. The revised list was appended to the January 2005 meeting report (Appendix V to Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). When considering Member Country comments on the January 2005 report, it became apparent that some Member Countries have concerns regarding some of the suggested changes; those will therefore be deferred to the next meeting of the Ad hoc Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases for consideration. Therefore, the list of diseases that is now proposed has been modified from the one appended to the January 2005 meeting report. If this revised list is adopted, it will be published in the eighth edition (2005) of the *Aquatic Code*.

Dr Bernoth re-emphasised that the primary purpose of listing a disease is for the OIE to collate and disseminate information on the occurrence and control of that disease world-wide. It is not the case that diseases proposed for de-listing are considered to be of no importance, but rather that diseases proposed for de-listing are considered not to meet the listing criteria agreed by Member Countries. Member Countries may still impose import restrictions addressing those diseases if this is justified on the basis of a science-based import risk analysis and on their own aquatic animal health situation.

Dr Bernoth also reminded the International Committee that, as of 1 January 2005, disease notifications and reports prepared by Member Countries for submission to the OIE Central Bureau concern the entire list of aquatic animal diseases. She stressed that this is not only for immediate notification of defined events such as disease occurrence, but also for the new on-line six-monthly reporting system through which the OIE will seek month-by-month information on all listed aquatic animal diseases. She repeated that, once a disease is listed, all Member Countries are obliged to meet their reporting obligations for that disease. She stated that the ultimate aim is to minimise the spread of listed diseases through trade, and that accurate and up-to-date information on the occurrence of those diseases is an essential prerequisite to achieving that goal.

136. New appendix on aquatic animal health surveillance for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

Dr Bernoth drew the International Committee's attention to the new proposed appendix on aquatic animal health surveillance (Appendix XII to the January 2005 meeting report; Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). Some of the comments received were of a highly technical nature and will be referred to the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology.

137. Definitions for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

Preparing the draft text for the new disease chapters required modification of several definitions, for example 'compartment' and 'infected zone', and drafting of new ones, for example 'buffer zone' and 'water catchment' (see Appendix III to the January 2005 report; Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B). Other definitions were revised to improve their clarity, for example 'diseases listed by the OIE' and 'infection'. A new definition of 'zone' was also prepared. One definition was further revised after considering Member Country comments on the January 2005 report.

138. Other text for adoption for the eighth edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

Dr Bernoth briefly mentioned additional changes, as appended to the Aquatic Animals Commission's report of the January 2005 meeting (Appendices VII and XI, Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 B), which take into account any changes previously suggested in the report of the October 2004 meeting (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS4 A). The changes that are proposed for the eighth edition of the *Aquatic Code* are:

Chapter 1.2.1. Notifications and epidemiological information: harmonisation of notification requirements with those for terrestrial animal diseases, in particular laying down the provisions for immediate reporting of events defined in Article 1.2.1.3., subsequent weekly and six-monthly follow-up reports, and final reports; and for regular six-monthly reports on all listed diseases, and the annual questionnaire. Some of the text was further revised after considering Member Country comments on the January 2005 report.

Appendix 5.2.1. General recommendations on disinfection: This appendix, first published with the 2004 edition of the *Aquatic Code*, was significantly revised as foreshadowed in 2004. The resulting much shorter version provides a succinct overview and refers to Chapter 1.1.5. in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) for information on specific disinfection procedures.

139. ***Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

Dr Bernoth updated the International Committee on the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*, due in 2006. The first batch of draft chapters for currently listed diseases will soon be circulated to Member Countries for comment. The Aquatic Animals Commission will take into account all comments at its January 2006 meeting in preparing the final drafts to be presented for adoption at the General Session in May 2006.

The Aquatic Animals Commission plans to review the contents of the current *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 1.1.4. entitled “Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection” with the assistance of a new Ad hoc Group on Surveillance Chapters for the *Aquatic Manual*, taking into account previous comments from Canada, and prepare a detailed chapter on surveillance for the *Aquatic Manual*. In addition, the Ad hoc Group is also to assist the Commission in reviewing the contents of the general information section of the *Aquatic Manual* (Chapters 1.1., 1.2. and 1.3.).

140. **OIE Reference Laboratories**

Annual reports were received from 22 of the 26 Reference Laboratories. The Commission acknowledged the valuable participation of these laboratories and the support they provide to Member Countries and the Commission. Dr Bernoth stated that the four Reference Laboratories that had not submitted an annual report would be contacted.

The Aquatic Animals Commission has received the nomination of Prof. Rudolf Hoffmann to replace Dr Birgit Oidtmann at the OIE Reference Laboratory for crayfish plague in Munich, Germany, and Dr James Winton to replace Dr Ron Pascho at the OIE Reference Laboratory for bacterial kidney disease in Seattle, United States of America. The Aquatic Animals Commission recommends the acceptance of these nominations.

The Aquatic Animals Commission has also received the resignation of Dr M. Kent from the Reference Laboratory for piscirickettsiosis (*Piscirickettsia salmonis*) in the United States of America, but will call for new nominations only if the International Committee at this General Session does not adopt the Commission’s proposal to remove piscirickettsiosis from the list of diseases.

The Aquatic Animals Commission is of the opinion that in view of the change to the mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories (adopted by the International Committee in 2004), the current template for the annual reports needs to be amended. The Aquatic Animals Commission will propose a new template to the Central Bureau.

141. **Continuing work on harmonisation of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code***

Dr Bernoth emphasised that the need to harmonise OIE approaches to aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases continues to be one of the main priorities of the Aquatic Animals Commission. She acknowledged the need to harmonise, conceding that there will always be biological differences that justify a modified approach. She reported that over the past year

considerable progress had been made in the areas of disease listing and notification criteria and notification and epidemiological information. For the next 12 months, harmonisation will continue to focus on Part 1 (General Provisions) of the *Aquatic Code*, in particular on zoning and compartmentalisation and aquatic animal health surveillance.

Whilst a refined definition of 'compartments' is proposed for adoption (see above), and an explanatory paper on 'compartmentalisation' has been circulated for the information of Member Countries, additional, better examples of compartments in coastal areas and compartments extending over non-contiguous geographical areas will be provided to Member Countries to illustrate these concepts, before a new chapter on zoning and compartmentalisation is presented.

142. Aquatic Animals Commission web pages and database

Dr Bernoth stressed that the Aquatic Animals Commission's web pages are continually being updated to provide the latest information on the occurrence of OIE-listed diseases of aquatic animals. She mentioned that the pages also link to the International Database on Aquatic Animal Diseases, developed and maintained by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Information on Aquatic Animal Diseases at the CEFAS²⁶ Weymouth Laboratory, United Kingdom. She pointed out that some of the disease names will be updated to be consistent with the ones in the 2005 edition of the *Aquatic Code*, and references to the obsolete terms 'notifiable diseases' and 'other significant diseases' will be deleted. It is not intended, however, to delete the data already accumulated for diseases that will be de-listed.

143. Amphibian diseases

Dr Bernoth reiterated the Aquatic Animals Commission's concern about declining amphibian populations world-wide and noted that such declines, where they are noticed, are mostly investigated by ecologists, not aquatic health experts. She stressed that consequently there needs to be an awareness-raising exercise among Competent Authorities to engage with biologists and ecologists in order to have putative disease events reported. The OIE will convene a new Ad hoc Group on Diseases of Amphibians to assist the Commission with this work.

Dr Bernoth expressed grave concern with the lack of response from Member Countries to the Aquatic Animals Commission's repeated requests for information on trade in amphibians (nationally and internationally) and on the occurrence of diseases of amphibians within their territories. The new Ad hoc Group will provide a revised questionnaire for Member Countries. The Aquatic Animals Commission will defer a decision on whether or not to include amphibians within its remit until the Ad hoc Group has provided a report with recommendations.

144. Implementation of recommendations adopted by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2003, and endorsed by the International Committee in 2004

Dr Bernoth updated the International Committee on progress with implementing Recommendation No. 2 adopted by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee in 2004. Some of the specific suggestions in that Recommendation are :

²⁶ CEFAS: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (United Kingdom)

that the OIE:

- Reinforce to Delegates their responsibility to the OIE for terrestrial as well as aquatic animals.
- Direct efforts at increasing general awareness among national Delegates world-wide about, for example, the provisions of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.
- Request the Aquatic Animal Commission to provide regular updates of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* at Regional Commission Conferences or other suitable venues.
- Direct efforts at obtaining more comments on draft texts for the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* from a larger number of national Delegates.

Dr Bernoth acknowledged the sustained support of Dr Vallat and the team of the Regional Activities Department in ensuring that aquatic animal health is addressed at Conferences of the Regional Commissions; since the last General Session, Aquatic Animals Commission members have given presentations to the Conferences of the Regional Commissions for the Americas, Europe, and Africa, respectively, and a presentation to the Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle-East is planned for September 2005. Once this last presentation has been made, all five Regional Commissions will have been informed of the importance of aquatic animal health in the veterinary field and the need for the greater involvement of the Veterinary Services in aquatic animal health.

145. Following Dr Bernoth's presentation, the President opened the discussion on the report of the Commission.
146. A Member of the Canadian Delegation congratulated Dr Bernoth on her excellent presentation and the Commission on the major tasks that it had accomplished since the previous General Session. She appreciated the efforts to focus on viral strain differentiation and stated that if an Ad hoc Group was convened on this subject, Canada would be willing to offer relevant experts. Canada also supported the concept of safe commodities and again offered to make available Canadian experts to the Commission as members of the Ad hoc Group in question.
147. The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the twenty-five Member States of the EU, congratulated Dr Bernoth on the report and thanked the Commission for addressing the EU's comments, especially those on the proposed list of diseases. The Delegate appreciated the idea of convening an Ad hoc Group to assess diseases against the listing criteria. To increase transparency and efficiency, he asked for a detailed explanation in a future Commission report of how the criteria for the listing of diseases are fulfilled with regard to a specific disease.
148. A Member of the Norwegian Delegation expressed her gratitude to the Commission for the high quality of its work. She appreciated the Commission's work on harmonisation with the *Terrestrial Code* and the FAO. She also supported the introduction of the principle of compartmentalisation. She went on to endorse the criteria for listing diseases and thus the list of diseases proposed by the Commission for adoption. Norway stated that it would like to keep bacterial kidney disease (BKD), infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), viral encephalopathy and retinopathy, and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini* on the OIE list of diseases.
149. The Delegate of Chile congratulated Dr Bernoth for the excellent work of the Commission and for taking into account comments submitted by Chilean experts. He supported the comments from Norway regarding keeping BKD and IPN on the OIE list.

150. Dr Bernoth thanked Canada for its kind offer of assistance. She briefed the International Committee on how the Ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases would operate. Where countries have prepared assessments of diseases against the Listing Criteria (such as the excellent documents already provided by the European Union and the United States of America), the Ad hoc Group will ask the Delegates of those countries concerned whether those assessments can be made public for the benefit of all countries, for example by appending them to the report of the Ad hoc Group. She also welcomed additional assessments from Member Countries. Finally, Dr Bernoth pointed out that IPN and BKD will remain 'under study' for the time being.
151. The Committee noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII
Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

152. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XVIII on Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

153. Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the Commission's activities, including the outcomes of routine Commission meetings held in May–June 2004 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 A) and January 2005 (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B). He also indicated the salient recommendations and observations made by the various Ad hoc Groups functioning under the auspices of the Commission, namely the Ad hoc Groups for the Evaluation of Country Status for Foot and Mouth Disease (Docs 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 5&6) and Rinderpest (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 9) in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*; the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 2); the Ad hoc Group on Carcass Disposal (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 1); the Ad hoc Group on Tuberculosis (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 7); the Ad hoc Group on Avian Influenza Surveillance (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 8); the Ad hoc Group on Classical Swine Fever (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 3&4); the Ad hoc Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks; the Ad hoc Group on Bluetongue Surveillance; and the Ad hoc Group on Emerging Zoonoses. Prof. Caporale, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his appreciation of the support provided by Dr Vallat and the staff at the OIE headquarters, in particular the staff of the Scientific and Technical Department. Prof. Caporale addressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the members of the Ad hoc Groups reporting to the Scientific Commission.

154. Review of the annual work programme

At its May–June meeting (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 A) the Bureau of the Commission reviewed the plan of activities for the coming year in accordance with the Commission's Plan of Action and the directives given by the International Committee during the 72nd General Session.

155. General guidelines for surveillance

The Bureau of the Scientific Commission reviewed the proposed new *Terrestrial Code* appendix on 'Animal health surveillance: general principles and practices' that had been circulated to Member Countries in the reports of the December 2003 meetings of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission) and the Scientific Commission. The Scientific Commission had previously considered the country comments, as well as the views of other experts, and produced an updated version to replace Chapter 1.3.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Terrestrial Code Commission circulated this to Member Countries for comment with a view to presenting it for adoption during the 73rd General Session.

156. Foot and mouth disease

a) Revision of FMD surveillance guidelines

The OIE Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology met in June 2004. The report was appended to the Commission's January 2005 report and circulated to Member Countries.

The Group reviewed Appendix 3.8.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the establishment or the regaining of recognition for a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free country or zone. It suggested a number of modifications to ensure that the appendix reflected the changes being adopted in the chapter on FMD of the *Terrestrial Code*. Amongst the latter, the need for test validation at the global level and test quality assurance under local circumstances were underlined, as well as compliance with Chapter 1.3.6. on General Guidelines for Surveillance. Surveillance tools other than surveys, statistical significance and other epidemiological principles were therefore reviewed.

The text was rearranged to group more closely together those sections that addressed serological diagnosis. The relative value of periodic serological surveys was placed in perspective with regular clinical surveillance. Regular clinical surveillance appeared to lack sufficient emphasis in the text as written; as a result, the efficacy of widespread clinical surveillance in the detection of FMD incursions could be lost upon the reader. A review of international experience suggested that clinical – as opposed to serological – surveillance inevitably revealed FMD incursions in naïve populations. Furthermore, low prevalences represent a severe challenge to surveillance systems based solely on serological surveys, given the relatively low sensitivity of such systems in these circumstances.

The Group emphasised the importance of including follow-up procedures in the plans for serological surveys, so as to take into account predictable false-positive reactions produced by the diagnostic tests currently used, which have a specificity of less than 100%.

The importance of defining test parameters was indicated as a prerequisite for all surveys, and the Group advocated the application of screening tests of high sensitivity followed, in series, by confirmatory tests of equal or greater sensitivity and enhanced specificity. Survey goals were rendered less prescriptive, in order to leave greater flexibility of approach to the planners responsible for the surveys. Responsibility for the epidemiological and statistical validation of the approaches employed was therefore assigned to them.

The Group reviewed a proposal on the use and interpretation of serological tests that broadens the basis on which positive serological test results are interpreted so as to take into account the main epidemiological characteristics of the situation. Titre progression in terms of magnitude, prevalence and distribution should be analysed not only in relation to the implicated animals but also in relation to the tested cohort and broader regional population to which they belong. The proposal advocates the

application of sentinel animals, virological examinations and the assessment of contiguous susceptible species. In accordance with the general theme of the new appendix, this approach is less prescriptive. Instead, it offers greater latitude of investigative approach, while requiring the veterinary authorities to validate their methods, findings and interpretations, in accordance with acknowledged scientific principles. The proposed text was reviewed and endorsed by the Ad hoc Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD and the Ad hoc Group for the Evaluation of Non-Structural Protein Tests for FMD Diagnosis.

b) Evaluation of country status for FMD

During the past year, applications for the recovery of FMD free country/zone status, with or without vaccination, were considered by the Ad hoc Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD.

Based on the recommendations of this Ad hoc Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

- that a zone of Argentina situated north of the 42° parallel regain its previous status of an FMD free zone with vaccination, with immediate effect;
- that Paraguay regain its previous status of FMD free country with vaccination, with immediate effect;
- that a zone of Peru, as described by the Delegate of that country in a dossier submitted to the OIE, be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD without vaccination;
- that the State of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities in Brazil be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD with vaccination;
- that the Central and Southern zones of Colombia, as described by the Delegate of that country in a dossier submitted to the OIE, be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD with vaccination.

The Commission also endorsed the Ad hoc Group recommendations on the need for the vaccines that are used in countries recognised as free with vaccination to be in full compliance with the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*). These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XX.

The Commission reviewed the reports on FMD from the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, United Kingdom, and the OIE Reference Laboratory of PANAFTOSA, Brazil, and complimented those laboratories on their excellent work.

157. Rinderpest

The Commission reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS3 B/AHG 9).

Based on the recommendations of this Ad hoc Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

- that Lebanon, Nigeria, Tanzania, a zone of Ethiopia as described by the Delegate of that country and a zone of Sudan as described by the Delegate of that country be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest disease;

- that Benin, Bhutan, Eritrea, Mongolia, Senegal, Togo and Turkey be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest infection.

These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXII.

The Commission recommended that an Ad hoc Group of experts be established to address issues relating to the use of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) vaccines for the control of rinderpest in cattle and to review the OIE Pathway for rinderpest accreditation.

158. **Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)**

The Commission reviewed the dossier submitted by the Delegate of Switzerland for that country to be recognised by the OIE as free from CBPP in accordance with Resolution No. XXIII adopted during the 72nd General Session and the relevant chapter and appendix of the *Terrestrial Code*, Portugal and Botswana having previously been recognised.

The Commission concluded that Switzerland fulfils the criteria of Article 2.3.15.2. to be recognised as free from CBPP and decided to recommend to the International Committee that Switzerland be added to the list of countries free from CBPP.

This recommendation is submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXIII.

The Commission was informed that several countries have expressed an interest in being evaluated for freedom from CBPP based on Resolution No. XXIII adopted during the 72nd General Session and are in the process of compiling appropriate dossiers to be submitted to the OIE.

159. **Avian influenza surveillance guidelines**

The Ad hoc Group on Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance met in Teramo, Italy, in November 2004 to develop guidelines to assist OIE Member Countries both in the surveillance of the disease and in the interpretation of the amended chapter on AI being proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission for inclusion in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. The following aspects of the new AI chapter were considered relevant in the development of AI guidelines:

- No trade in live birds or raw products is allowed from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) infected countries, zones or compartments. Trade in products from birds affected with HPNAI is allowed only if these are treated appropriately to both destroy the virus and avoid re-contamination.
- Live birds, day-old chicks and hatching eggs can be traded from notifiable avian influenza (NAI) free countries, zones or compartments. In the case of HPNAI free countries, zones or compartments, trade can occur from NAI free establishments for day-old chicks and hatching eggs.
- Meat and products for human consumption have to originate from NAI free countries, zones or compartments.
- HPNAI free countries, zones or compartments can trade meat from NAI free establishments or if freedom from virus is demonstrated with appropriate virus detection methods 7–10 days prior to slaughter should the animals have been kept in an establishment since they were hatched or for the previous 21 days and in which

there has been no evidence of NAI in the previous 21 days. This is due to potential contamination of the meat during processing by virus from the respiratory or gastrointestinal tract during the acute infectious phase.

- Trade in table eggs may take place from HPNAI free countries, zones or compartments if the eggs come from an NAI free establishment and are transported in new, disposable packing material.
- For the particular problem posed by the presence of AI virus in wild birds, in principle no country can declare itself free from AI in wild birds and it would thus not be possible to declare countries or zones free from NAI, although this possibility exists for compartments. It is noted that the proposed definition of NAI in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter refers only to the infection in 'poultry', which is defined as 'all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, for the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game, or for breeding these categories of birds'. This definition therefore excludes wild birds and allows for the recognition of countries and zones as free from NAI.
- The Group agreed that demonstration of the absence of infection in absolute terms is scientifically impossible, but the demonstration of the absence of virus circulation is feasible.
- Finally, the risk posed by wild bird populations to domestic poultry is similar throughout the world with the possible exception of countries with wild migratory birds, where the risk may be seasonally higher. This has also been taken into account in the draft proposed guidelines that were discussed and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and passed to the Terrestrial Code Commission in January 2005.

160. Classical swine fever surveillance

The Ad hoc Group on Classical Swine Fever (CSF) met in September and December 2004 to elaborate new proposed Guidelines for CSF Surveillance, in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* chapter, and to review the requirements for a risk assessment to assess country status, the commodities that can be safely traded, the inclusion of the concept of compartmentalisation in the surveillance guidelines and to review the possible use of novel vaccines against CSF.

The Group reviewed the recent literature on CSF and noted that CSF is readily killed in heated or cooked meat and meat products at core temperatures of 65°C for 30 minutes or 71°C for 1 minute. The Group suggested that the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF follow the lead of the chapter on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) by incorporating an article that acknowledges these facts and the resultant safety of trade in commodities so treated, irrespective of the CSF status of their country of origin.

Compartmentalisation is advocated in other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* as an additional tool or measure to reduce the risk of transmission of infection through trade. The Group proposed the parallel introduction of the concept in the chapter on CSF, to be consistent with other chapters in the incorporation of this potentially applicable measure.

The Group noted that the OIE endorses the application, if necessary, of risk assessment as an inherent component of the overall process whereby a country determines scientifically justified measures to be applied to ensure the biosecurity of its imports of animal origin, whatever the pathogens in question. The relative significance of risk assessments in the decision process is determined by the accumulated knowledge of and experience with the

disease(s) in question. The chapter on BSE emphasises the paramount importance of risk assessment with respect to trade in BSE-susceptible commodities, as a reflection of the disease's recent appearance, protracted latency and its unique and diagnostically challenging nature. On the other hand, the chapter on FMD makes no reference to the measure because of the depth of knowledge of, and experience with, this disease, its diagnosis and widespread surveillance wherever domestic pigs are raised.

The Group concluded that CSF is more similar to FMD than to BSE in terms of the accumulated knowledge of its natural history, pathogenesis, diagnosis and epidemiology. This being the case and in deference to proven prescriptive measures, the Group suggests that the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF be aligned with the chapter on FMD, rather than that on BSE, by deleting the reference to risk assessment.

The Group recommended that the provision of guidelines for the monitoring of the wild pig population could be best addressed in a generic fashion, across all wildlife populations and diseases, by expanding the current provisions of Chapter 1.3.6. on General Surveillance.

The Group felt that the introduction of the concept of compartmentalisation would be consistent with the general principles laid down in Chapter 1.3.5. on Zoning, regionalisation and compartmentalisation. Its introduction would, therefore, improve the chapter on CSF and be congruent with the chapter on FMD. However, as the concept of compartment is not currently considered in the chapter on CSF, the Group felt that, for the time being, it would not be prudent to define surveillance guidelines that take it into account.

The Group considered that the recognition of free status, where a vaccination strategy had been adopted, would be subject to a number of factors. The most important would be the quality of the vaccines applied and the performance of diagnostic tests employed in such vaccinated populations.

While the quality and performance of recently derived vaccines and diagnostic tests have been validated in accordance with OIE standards, not all vaccines and diagnostic tests described in the *Terrestrial Manual* have been subjected to the same scrutiny. The Group recommended that a full assessment of the performance of CSF diagnostic tests and vaccines be carried out by the corresponding OIE Specialist Commission in the light of the published scientific literature.

Finally, the new proposed guidelines for CSF were reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and passed to the Terrestrial Code Commission in January 2005.

161. ***Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis**

The OIE Ad hoc Group on Tuberculosis met in November 2004 to review and update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis. The Group discussed new scientific concepts and comments received from Member Countries on the draft chapter that was circulated in 2004. The amendments proposed are based on the following assumptions:

- The term 'cattle' would include *Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus*, *Bos grunniens* and *Bubalus bubalis*.
- No raw commodity should be imported without restriction, irrespective of the tuberculosis status. Expert opinion will be needed to assess the effect of the presence of *Mycobacterium bovis* with regard to certain animal products (e.g. collagen, gelatin, skins).

- Historically, compartmentalisation is a concept used in the control and eradication of *M. bovis* infection. Reference to free compartments was therefore included.
- Given the definition of 'cattle', it was felt that there is no need to make any recommendations about surveillance in wildlife to define country, zone or compartment bovine tuberculosis status.
- There is no justification to include vaccination in the chapter at this stage, although vaccination may be introduced in some countries in the future.
- Animals and their products coming from free herds located in a free country, zone or compartment should not be subjected to additional sanitary measures. Regarding the definition of free country, zone or compartment in Article 2.3.3.2., the figures mentioned in section 2 on the percentage of herds or animals to be free from tuberculosis were not changed but the time for which the herd must be free from tuberculosis was reduced from 6 years to 3 years as there is no scientific reason to support the 6-year timescale.
- At this stage, the OIE should not embark on the development of guidelines on bovine tuberculosis surveillance unless specifically asked to by the OIE International Committee, as the current chapter includes all the relevant elements for surveillance of bovine tuberculosis infection in countries, zones or compartments.
- If an animal is kept isolated, it could be introduced into a tuberculosis free herd provided it has been tested according to the same recommended scheme.
- The word 'annual' was removed from paragraphs describing surveillance programmes based on tuberculin testing, as tuberculin test frequency, after declaration of freedom, should be determined according to the surveillance system defined by the national Veterinary Authorities. Free herds in a country or zone not free from bovine tuberculosis should, on the contrary, be subjected to annual tuberculin testing, given the risk of becoming infected in a non-free environment.
- Meat is considered a product safe for human consumption irrespective of country, zone or compartment status, provided that ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections are carried out. The Group insisted that although such inspections are carried under the supervision of the Veterinary Services, the final decision as to whether the meat is fit for human consumption should be made by veterinarians that have been authorised by the Veterinary Services. Cattle for slaughter should come from farms that are not participating in a tuberculosis eradication programme. Testing of cattle from non-free herds is required in order to reduce the potential presence of tuberculosis lesions at the abattoir, especially in countries, zones or compartments where the prevalence of the disease is high.
- In Appendix 3.2.1. on the collection and processing of bovine semen, reference to disease testing should be omitted and the reader referred to the specific disease chapter. The Group also noted that the appendix does not take into account semen in relation to tuberculosis. A further observation was that the basic principle that animals must be clinically healthy is not stated in all the appendices of Section 3.2.

Finally, the Group wished to make known its concerns about the transfer of tuberculosis from animal species, including wild animals, to humans and suggested that all *Mycobacterium* species having a zoonotic potential be considered by the OIE.

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the changes proposed by the Ad hoc Group and passed the new amended chapter to the Code Commission in January 2005.

162. **Carcass disposal guidelines**

The Ad hoc Group on Carcass Disposal met in May 2004 to prepare an appendix on carcass disposal for the *Terrestrial Code* in support of disease control measures. The proposed appendix contains the scope and application of the guidelines, reference to alternative methods of prevention such as vaccination, the use of the guidelines to address routine carcass disposal other than mass destruction and disposal of animals, animal welfare and environmental concerns, definitions, regulations and jurisdiction, pre-outbreak activities, risk factors, social factors related to carcass disposal, practical considerations, technology and a decision-making tree. The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the new proposed guidelines and passed them to the Terrestrial Code Commission in January 2005.

Following the recommendations of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, in November 2003, the Group discussed with legal advisors to the OIE the issue of carcass disposal at sea. The Group offers the opinion and interpretation presented hereafter. Two international conventions have taken place on marine pollution by the dumping of waste, namely the London Convention (1972) and the Montego Bay Convention (1982). Of these, the Montego Bay Convention is particularly important because it is a convention of the United Nations and is considered to be a constitution for the oceans. There are no international maritime laws that specifically address the question of animal carcass disposal at sea as a consequence of a stamping-out procedure during epizootic disease eradication. Rather, the Conventions refer to pollution as a result of dumping at sea, and the problem to be addressed is to know if carcasses are considered to be pollutants. Pollution of the marine environment is defined as the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment, including estuaries, which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health, hindrance to marine activities, including fishing and other legitimate uses of the sea, impairment of quality for use of sea water, and reduction of amenities. If dumping is intended to occur within territorial waters, exclusive economic zones or continental shelf, it is a question of national law where the State could authorise this action under certain conditions. If this is to occur in international waters where the action could be considered as a source of pollution, it must be authorised by the coastal States concerned on the assumption that the material is not harmful or dangerous. This will depend on the quantity of material and on the global danger. The Conventions oblige States to establish a system of authorisation to permit the activity or not if it is considered to be dangerous as far as pollution is concerned. In effect, it is a mechanism of declaration and authorisation.

Disposal in a coastal sea or on a continental plateau, therefore, cannot occur without the authorisation of the coastal State concerned, which must regulate dumping and must consult neighbouring States. The Conventions express a fundamental principle that countries should abide by even if they are not signatories to the conventions. The International Conventions thus do not directly prohibit disposal of carcasses at sea, but do define the conditions to be met for disposal.

To summarise, disposal in territorial waters is possible if it is technically and scientifically proven that the products to be disposed of are not harmful, and if the State has authorised this disposal with an official permit. Disposal in international waters depends on the authorisation of the coastal States concerned.

The Scientific Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations made in the Ad hoc Group report.

163. Antigen and vaccine banks

The Commission reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for FMD, which met in June 2004. It complimented the Group for proposing guidelines for the setting up of antigen and vaccine banks, but noted that the Group had insufficient time to adequately address issues relating to the characterisation of FMD virus strains. It recommended, therefore, that the Group continue the work already initiated and complete it at its next meeting in April 2005. The Commission recommended that, in the meantime, the report could be submitted to the OIE Biological Standards Commission for comment.

164. Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

The President of the Scientific Commission attended the meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases held at the OIE headquarters in February 2005. This Working Group functions under the auspices of the Scientific Commission.

165. Other matters

a) Evaluation of country status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy

The Commission was informed that the OIE had received a small number of country dossiers for evaluation of country status with respect to BSE. It recommended that these dossiers be evaluated during the next Ad hoc Group meeting for BSE recognition. The Commission assumed that, should new categories of BSE status be approved, appropriate adjustments concerning the countries already approved as 'provisionally free' would be taken on board by Resolution. It also recommended that the dossiers previously submitted by two Member Countries be reviewed again by the Group for compliance with the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with the Resolution to be voted on. The recommendation is submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXI.

b) Frenkel method for FMD vaccine production

The Commission was informed of a letter from a Member Country requesting information on the suitability of the Frenkel method for FMD vaccine production. The Commission noted that the Frenkel method for producing FMD vaccines was not in compliance with the standards laid down in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*.

c) Vaccination and safety of meat and dairy products

The Commission discussed a letter requesting the OIE position on the marketing of cattle and pig meat from animals that have been vaccinated against FMD. The Commission recalled the view of OIE experts that there is no scientific evidence that meat derived from cattle vaccinated against FMD poses a risk to consumers.

d) OIE definitions

The Commission considered a request from the OIE International Trade Department to review some general definitions contained in the *Terrestrial Code*. It recommended that, with the exception of some newly adopted definitions, all existing definitions should be addressed by the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology and should be based, as far as possible, on standard texts or epidemiological dictionaries. It was understood, however, that definitions relating to specific diseases will continue to appear in the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

166. After the presentation of the report, the President opened discussions on the various issues raised.
167. The Delegate of Argentina congratulated Prof. Caporale for his excellent and comprehensive presentation.
168. The Delegate of Russia expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the Scientific Commission on important animal diseases occurring world-wide. As regards the work being carried out on BSE, he suggested that the views of scientists from importing countries also be taken into consideration. Prof. Caporale replied that the Scientific Commission was basically concerned with the evaluation of country dossiers with respect to diseases and pointed out that the issue raised by the Delegate would be addressed during the presentation of the report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.
169. The Delegate of Belarus congratulated the members of the Scientific Commission on the excellent work carried out during the past year. He acknowledged specifically the work being carried out on avian influenza, which has affected other species including humans. He enquired about the possibility of LPAI subsequently becoming HPAI. He took the opportunity to enquire about the fate of a dossier submitted by his country to be recognised by the OIE as free from FMD. Prof. Caporale replied that avian influenza virus being capable of mutation, it was quite possible for LPAI, especially in endemic regions, to mutate to HPAI. Regarding the application of Belarus to be regarded as free from FMD, the Director General advised the Delegate to contact the Scientific and Technical Department to find out why the dossier had not been considered and to seek advice on how to proceed.
170. The Delegate of Senegal thanked the OIE for granting his country the status of 'freedom from rinderpest infection'. He emphasised that compiling the dossier had entailed hard work on the part of specialists comprising research workers, epidemiologists and laboratory diagnosticians. He added that his country would continue with the epidemiological surveillance programme in order to maintain its rinderpest free status and would also extend the programme to other important animal diseases.
171. The Delegate of Guinea sought clarification on why the dossier submitted by his country to be declared free from rinderpest by the OIE had not been considered. Dr Alejandro Schudel, Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, replied that the dossier was received at the OIE after the meeting of the Ad hoc Group of experts responsible for country status evaluation. He assured the Delegate that the dossier would be submitted for consideration at the next Ad hoc Group meeting, scheduled for September 2005.
172. The Committee noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX
Recognition of Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

173. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XX for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XX at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI
Recognition of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

174. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXI for adoption.

175. The Delegate of Singapore noted that the Resolution mentions the possibility that a new chapter on BSE could be adopted by the International Committee in the near future. He sought clarification on what would happen to countries that had already been evaluated by the OIE and granted a status in accordance with the existing chapter on BSE, and enquired whether these countries would be re-evaluated and, if so, whether they would be required to submit another dossier based on the provisions of the new chapter.

The Director General explained that countries already having a status granted by the OIE would keep that status. However, one year after the new chapter and its complementary guidelines have been approved, these countries would need to submit additional information to update their dossiers, which would then be re-examined in accordance with the new chapter. They would then be granted the appropriate status as mentioned in the new chapter. These countries would not be required to pay any additional fee for the evaluations. A similar procedure would apply for pending applications. These countries would be assessed in September 2005 in accordance with the 13th edition (2004 version) of the *Terrestrial Code* and be subject to re-evaluation one year after the new chapter and the surveillance guidelines have been adopted. He stressed that the period of one year was planned in order to give Member Countries adequate time to adjust to the provisions of the new chapter.

176. After these clarifications, the resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXI at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXII
Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection
and Rinderpest Disease**

177. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXII for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIII
Recognition of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries**

178. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIII for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIII at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

179. **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Prof. Slorach, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, presented the activities of the Working Group.

He recalled that, following a request by the OIE International Committee to strengthen activities in the food safety area and desiring to further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety had been established. The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to provide advice to the Director General of the OIE and relevant Specialist Commissions in these areas.

The Working Group held its first meeting in November 2002 and had held three meetings since then, the latest at the OIE headquarters in Paris from 21 to 23 March 2005. The first three meetings had been chaired by Dr Andrew McKenzie, who had done an excellent job in getting the Working Group off to a flying start and putting its work on a firm foundation. He had now stepped down as chair and the Working Group's fourth meeting had been chaired by Prof. Slorach

180. ***Modus operandi* of the Working Group**

The Chairman reported that, at its meeting in March 2005, the Working Group had reviewed and revised its *modus operandi* based on the Terms of Reference established at the 70th OIE General Session. The Group had clarified its role as:

- a) To provide advice to the Director General of the OIE on policy and strategic issues related to the OIE's work on animal production food safety, which has the goal of reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products. The priorities were identified as:
 - Identifying and addressing gaps, contradictions, areas where harmonisation is necessary and duplications in the work of the OIE and other international/intergovernmental organisations (in particular the CAC) involved in food safety standards;
 - Strengthening the relationship with other relevant standard-setting organisations (in particular the CAC), through enhanced informal exchange;
 - Improving coordination between competent authorities with animal health and food safety responsibilities at the national and regional levels;
 - Recommending a work programme to address the mandate of the OIE on animal production food safety.
- b) To act in a steering group capacity, as required by the Director General of the OIE, regarding the work of OIE expert groups:
 - Advising the Director General on membership, scope and terms of reference for expert groups;
 - Reviewing texts arising from relevant expert groups for consideration by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

Intended outputs addressed to the Director General of the OIE and the relevant Specialist Commissions include discussion papers, policy documents and reports.

181. **Update on some OIE/Codex activities**

The Chairman noted that, as stated by the CAC representative the day before, the CAC had, at its 27th Session in 2004, reiterated its interest in increased cooperation with the OIE and suggested that the FAO and the WHO initiate discussions with the OIE in accordance with an earlier recommendation of the Executive Committee of the CAC. At present there was still no specific agreement between the OIE and the CAC, but cooperation was continuing based on the OIE's observer status in Codex and on the fact that Codex appreciated the OIE's active participation in and contribution to the work of its subsidiary bodies. The CAC has also recommended that collaboration between the OIE and Codex be strengthened at the national and regional levels. He indicated that the current thinking in Codex was that cooperation with the OIE should be maintained throughout the process of developing standards, including the initial phase of the drafting of texts, as well as through enhanced mutual information exchange. The CAC representative had presented an update on the activities of the various Codex committees.

182. **Antimicrobial resistance**

The Chairman reported that two OIE/FAO/WHO expert meetings, held in Geneva and Oslo, had recommended the creation of a Joint Codex/OIE Task Force on antimicrobial resistance. The Director General of the OIE had indicated that the OIE would, in principle,

accept the proposal to establish such a Joint Ad hoc Task Force and to share the costs of operating such a shared activity. However, the CAC had not yet decided on its approach to the issue, which will be discussed at its forthcoming meeting in July 2005. The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods finalised its discussions on a draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance in October 2004 and forwarded it to the CAC for adoption.

The Working Group noted the importance of the issue of antimicrobial resistance to trade in animal products because of the potential risks to public health, and encouraged Member Countries and relevant organisations to provide comments to the OIE on the proposed revisions to the Code Appendices on 'Guidelines for the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine' and 'Risk Assessment for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobials in Animals'. The Working Group encouraged the FAO and the WHO to take into account the work of the OIE when developing guidelines on risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance. The Working Group concurred with the proposed OIE definition for antimicrobials and noted the benefits of a harmonised definition. The Working Group noted the work on critically important antimicrobials under way in the OIE and the WHO, and recommended that the organisations work together to ensure a coordinated list.

183. **Good farming practices**

The Chairman reported that the Working Group had reviewed a revised document on good farming practices. The Working Group had requested the OIE Central Bureau to redraft the document in line with the comments received and to take into account the draft FAO paper on Good Agricultural Practices, the Codex Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, the Codex draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat and the IDF Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practices.

184. **Role and functionality of Veterinary Services**

The Chairman indicated that this document was intended to provide advice to countries where the Veterinary Services have both public and animal health objectives and to assist in providing effective links between animal health and public health work. The Working Group had requested that the OIE Central Bureau redraft the document in the light of the comments received and circulate it among Working Group members before the next meeting; the ultimate aim is to propose it for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*.

185. **Certification**

The Chairman reported that the OIE was interested in working with Codex on combined certificates when this was possible and that the Director General of the OIE had asked the Working Group to recommend a suitable way of advancing this work. The Working Group had identified some key points, namely that the OIE and Codex should agree on a list of minimum requirements for a certificate, that the certificate should be applicable regardless of which Competent Authority was responsible for the certification (e.g. Veterinary Services or public health services), and that an electronic certification system should be further developed. The Working Group had recommended that the OIE provide input into the ongoing work of CCFICS²⁷, including participation in the working group established by CCFICS on the revision of the Codex Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates, outlining its proposal for a combined certificate.

²⁷ CCFICS: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

186. Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection

The Chairman reported that a revised version of the paper had been discussed and agreed upon as a Working Group document. The OIE Central Bureau will finalise the document, with a view to placing it on the OIE Web site as an information document. The original document will be reviewed, refined and shortened, links to the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat will be included and this version will be circulated to the Working Group members; the ultimate aim is to propose this shortened version for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*.

187. Bovine tuberculosis

The Chairman reported that the Working Group had reviewed the work of the OIE Ad hoc Group in revising the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis, and welcomed the new emphasis placed on the food safety aspects of the disease. The Working Group had recommended that Articles 2.3.3.8. and 2.3.3.9. refer to the relevant Codex Codes of Practice covering meat and meat products, and that there be a differentiation between measures recommended for infected and free countries/zones/herds (as has been done in the article dealing with milk and milk products).

The Working Group recommended that the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis be revised using a risk-based approach to the food safety aspects of the diseases and taking into account the above comments.

188. Revision of the OIE list of diseases

The Chairman reported that the Working Group had discussed the principles underpinning the new OIE single list of terrestrial diseases and the criteria used for determining whether a disease would be listed. The Working Group encouraged the OIE in its work and recommended that the OIE continue to screen significant human pathogens associated with food-borne illness, e.g. *Salmonella* species, against the listed criteria to assess the need for their inclusion in the list.

The Working Group believed that, when reviewing the criteria for the inclusion of zoonoses on the list of diseases for compulsory notification by Member Countries, the OIE should take account of all risk management options, including alternatives to listing – for instance, in the case of some human pathogens associated with food-borne illness. If other risk management options proved to be more effective and less trade restrictive than compulsory reporting, they should be chosen. These risk management options could include measures at the production or processing stages of the food chain, and may lead to additional chapters in appropriate OIE and/or Codex codes.

189. Animal identification and traceability

The Chairman reported that the Working Group had been informed of the initial work under way at the OIE Central Bureau on animal identification and traceability. It also noted that Codex had agreed on a definition of traceability/product tracing for its purposes, and that a CCFICS working group was currently developing guidelines on traceability for Member Countries. The Working Group noted the relevance of traceability to both animal health and food safety – among the reasons for progressing work on animal identification and traceability were the benefits in having the ability to trace forward and backwards within the food continuum.

The Working Group recommended that the OIE coordinate its work with that of Codex on traceability, including at the working level through an OIE Ad hoc Group and the CCFICS. The Working Group requested that the OIE include information on its work in its report to the CAC.

The Working Group reviewed the draft Terms of Reference of the Ad hoc Group and suggested some improvements.

190. **Future Work Programme**

The Chairman reported that the Working Group had agreed the following additional work and priorities for 2005:

Horizontal issues

- animal identification and traceability – under way through an OIE Ad hoc Group;
- testing, inspection and certification;
- antimicrobial resistance – Working Group to follow up Codex and OIE developments;
- most effective approaches to zoonoses – listing (Ad hoc Group on Disease Notification) or alternative approaches (Ad hoc Group on Emerging Zoonoses);
- good farming practices – revise through the establishment of an Ad hoc Group, if necessary;
- guidelines for animal feeding, addressing the animal health issues;
- summary of document on ‘Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection’.

Disease-specific OIE texts

- *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis – proposal under way for adoption;
- *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis – subject to adoption of tuberculosis chapter;
- salmonellosis – take into account CCFH²⁸ and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis; initially *Salmonella* Enteritidis in eggs.

Continue to strengthen the relationship between OIE and Codex by:

- encouraging enhanced OIE input into Codex texts;
- developing a method for the most effective use of Codex expertise in the work of OIE Ad hoc Groups.

Development of new texts

- “The role of Veterinary Services in the reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level” through the establishment of an Ad hoc Group as resources permit.

²⁸ CCFH: Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

191. Following Prof. Slorach's presentation, the President thanked the speaker and emphasised the increasing cooperation between the OIE and the CAC. Then he opened the discussion on the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.
192. Dr Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), also thanked Prof. Slorach and recalled how well this Working Group advised the Terrestrial Code Commission and the OIE in general on the cross-referencing work done between the OIE and the CAC.
193. The Delegate of Morocco welcomed the positive relationship between the two organisations, which is beneficial for both animal and public health as shown by the guidelines on antimicrobial resistance. He asked if the guidelines would be prepared by the OIE or the CAC, as increased importance should be given to the safety of animal feeding. Finally he requested clarification on the institutional position of the OIE within the Codex system. Prof. Slorach explained that there were different activities in the OIE and the WHO; both are working on a list of critically important antimicrobials. He added that after the second FAO/OIE/WHO expert meeting in Oslo, Norway, the CAC and the OIE were willing to create a common task force on antimicrobial resistance, but to finalise the procedure the CAC has to take a decision at its next meeting. Dr Vallat explained that the OIE has already renewed its agreements with FAO and WHO (the CAC's parent organisations), but the legal basis for an agreement with CAC was still being discussed in the Codex Committee on General Principles. He reiterated the OIE's willingness to sign an agreement with the CAC when this was possible. He also repeated the OIE's commitment to follow the outcomes of the Oslo expert meeting on antimicrobial resistance. Dr Vallat stressed the fact that the cooperation between the OIE and the CAC had already significantly improved, but more work needed to be done at the national level through the national OIE and CAC Delegates in order to harmonise their approaches, so as to avoid divergent positions on the same issues by a Member Country. Finally he recalled how the OIE had cooperated with the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding on the production of the Codex Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, but he indicated that more work in this field could be done. Dr Thiermann stated that antimicrobial resistance was addressed in three appendices of the *Terrestrial Code* and one chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
194. The representative of the WHO recognised that the good cooperation between FAO/OIE/WHO after the Oslo expert meeting had resulted in improved risk assessment and risk management options for antimicrobial resistance.
195. Dr Thiermann repeated that the OIE would continue to work with the CAC taking into account the outcomes of the FAO/OIE/WHO Oslo expert meeting while recognising the different standard-setting procedures in the OIE and Codex. To minimise the differences, he supported Dr Vallat's statement and encouraged more to be done at the national level through OIE Delegates coordinating their work with colleagues attending Codex meetings.
196. Prof. Slorach indicated that it was easier to collaborate on standards than to develop joint OIE/Codex standards because of the different procedures involved. He advised that there were sound legal issues to be examined before a formal agreement could be reached. However he affirmed that technical cooperation between the OIE and the CAC was already producing good results.
197. The Delegate of Australia observed that animal feeds had been the source of significant health and trade issues. He cited as examples BSE, FMD, antimicrobial resistance, food safety considerations relating to chemical residues and toxins, and food safety issues relating to cloned animals. He said the working arrangements between the OIE and the CAC were improving to the benefit of all. He asked what work had been done, or was intended, to look at animal feedstuff issues in a generic and detailed way. For example,

could Codex guidelines be incorporated as a preamble to OIE *Codes*? Prof. Slorach stated that, at its next meeting in July 2005, the CAC would decide whether to reconvene the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding. Dr Vallat indicated that the OIE is willing, if necessary, to take over the work on animal feeding in order to address animal health issues. Dr Thiermann recalled that the draft OIE Guide on Good Farming Practices contains a section on animal feeding that already takes into account the work done by Codex.

198. The Delegate of Haiti recalled the presentation of Dr Slorach on the Codex Alimentarius Commission and on the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and asked for the same spirit of cooperation and harmonisation between the OIE and the CAC to be shown, by keeping the term 'regionalisation' as used in Codex texts. Dr Thiermann replied that, as stated at the beginning of this chapter, the term 'zoning' has the same meaning as 'regionalisation'.
199. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV Animal Production Food Safety

200. The Delegate of Germany requested a modification to the draft Resolution, by replacing the word 'OIE' with the words 'Working Group' every time the attribution of resources is mentioned.
201. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXIV on Animal Production Food Safety, with the modification proposed by Germany. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIV at the end of this report.
202. **Working Group on Animal Welfare**

Dr D. Bayvel, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, presented the activities of the Working Group.

He reported that, since the 72nd General Session, the focus of activity of the Working Group had been on the implementation of the agreed annual work programme and in particular, on finalising the standards proposed by the four Ad hoc Groups dealing with transport (land and sea), slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes.

The Working Group had held its third meeting in Paris from 7 to 9 December 2004. The report of the meeting was appended to the report of the January 2005 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission (Appendix XXVI) and provided an update on the status of activities at December 2004, the final reports of the four Ad hoc Groups and the proposed work programme for 2005.

At its meeting, the Working Group examined the standards proposed by the four Ad hoc Groups and made some modifications to them. Significant modifications were made in consultation with the members of the Ad hoc Groups. The Working Group strongly believes that the standards should be presented for adoption at the 73rd General Session.

Dr Bayvel reported that the proposed work programme for 2005 included further work on developing standards, new meetings of Ad hoc Groups, as required, and, if necessary, additional work on the four standards being proposed for adoption. The Working Group recommended that an Ad hoc Group on Aquatic Animal Welfare Standards be convened, and identified the following areas to be of strategic priority for future OIE attention:

- Companion animal welfare – urban animal control;
- Wildlife and zoo animal welfare – harvesting/culling;
- Laboratory animal welfare – housing, animal use in regulatory testing and alternatives to animal use;
- Terrestrial animal welfare – housing/production (initially generic).

The Working Group envisaged that the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy, would assist in the implementation of a number of these proposed initiatives.

In conjunction with the OIE Central Bureau, the Working Group had also given considerable priority to its communication and stakeholder interaction mandates. Key activities, achievements and initiatives undertaken include the following:

- Inclusion of regular animal welfare updates in the OIE *Bulletin*;
- Liaison with the OIE Publications Department regarding the publication of “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges” in the August 2005 issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*;
- Liaison with the OIE Communications Department and the International Trade Department regarding the content of texts on animal welfare on the OIE Web site;
- Numerous presentations at national and international conferences by Working Group members and OIE Central Bureau staff;
- Numerous meetings and considerable correspondence between the OIE Central Bureau staff and key stakeholders, including the International Egg Commission, the International Meat Secretariat, the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, Compassion in World Farming, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Dr Bayvel emphasised that the members of the Working Group were very committed to this important work. They recognised that the Working Group may need to include expertise from the private sector and were working with the Director General in this regard. An expert from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers had participated in the Working Group meeting in December 2004, and it is planned that experts from the processing sector be invited to future meetings.

He indicated that the level of support from industry and non-governmental organisations was most encouraging, but emphasised the need for good communications. The survey results presented by Dr Brückner the previous day had indicated the need for increased participation by Member Countries, but he was encouraged to see strong relationships developing.

In conclusion, the Dr Bayvel paid tribute to the generosity, hard work and professionalism of all the members of the Working Group, all the members of the Ad hoc Groups and, last but not least, to the high-quality support and advice provided by the OIE Central Bureau staff, and the interest and leadership of the Director General in the implementation of the OIE's animal welfare mandate.

203. The representative of the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) thanked the speaker for a very good overview and noted the reference to the role of animal medicines in animal welfare. He indicated that the IFAH considered this was a critical point and would like to be involved in work on this issue.
204. The Delegate of Ghana congratulated the speaker but expressed some concerns (shared by several colleagues) that, because of the binding nature of OIE standards, the standards on animal welfare could be used against some developing countries. The Delegate of Uganda expressed similar concerns. He added that, with globalisation, concerns over how animals are treated are increasing and that there is a need to show that animal transport and slaughter are being addressed appropriately. The Delegate supported the OIE's work on animal welfare.
205. The Representative of the PAHO²⁹ said that he had concerns similar to those expressed by the Delegates of Ghana and Uganda. He requested information on the OIE's consultation with consumers and other relevant organisations.
206. The Delegate of Botswana suggested a modification to the fourth paragraph of the resolution, which was agreed.
207. The President of the Terrestrial Code Commission recalled that the direct link between animal health and animal welfare was the reason for the OIE's adoption of this new mandate, but indicated that there was no direct link between animal welfare and the SPS Agreement. He considered that the participation of OIE Member Countries helped to ensure the development of broad guidelines applicable to all. The membership of the Working Group and various Ad hoc Groups also contributed to this goal. Organisations and industry were encouraged to send their comments through their Delegates. Dr Thiermann also recalled the successful global conference on animal welfare which had helped to introduce many organisations and consumers to the work of the OIE.
208. The Delegate of Luxembourg congratulated the speaker on an excellent presentation and on the quality of work completed in such a short time period. He suggested a modification to the first paragraph of the resolution, which was agreed.
209. The Delegate of Togo congratulated the speaker and asked about the role of the Terrestrial Code Commission. The Director General replied that the Commission is composed of elected experts responsible for proposing draft standards, prepared by Ad hoc Groups and the Working Groups for Animal Welfare, for adoption by the International Committee.
210. Dr Thiermann then discussed the four draft animal welfare standards that were proposed for adoption, indicating changes that had been made to the texts since the January report of the meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission. He thanked the Delegates for the excellent comments received, which were too numerous to address during the General Session. As was routinely done for animal health, comments that were relatively easily addressed had been taken on board and would be presented to the International Committee in the form of modified appendices; the other comments received would be discussed at the next Commission meeting, and would not have to be resubmitted.
211. The Delegate of Uruguay asked that horses be addressed in the chapter on the slaughter of animals for human consumption. Dr Thiermann indicated that this would be done through an Ad hoc Group.

²⁹ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization

212. The Delegate of New Zealand recalled that New Zealand has supplied a number of important comments on the proposed guidelines and had made available several of its experts. He was concerned that the proposed guidelines were not fully useful to all Member Countries perhaps due to a lack of time for full consultation with relevant industries, resulting, for example, in some recommendations that were too specific. He acknowledged the comments of the President of the Terrestrial Code Commission that work on improving the guidelines would continue (based on Member Country comments) over the next 12 months and he hoped that this would ensure more 'outcomes-based' guidelines. Dr Thiermann agreed that that was the aim. The Delegate indicated that he would not oppose adoption if it was the preferred position of the International Committee.
213. On the sea transport chapter, the Delegate of Australia recommended a modification to the text on fire hazards, which was adopted.
214. On behalf of the EU, the Delegate of the United Kingdom congratulated the speaker and thanked everyone concerned for the excellent work completed in such a short time period. The Delegate indicated that the EU supported the continuation of the solid scientific basis for the guidelines. She appreciated Dr Thiermann's assurances that the comments received from Member Countries would be addressed. The Delegate indicated that the EU supported the current approach of wide consultation. The EU looked forward to a clarification of some issues and to the OIE extending its work in the animal welfare area to cover laboratory and aquatic animals, as indicated in the OIE animal welfare mandate.
215. Dr Thiermann thanked the Working Group, ably chaired by Dr Bayvel, for its excellent effort in overseeing the work of the Ad hoc Groups and in the progress made in the context of this mandate. He also thanked the Delegates for their support.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV Animal Welfare

216. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXV for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXV at the end of this report.

Presentations by International Organisations having signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)

International Federation for Animal Health

217. Dr Anthony J. Mudd, the Representative of IFAH³⁰, reported on that organisation's activities.
218. The IFAH represents those global companies and associations that are concerned with research, development and availability of animal medicines, including vaccines. IFAH has three key strategic platforms for its activities with sub-groups associated with these activities.
219. The first of these is associated with the regulatory environment. The IFAH is working with regulatory agencies to maintain the quality, safety and efficacy standards of its products. For example, the IFAH is working with the FAO to ensure that quality standards for trypanocidal drugs are maintained. The IFAH also holds the secretariat for the Veterinary International Co-operation on Harmonisation (VICH) whereby common standards can be agreed between the IFAH and key regulatory agencies, thus avoiding duplication of development requirements. This ensures that animal toxicology testing can be minimised.

³⁰ IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

220. A major activity that is related to regulatory function is the IFAH promotion of and work on the responsible use of antimicrobials to minimise the development of resistance. The IFAH was the first global organisation to produce 'prudent use' guidelines, since when it has worked closely with the OIE and the WHO to maintain the current situation whereby resistance transfer from animals to humans is kept at low levels internationally.
221. The second key area of the IFAH is to enhance the importance of animal medicines in the food chain. Only by maintaining a healthy population of animals is it possible to ensure that disease-free food products are available to the consumer. Modern methods of immunology, together with emphasis on biosecurity, have resulted in a decline in certain types of zoonoses, and the IFAH is working with partners in the food chain to achieve higher standards of food safety.
222. Finally, livestock production and husbandry systems are constantly monitored to assure the highest standards of animal welfare, and the role of animal medicines is important in this context. It is vital that this be presented to the consumer in a positive way, and the IFAH has an image management group whose task is to communicate to all those working in the food chain that the health and food safety standards associated with the use of animal medicines are sustained at the highest possible level. It is a privilege for the IFAH to work in tandem with the OIE to achieve the highest possible standards of animal, and thereby human, health.

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2005

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Election of the Director General

223. The President reminded the Committee that Dr Bernard Vallat had been appointed Director General in May 2000 for a five-year term of office with effect from 1 January 2001 and stated that Dr Vallat had informed the Member Countries within the stipulated time limit that he would be seeking a new term of office. His candidature had been officially proposed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had been approved by the Administrative Commission.
224. The Credentials Committee noted that 142 Member Countries were participating in the 73rd General Session and were eligible to participate in the deliberations of the International Committee.
225. Prof. Gaudemet reminded the Committee of the election procedure: election by secret ballot, solely in the presence of the official Delegates, with three rounds if necessary. To be elected, a candidate must receive either at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the first round, an absolute majority in the second round or a simple majority in the third round.
226. After verification of the number of participants, the President stated that 136 Delegates were present and that, since this number exceeded the quorum, voting could take place.
227. Dr Vallat addressed the Delegates.
228. On behalf of the Regional Commission for Europe, Dr Belev, President of the Commission, thanked Dr Vallat for all his efforts during his term of office to make the OIE an efficient, widely recognised and respected organisation. He declared his support for Dr Vallat's candidature for a further term of office as Director General.

229. Drs Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Ortiz (Argentina), Hargreaves (Zimbabwe), Gruzdev (Russia), Abderamane (Chad), Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Sounaye (Togo), Hassan (Sudan), Kané (Mali), Olavarria (Chile), Tawfik (Egypt), Thwala (Swaziland), Faye (Senegal), Verbytsky (Ukraine), Chang (Republic of Korea), O'Neil (New Zealand), Salman (Bahrain), Oreamuno Toledo (Costa Rica), Bogado Ayala (Paraguay), Bangoura (Guinea), Amarasekara (Sri Lanka), Max (Haiti), Ombe Epigat (Gabon), Khoury (Syria), Botlhe (South Africa), Benazzou (Morocco), Murray (Australia), N'Lemba (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Falcón (Peru), Maung (Myanmar), Chang (Taipei China), Malaj (Albania), Howley (Dominican Republic), Fanikoso (Botswana), Bandhopadhyay (India), Sin Bin (Singapore), Molina (Philippines), Hashi (Somalia), Leowijuk (Thailand), Sovann (Cambodia), Elias (Guyana) and Yehya (Lebanon) also expressed their support for the candidature of Dr Vallat.
230. Dr Vallat left the Conference Room.
231. Dr Brian Evans and Dr Rachid Bouguedour were designated as scrutineers.
232. Dr Vallat received 125 votes out of 136 eligible voters in the first round (10 spoiled ballot papers and one blank ballot paper). Dr Vallat thus obtained 100% of the votes cast and was elected in the first round.
233. Dr Niang declared that Dr Vallat was appointed Director General of the OIE for a period of five years from 1 January 2006.
234. On his return to the Conference Room, Dr Vallat thanked the members of the Committee for their renewed show of confidence in him. He requested the support of the Member Countries and their Delegates, the Administrative Commission, the Regional Commissions, the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, experts and all the staff of the Central Bureau and the Regional Representations for this new term of office, during which he would endeavour to consolidate the reforms already undertaken and implement the 4th Strategic Plan.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

**Report on Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2004
and the Beginning of 2005**

235. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2004 and in the first months of 2005 (Doc. 73 SG/2).
236. The most important disease event in 2004 – an event that is not yet over – was the occurrence of **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** due to H5N1 serotype in several countries in South-East Asia. At the beginning of the year, nine different countries were affected, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

HPAI H5N1 is continuing to wreak havoc in Thailand and Vietnam and, in contrast to other countries in the region, efforts to eradicate the disease have not yet proved successful.

A summary of the disease situation in the affected countries is given below.

The first outbreak of HPAI in the People's Republic of China was confirmed in Long'an County of Guangxi Province on 27 January 2004. Thereafter, 49 outbreaks occurred consecutively in 16 mainland provinces; 143,100 poultry were affected by the disease, 127,600 died and approximately 9 million were culled. In July 2004, an outbreak in Chaohu city, Juchao district, Anhui province, was reported to the OIE.

In 2004 and early 2005, Indonesia reported several outbreaks of HPAI due to virus type H5N1.

In Japan, five outbreaks of HPAI were reported in 2004, the first to be reported since 1925. The first outbreak of HPAI H5N1 was detected in the middle of January 2004 in a commercial flock in Yamaguchi prefecture. The other outbreaks occurred in Oita prefecture and Kyoto prefecture. The last outbreak was on 5 March 2004 and, as a result of the implemented control measures, no new cases of HPAI in poultry have been detected since.

In the Republic of Korea, 19 outbreaks of HPAI were reported in 2004, the last occurring in March. No further outbreaks were reported after 20 March 2004.

In August 2004, Peninsular Malaysia reported 10 outbreaks of HPAI, all located in Pasir Pekan village, Tumpat district, Kelantan State, close to the border with Thailand. A stamping-out policy was adopted to eradicate the infection. All chickens, ducks and pet birds within a 1-km radius of clinical outbreaks and virus infection foci were culled.

In Vietnam, a total of 57 provinces have been affected, especially in provinces located in the south and the north of the country. In 2004, there were 27 confirmed cases in humans, 20 of whom died. There was a resurgence of the disease in January 2005, in which half of the provinces of the country were affected. Since 1 January 2005, the country's public health authorities have notified the WHO of a further 32 human cases, including 15 deaths. Most of the human cases involved persons in close contact with avian influenza-infected poultry.

In Thailand, the first wave of HPAI occurred during the first half of 2004 and affected 89 districts in 42 provinces. About 30 million birds were destroyed. After a period of remission, there was a fresh upsurge of HPAI in July 2004 with more than 300 outbreaks being confirmed during the second half of the year. In 2004, there were 17 confirmed human cases (including 12 deaths) associated with avian influenza outbreaks.

At the beginning of 2005, Cambodia confirmed two human cases, who died as a result of the disease. Outbreaks in birds were confirmed in February 2005 in backyard chickens in the provinces of Kandal and Kampot.

In April 2005, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reported to the OIE that subtype H7 avian influenza had occurred in February and March 2005. Around 200,000 birds were destroyed as a result of this episode. The neuraminidase of the virus has not been identified.

The People's Republic of China reported that virus type H5N1 had been confirmed in 519 wild migratory birds found dead in a village in Gangcha county, Qinghai province, in central China in May 2005. The last outbreak in commercial poultry officially reported to the OIE was in June 2004.

Efforts to eradicate HPAI in some Asian countries affected by the disease have still not achieved the expected results.

In January 2004, Pakistan confirmed the occurrence of outbreaks of HPAI due to virus type H7N3, rather than to serotype H5N1 that has been occurring in some South-East Asian countries. The outbreaks were in Sindh province in the State of Karachi, where more than 1,800,000 birds were culled. The source of infection is believed to have been migratory birds, notably waterfowl. Vaccination with H7 and H9 strains was used. These were the first outbreaks of HPAI reported in Pakistan since 2000.

In the Americas, Canada reported the presence of avian influenza in a poultry farm in the Fraser Valley area, in the southern part of the Province of British Columbia, in February 2004. Several outbreaks were subsequently reported and all commercial poultry flocks and backyard birds were depopulated in the control area established in the Fraser Valley. Approximately 19 million birds were destroyed. Two workers who had separate and known exposure to infected birds tested positive for H7 infection and both experienced mild influenza symptoms. On 10 March 2004, Canada reported the occurrence of HPAI caused by virus subtype H7N3 in the Fraser Valley, on the same farm where low pathogenic avian influenza had occurred on 19 February 2004. Forty-two commercial farms and a small number of backyard flocks tested positive for avian influenza. Stamping out was carried out in the area and approximately 19 million poultry were culled. In November 2004, the Delegate of Canada declared his country free from HPAI.

In the United States of America, an outbreak of HPAI virus type H5N2 was confirmed in Gonzalez county, Texas, in February 2004. It occurred in a low biosecurity backyard farm and in two live bird markets that received poultry from this backyard farm. The disease was eradicated and, in April 2004, the United States of America declared that there were no longer any infected zones in the country.

In August 2004, South Africa reported to the OIE an outbreak of subtype H5N2 avian influenza discovered in ostriches in The Blue Crane Route Municipality area in the Eastern Cape Province. Approximately 14,000 ostriches were destroyed during this epizootic.

237. Regarding **foot and mouth disease (FMD)**, in the Americas, Brazil experienced an outbreak of type O virus in the municipality of Monte Alegre, in the State of Pará in June 2004. This was the first reported outbreak of FMD in that country since August 2001. In September 2004, an epidemiological event involving FMD virus type C occurred in the municipality of Careiro da Várzea, State of Amazonas. This was the first occurrence of FMD due to type C in Brazil since 1995. This information is of major importance not only for FMD eradication programmes in South America but also for the rest of the world, as it had been thought that serotype C was no longer circulating anywhere in the world. Increased surveillance by the Brazilian veterinary authorities in remote areas of this large country, such as the State of Amazonas, could explain this important discovery. The recorded outbreaks occurred hundreds of kilometres away from the OIE-recognised FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised (namely the States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Federal District, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins, Rondonia) and had no effect on the status of the aforementioned zone.

An outbreak of FMD due to virus type O occurred in Peru in June 2004 in the district of Lurín, in the county of Lima. The previous outbreak of FMD had been reported in 2000. A total of 26 outbreaks of FMD due to virus type O were confirmed in Peru in 2004.

In January 2005, the part of Argentina located to the north of the 42nd parallel regained its status of 'FMD free zone where vaccination is practiced'. The part of the country located south of the 42nd parallel has maintained its status of 'FMD free zone without vaccination'.

In January 2005, Paraguay regained its status of 'FMD free country where vaccination is practised'.

In February 2004, outbreaks of FMD virus type O were reported in domestic cattle and sheep in Dornogobi Province in the south of Mongolia. The disease was also confirmed in wild antelopes passing through the affected area. It should be noted that these antelopes migrate across this region of Asia. The previous outbreak of FMD in Mongolia was in 2002.

FMD virus type O is endemic in Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) and, as in previous years, several outbreaks of the disease were confirmed in pigs. In March 2005, an outbreak of FMD serotype Asia 1 was confirmed in cattle in lairage at an abattoir. This was the first time that serotype Asia 1 had been detected in Hong Kong. In May 2005, the People's Republic of China reported to the OIE two outbreaks of FMD serotype Asia 1 in cattle, in the provinces of Jiangsu and Shandong.

Georgia reported a clinical suspicion of FMD in April 2004 in cattle of local breed in Doesi village, Kaspi district, in the central part of the country, but no laboratory confirmation was obtained.

Russia reported an outbreak of FMD virus type O in April 2004. The outbreak occurred in a dairy farm in Tambovka district, Amur region, in the eastern part of the country. Cattle and small ruminants were vaccinated in this region and pigs were vaccinated in the zone bordering the People's Republic of China. Preventive vaccination against FMD is carried out in zones with a high risk of FMD introduction and spread: North Caucasus, the southern part of Povolzhye, the parts of Siberia and the Far East bordering the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan, and the Moscow and Vladimir regions.

In Turkey, several outbreaks of FMD were reported in 2004, in Anatolia where the disease is endemic. As in previous years, serotypes O and A were identified. FMD has not been reported in the Thrace region since June 1996.

In Africa, South Africa reported 37 outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype SAT 2 in bovines in Limpopo region in 2004. The first outbreaks started in June 2004.

Zambia reported cases of FMD in the Northern Province in February 2004. These were the first cases reported to the OIE since October 2002. In July 2005, a new outbreak was confirmed in the South Province, which spread to the Central Province. In the latter two provinces, only serotype SAT2 was identified.

The FMD epizootic that started in Zimbabwe in 2001 continued to affect different parts of the country. Forty-nine outbreaks due to SAT2 type were reported in 2004.

In Libya no new cases of FMD have been reported since July 2003. Animal movement restrictions and quarantine measures were lifted from the infected zone (north western part of the country) in January 2004.

In Sudan, clinical cases of FMD were detected in 2004. Samples sent to an OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD (Pirbright Laboratory, United Kingdom), confirmed the diagnosis and identified FMD type O.

The following African countries also reported FMD outbreaks in 2004: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

238. As in previous years, Italy reported outbreaks of **swine vesicular disease (SVD)**. Fifty-nine outbreaks were confirmed in 2004, mainly in the south of the country.

Portugal declared outbreaks of SVD in Coimbra in December 2003 and January 2004. These were the first outbreaks reported in the country since 1995. This was the first time in ten years that a European country other than Italy had reported the presence of SVD. Prior to this event, the last European country other than Italy to have reported the presence of SVD to the OIE had been the Netherlands in 1994. How the disease was introduced into Portugal has not been elucidated.

239. With regard to **vesicular stomatitis (VS)**, the United States of America reported, in May 2004, an outbreak due to New Jersey serotype involving a horse in the State of Texas. Other outbreaks were subsequently identified in the States of New Mexico and Colorado. Equidae were the main species affected. In 2004, a total of 294 outbreaks of VS were confirmed in the country. These were the first outbreaks of VS in the United States of America since 1998.

Bolivia reported six outbreaks of VS (Indiana serotype) during February 2004 in the county of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, province of Ñuflo de Chávez. These were the first reported outbreaks of VS since 1991.

240. In 2004, the OIE did not receive any notifications of infection with **rinderpest** virus (with or without clinical signs). Concerns still exist as to the possible circulation of mild rinderpest virus in the Somali ecosystem.

Additional countries in Africa and the Middle East have joined the OIE pathway to official recognition of rinderpest disease free status. In February 2004, the Delegate of the Central African Republic declared his country 'provisionally free from rinderpest'. In June 2004, the Delegate of Ethiopia declared an extension of the zone of the country provisionally free from rinderpest. In July 2004, the Delegates of Oman and Saudi Arabia declared their respective countries provisionally free from rinderpest. In September 2004, Kenya declared a zone of the country provisionally free from rinderpest. In December 2004, Sudan made a self-declaration of freedom from rinderpest in accordance with the OIE rinderpest pathway.

241. As in previous years, **peste des petits ruminants (PPR)** affected parts of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

PPR is endemic in Turkey and several outbreaks are reported each year in Anatolia. In 2004, the disease was reported in Thrace region: in Istanbul in April and in Edirne in September. These were the first reported outbreaks of the disease in Thrace since December 2001.

242. The increase in surveillance and monitoring of **contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)** in most Sub-Saharan African countries has led to a clearer understanding of the disease situation in many countries. The distribution of the disease has not changed compared with previous years.

In Sudan, five outbreaks of CBPP occurred in 2004, with 542 clinical cases observed (no laboratory confirmatory tests for the disease were carried out).

243. In the countries affected by **lumpy skin disease**, the situation remained almost the same in 2004 as in the previous year. The disease is present in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

244. Concerning **Rift Valley fever (RVF)** in 2004, Yemen reported outbreaks in Hodeidah, Hajjah and Sada. In Senegal, an outbreak of RVF in domestic sheep was confirmed in Dagana in November 2004.

Serological findings of RVF in sheep flocks were reported in Jizan region, Saudi Arabia, in September 2004. This evidence was detected within the framework of routine RVF surveillance implemented in Jizan region. Five seropositive sheep were detected in four flocks. No clinical signs were observed either in the seropositive animals or in in-contact animals. Four of the sheep were IgM capture ELISA³¹-positive and the fifth one was an IgG capture ELISA-positive sentinel animal. Small ruminants are vaccinated in Jizan region.

³¹ ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

Laboratory results obtained at IMTSSA³² from samples taken in 2004 from small ruminants from Djibouti indicated the presence of serological traces of IgG, revealing previous circulation of RVF virus among these animals. Many animals originating from countries of the Horn of Africa transit via Djibouti.

245. In Europe, the **bluetongue (BT)** epizootic that started in 2000 continued in some countries in 2004.

In October 2004, Spain reported outbreaks of BT (due to serotype 4) on the mainland for the first time since 1960 (outbreaks of BT serotype 2 occurred in the Balearic Islands in 2000 and 2003). The disease was first detected serologically in a sentinel herd of dairy cows in Jimena de la Frontera, province of Cadiz, in October 2004. It then spread rapidly and over 300 outbreaks were registered in 2004. The affected regions are Andalusia and Extremadura Autonomous Communities.

In November and December 2004, Portugal reported 11 outbreaks of BT (due to type 4) in the regions of Alentejo and Beira Interior, in the eastern part of the country near the border with Spain. These were the first BT outbreaks reported in Portugal since 1959.

Italy reported 183 outbreaks of BT in Sardinia in 2004, compared with 3,681 outbreaks reported in 2003. The circulating serotypes were as follows: 2, 4, 9 and 16.

In September 2004, four outbreaks were reported in Corsica, France. BT virus serotype 16 was identified in three of the four outbreaks, the first ever detection of this serotype in Corsica. The fourth outbreak was due to serotype 4, identified for the first time on the island in 2003.

In Africa, Morocco reported 230 outbreaks of BT due to serotype 4. The outbreaks started in September 2004 in Ifrane province and then spread to the rest of the country. Only sheep are affected. The control measures applied in the outbreaks are as follows: quarantine of affected farms, external antiparasitic treatment of affected flocks, stepping up of epidemiological surveillance for BT at the national level, raising the awareness of farmers and local authorities, and movement control inside the country. Following the occurrence of the disease in Morocco, Algeria stepped up surveillance in the western part of the country.

246. There was little change in the world **sheep pox and goat pox** situation in 2004 compared with previous years. The disease is enzootic in many African and Asian countries.

In 2005, Vietnam declared its first ever occurrence of goat pox. The diagnosis was confirmed by the OIE reference laboratory (Pirbright, United Kingdom) in April 2005. Five outbreaks were reported in four provinces.

247. **African swine fever (ASF)** was reported in Italy (only in Sardinia) and in several African countries.

Burkina Faso confirmed an outbreak of ASF in Ouagadougou district, Kadiogo province, in November 2004. The previous reported outbreak in the country was in August 2003. The source of infection is believed to have been the introduction of animals and animal products. The first outbreak of ASF occurred close to the border with a neighbouring country.

In November 2004, a suspected outbreak of ASF was reported in Eritrea, 40 kilometres south of Asmara, in the Dekemhare sub-zone. The confirmatory analyses (real-time PCR³³, immunofluorescence, pig inoculation and electron microscopy, carried out by the OIE Reference Laboratory for ASF (Pirbright, United Kingdom) invalidated the initial diagnosis.

³² IMTSSA: Institut de Médecine Tropicale du Service de Santé des Armées, Marseille, France

³³ PCR: polymerase chain reaction

In December 2004, Namibia confirmed outbreaks of ASF in two peri-urban commercial pig farms located in Okahanja district. The previous reported outbreak was in November 2001. The recommended standards to prevent contact with warthogs had not been respected in the two affected farms. The disease is considered to be endemic in the warthog population.

248. Concerning the **classical swine fever (CSF)** situation in Europe, there were no outbreaks in domestic pigs in Germany in 2004. Only three cases of CSF in wild boar were recorded in Germany in 2004, all of which occurred in Rhineland-Palatinate *Land*. The last outbreak of CSF in domestic pigs in Germany was in February 2003. France reported cases of CSF in wild boar. No cases have been reported in domestic pigs since 2002 and the country declared itself CSF free in July 2002. Italy did not report any outbreaks of CSF in 2004. The last reported outbreak in the country was in September 2003. At the end of 2004, Russia reported three outbreaks of CSF, in Vladimir region, Moscow region and Komi Republic. The previous reported outbreak in Russia was in September 2003.

In Asia, in 2004, Japan reported several cases of CSF attributed to the use of unapproved vaccine. The Republic of Korea continued to report CSF outbreaks in 2004; a total of nine outbreaks of CSF were confirmed.

In Africa, the presence of CSF remained confined to Madagascar.

249. With regard to the **Newcastle disease (NCD)** situation in Europe, Greece reported an outbreak of NCD in December 2004, the first since 1986. Cyprus reported an outbreak of NCD in a small pigeon loft in September 2004; no cases were reported in either commercial or backyard poultry flocks. Finland reported an outbreak of NCD infection (without clinical signs), detected as part of routine screening activities in fattening turkeys in Turun ja Porin county, Satakunta region, in July 2004. A stamping-out policy was applied to eradicate the outbreak. This was the first NCD-related incident in Finland since an outbreak of the disease (with clinical signs) in 1996. In 2004, an outbreak of NCD was reported in Bulgaria in unvaccinated backyard poultry in a village in the municipality of Dgebel, administrative region of Kargali. This was the first reported outbreak of NCD in the country since 1993. In January 2005, the Delegate of Bulgaria declared the affected zone no longer infected. Austria reported that an outbreak of NCD occurred in a backyard flock of 50 pigeons in the Federal province of Upper Austria in March 2004. Sweden reported an outbreak of NCD in two farms of layer hens in the county of Östergötland in July 2004.

250. In November 2004, France reported the detection of the **bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** agent in a goat. The animal, which was two and a half years old at the time of its slaughter in 2002, formed part of a herd of 580 goats, including 300 adults, in the Rhône-Alpes region. The scrapie isolate from the infected goat was subjected to further diagnostic testing by inoculation into transgenic mice, which is the reference test to distinguish BSE from scrapie. In January 2005, this case was confirmed by the OIE Reference Laboratory in Weybridge, United Kingdom, as being the first time that the BSE agent had been confirmed in the caprine species. The waiting period of several months to obtain the diagnosis explains the long delay in confirming the case.

In December 2004, Canada reported a new case of BSE in Alberta in a Holstein cow aged 98 months. The animal was purchased in March 2000 for use as a family milk cow. The herd of origin where the animal was born and was resident until 1999, was identified. The infected animal was born on 5 October 1996, prior to the introduction of the 1997 ruminant feed ban. It is suspected that the animal most likely became infected through the consumption of contaminated feed at an early age while resident in the herd of birth. In January 2005, another case of BSE was confirmed in Canada. The infected animal was a Charolais cow aged 81 months born on 21 March 1998, after the ban on feeding ruminant

protein to ruminants. There were 110 cows in the affected farm, 25 of which belonged to the same birth cohort as the infected animal. Other cows from its birth cohort were traced to seven other farms. It is thought that the animal became infected as a result of consuming contaminated feed at an early age.

In December 2003, the United States of America reported its first case of BSE, which occurred in an animal imported from Canada. Following the detection of this case, surveillance was stepped up and the country launched a BSE control programme. There were no confirmed cases of BSE in 2004.

Details of BSE in countries that reported cases in 2004

Country	Number of BSE cases in 2004	Number of bovines aged over 24 months	Annual BSE incidence per million bovines aged over 24 months
Belgium	11	1,395,441	7.882
Canada	1	6,700,000	0.149
Czech Republic	7	678,000	10.324
Denmark	1	771,561	1.296
France	54	11,400,000	4.736
Germany	65	5,955,000	10.92
Ireland	126	2,908,095	43.327
Italy	7	2,980,000	2.348
Japan	5	2,006,800	2.491
Netherlands	6	1,765,000	3.399
Poland	11	3,073,594	3.578
Portugal	91	969,422	93.870
Slovakia	7	284,141	24.635
Slovenia	1	218,080	4.585
Spain	137	3,517,736	38.945
Switzerland	3	800,000	3.750
United Kingdom	338	4,985,495	67.796

251. In June 2004, serum samples taken from pigs in Kuilsriver in the Cape Flats area of the Western Cape Province in South Africa tested positive for **porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)** at the diagnostic laboratory (Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute). This was the first time PRRS was diagnosed in South Africa.

Animal Health Status in Member Countries

(Doc. 73 SG/14)

252. The most salient points of the supplementary information given verbally by the Delegates of Member Countries are summarised below:
253. The Delegate of **Benin** reported that *foot and mouth disease (FMD)* is endemic in Benin and that new outbreaks of the disease had been confirmed in 2004. A technical cooperation project involving five countries in the region has been presented to the FAO. The aim of the project is to identify the virus serotypes that are circulating in Benin, given the recrudescence of FMD in West Africa.

254. The Delegate of **Burkina Faso** said that the report linked the cases of *African swine fever (ASF)* in his country with the presence of warthogs, but he pointed out that ASF was endemic in neighbouring countries and the infection could therefore have been introduced into his country as a result of trade in animals and animal products, which would explain why the first outbreak had occurred in a border zone with a neighbouring country. The Delegate therefore asked for the report to be corrected accordingly.
255. Dr Ben Jebara said that the report had been drafted using the official information received in emergency reports, follow-up reports, monthly reports and the annual animal health report for 2004. If there were any errors in the report, these had been transcribed from the official reports. The corrections requested by the Delegate would however be made.
256. The Delegate of **Egypt** pointed out that his country is free from *rinderpest* infection (and not only free from the disease).
257. Dr Vallat pointed out that the OIE has a procedure for recognising status in respect to four diseases (bovine spongiform encephalopathy [BSE], FMD, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia [CBPP] and rinderpest) and that, during the 72nd General Session, four Resolutions giving the official list of free countries or zones had been adopted. The *Terrestrial Code* provides for two categories of *rinderpest*: “free from rinderpest disease” and “free from rinderpest infection”. Egypt’s rinderpest status is that of a country “free from rinderpest disease”; for the country to secure the higher status, the Delegate must submit the relevant application for evaluation. Dr Vallat suggested to the Delegate of Egypt that if he had already submitted an application to the OIE, he should contact the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to find out the state of progress with the application and to make sure that the evaluation of the application is included immediately in the work programme of the next meeting of the expert group.
258. The Delegate of **Eritrea** said that a suspected outbreak of *ASF* had occurred in 2004 but that the samples sent to the Reference Laboratory in Pirbright (United Kingdom) had tested negative. The Delegate declared that his country remained free from African swine fever. With regard to *CBPP*, the Delegate stated that his country was implementing a serological surveillance programme to evaluate circulation of the causal agent.
259. Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that *Disease Information* dated 20 May 2005 mentioned the negative results obtained by the Pirbright Reference Laboratory for *ASF* and that the map shown during his presentation did not include **Eritrea** as a country affected by ASF.
260. The Delegate of **Guinea** thanked Dr Ben Jebara and stated that *CBPP* is a notifiable disease in Guinea, that Guinea has a disease contingency plan that includes eradicating the disease from the western zone of the country, and that a sanitary cordon has been established between the western zone and the eastern zone, where the disease is endemic.
261. The Delegate of **Senegal** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation of the world animal health situation. With regard to *Rift Valley fever*, Senegal has a surveillance system, with sentinel herds along the Senegal river valley and Ferlo river zone to assess virus circulation. The Delegate said that technical cooperation had been established between the national animal health laboratory in Dakar and a South African laboratory in order to undertake tests on a vaccine against Rift Valley fever in several months time, and he requested the support of the South African authorities in these activities. The Delegate also requested more information on progress with the development of an *ASF* vaccine.

262. Dr Vallat stated that this was a constant concern of the OIE but that the development of a vaccine was at a standstill, partly because the pharmaceutical industry did not wish to invest in the creation of a vaccine against *ASF*; nevertheless, negotiations had begun with international donors to contribute to funding private research. Dr Vallat pointed out that agreements of this kind were vital for 'orphan' diseases, namely diseases for which the development of vaccines and diagnostic tests present no financial incentive for the pharmaceutical industry and so receive no funding for research. The OIE has set out to encourage all research institutions, including those in the private sector, to take part in agreements of this type.
263. The Delegate of **Swaziland** spoke of the *BSE* situation in Canada and France. In the case of **Canada**, the country had published a declaration of free status, but cases of *BSE* had subsequently been discovered in its territory. The Delegate of Swaziland inquired what was the situation regarding a BSE-free country that reports cases of BSE and what were the lessons to be drawn from situations such as these. With regard to the case of BSE detected in a she-goat in **France**, the Delegate asked for more information on the progress with investigations in small ruminants and in wild animals held in captivity, either in zoos or for the production of game.
264. In reply to the question from the Delegate of Swaziland, the Delegate of **Canada** stated that BSE surveillance in Canada had begun in 1992 and was still being enforced. The number of samples analysed is far higher than that recommended in the OIE guidelines. Following the case confirmed in 2003, **Canada** acknowledged the possibility of a low prevalence having failed to be detected in the past. As a result of the ban on animal feed containing meat-and-bone meal introduced in the 1990s, it has been demonstrated that prevalence has been low to date and continues to decrease. The Delegate said that Canada had never declared itself to the OIE as a BSE-free country and that it had always endeavoured to share information in a transparent manner, considering the country's risk level to be minimal. Lastly, he stated that the OIE's current official recognition system includes only "free" and "provisionally free" BSE categories. The Delegate of Canada stated that epidemiological information on BSE in Canada was available on the web page of the Canadian Veterinary Services and had been sent to the OIE and to the Animal Health Information Department in a timely manner.
265. Regarding the other categories provided for in the *Terrestrial Code*, Dr Vallat indicated that they are subject to bilateral recognition: if the new changes proposed for the *Terrestrial Code* this year are approved, such as reducing the number of categories from five to three, any new applications submitted by Member Countries will be examined in the light of these modifications. Countries that have already had their status recognised, and which retain their status until the next General Session, will be assigned to one of the new categories, if these are approved. Countries whose applications are currently under study will be evaluated in accordance with the 2004 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.
266. The Delegate of **France** said that, after a case of *BSE* had been confirmed in a she-goat, the surveillance measures already in place were stepped up with effect from January 2005. In accordance with these measures, all she-goats sent to the abattoir or found dead are subjected to diagnostic tests. A total of 70,000 tests had been carried out to date; a few samples had tested positive for *scrapie* but all had tested negative for BSE.
267. With regard to *BSE*, Dr Vallat explained that the OIE officially certifies the BSE-free and provisionally free categories. So far, only four countries had been recognised as provisionally free from BSE and no countries had been declared BSE free.
268. The Delegate of **Sudan** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation, and particularly on his account of the *FMD* situation in Africa. The Delegate reported that Sudan had signed an agreement with the FAO to obtain funds for FMD surveillance and monitoring. Samples had been sent to the Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, United Kingdom, and the

results had been received. With regard to *rinderpest*, the Delegate stated that Sudan had been recognised as provisionally free from rinderpest, based on zoning. He added that epidemiological surveillance was being concentrated on southern Sudan and that major efforts were being made for the country to be officially recognised as rinderpest free. The Delegate thanked the OIE, the FAO and IBAR for their cooperation. Lastly, the Delegate said that the FAO had approved a technical cooperation project for the eradication of *CBPP*. Sudan had taken the first steps towards eradicating the disease, and was continuing to work towards this goal, on the basis of the OIE guidelines.

269. The Delegate of **Togo**, voicing a similar comment to that made by the Delegate of Benin, emphasised that his country had not been mentioned in the paragraph on *FMD* in the animal disease status report. He also pointed out that his annual report contained details on the zones most affected and on a technical cooperation project, as well as on the fact that *FMD* is a disease of interest to the entire sub-region. Finally, the Delegate asked for the original report to be corrected.
270. Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that the report that he had just given was a summary based primarily on the major epidemiological events that had occurred during the year, and that the details of written reports prepared by each country were available through various channels, notably *World Animal Health* (volume 1) and the OIE *Bulletin*.
271. The Delegate of **Togo** once again thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. However, he asked for a paragraph to be added to the final report on animal disease status worldwide, to indicate countries that had declared *FMD* outbreaks in 2004, as was the case with *CBPP*.
272. The Delegate of **Zambia** provided clarifications on the *FMD* situation in his country. The annual report on animal disease status worldwide gave the impression that the *FMD* outbreak that had occurred in the North Province in February 2004 was the source of the outbreaks that occurred in the Central Province. In actual fact, the outbreak in the North Province was confined to the north of the country. In July 2004 an outbreak of *FMD* due to serotype SAT 2 was confirmed in the South Province, which later spread to the Central province, where only the presence of SAT 2 serotype was confirmed.
273. The Delegate of **Argentina** announced that he had presented a document to the Director General of the OIE declaring Argentina free from *classical swine fever*. Classical swine fever vaccination was suspended on 28 May 2004 and the last outbreak occurred six years ago. With regard to parasitic infestations by *Tropilaelaps* and *Aethina tumida*, both exotic to Argentina, samples are being taken throughout the country to confirm their absence. Furthermore, Argentina has provided the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures with new health requirements for the importation of bee material so as to avoid the introduction of these diseases.
274. The Delegate of **Canada** underlined his support for the work of Dr Ben Jebara and the Animal Health Information Department, especially for the efforts carried out during this period of transition towards the new information system. The Delegate said that Canada undertook to send the OIE information on all diseases in a transparent and timely manner. The Delegate congratulated the other Member Countries on their efforts to report diseases under the new information system, which uses the new single list of diseases. These efforts will also make it possible to provide better public health and food safety protection, by managing risks at the international level, and will help countries to take their decisions based on relevant information. Lastly, the Delegate asked for the information on disease occurrences provided by the Animal Health Information Department to specify the place and date of such events, so as to make it possible to apply the zoning and compartmentalisation concepts which importing countries must consider in their decision-making.

275. Dr Vallat pointed out that some countries that had reported cases of *Newcastle disease*, particularly in ornamental birds or wild birds, had been penalised in their commercial trade. This is a problem that must be resolved, as exemplified by the draft new chapter on *avian influenza*, which makes it compulsory to notify both low pathogenic and high pathogenic strains, but which also states that countries reporting the presence of low pathogenic strains must not be penalised. This new chapter on *avian influenza* could provide useful indications for a new chapter on Newcastle disease and its notification.
276. The Delegate of **Chile** congratulated the Animal Health Information Department, and Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation, particularly on his report concerning aquatic animal diseases. The Delegate said that significant progress had been made in Chile in the programme to eradicate *porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome*. Vaccination has not been implemented, all the positive herds in 'single-site' farms have been culled and the disease now exists in only two 'multi-site' farms. Strict movement control, biosecurity and surveillance measures contributed to the success of this campaign. Significant progress is being made to control the outbreak of *American foulbrood* in a province in northern Chile. The disease has not been detected anywhere else in the country. An epidemiological survey has been implemented throughout the country to confirm the absence of *American foulbrood*, *European foulbrood*, *Tropilaelaps* and *Aethina tumida*. The Delegate of Chile asked for future reports on animal disease status worldwide to provide more information on bee diseases, especially viral diseases, owing to their importance for trade in these animals and their products.
277. The Delegate of **Cuba** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation and explained that the cases of *rabbit haemorrhagic disease* in his country had occurred in December 2004 and not, as stated in the report, in December 2003.
278. The Delegate of the **United States of America** reported the occurrence in 2004 of *highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)* in a non-commercial flock, with a low mortality level. High pathogenicity had been confirmed by sequencing the viral gene but chicken inoculation did not result in deaths.
279. The Delegate of **India** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on the large amount of information contained in his presentation, given the short time frame. The Delegate asked what the criteria were for presenting detailed maps only for some countries.
280. Dr Ben Jebara said that the changes in the information system would make it possible to obtain disease information on lower administrative levels, such as a region, province, etc., provided that the necessary tools were available, such as digitised maps for each country. Some of the examples given in his presentation were designed to demonstrate the potential of the new OIE information system. To this end, countries should endeavour to supply the OIE with detailed outline maps (in the form of standard files) showing the various administrative levels.
281. The Delegate of **Lebanon** reported that in 2005 Lebanon had progressed from *rinderpest* provisionally free status to rinderpest free status. He also apologised for the delay in sending the annual report, and said that the report on animal disease status worldwide in 2004 failed to mention the absence of *bluetongue* in Lebanon.
282. The Delegate of **New Zealand** said that, as everybody knew, his country had been faced with a serious challenge when it received a letter claiming that a phial of *FMD* virus had been released on a small off-shore island in his country. The letter also threatened that the virus would be released throughout the country if the Government attempted to change its fiscal policy. The Delegate declared that no release of virus had occurred and that, following

the investigation which New Zealand had carried out in a transparent manner, all trade partners were duly informed of the matter. The Delegate also thanked the OIE Member Countries for their responsible attitude and the unlimited support they had given New Zealand on this occasion. New Zealand's response had been commensurate with the risk, given the low density of animals on the island in question. The Delegate stressed the need for discussions on the appropriate decisions to be taken in such cases, especially where they involve threats to areas with a large animal population, where the measures to be taken could be costly and in situations where trade partners might have greater reservations. The Delegate added that there must be a balanced response in order to avoid over-reacting while at the same time dissuading others who might be tempted to emulate such actions. Since such a situation represents a very real challenge for all countries, transparent communication is essential and the final results of the investigation and its conclusions must be sent rapidly to the OIE. Lastly, the Delegate emphasised the need for new agreements between the Veterinary Services and for new OIE guidelines to be proposed for responding to such emergencies.

283. Dr Vallat said that the act of bioterrorism that **New Zealand** had suffered could happen anywhere in the world. The OIE continues to work within the framework of the Biological Weapons and Toxin Convention, which meets in Geneva, Switzerland, and in which approximately 150 countries participate. The OIE, with the support of the FAO and the WHO, has indicated to the Convention that the most effective way of preventing bioterrorism using animal pathogens is to strengthen the Veterinary Services by improving their early-warning and surveillance systems for animal diseases and for all Member Countries to strictly comply with OIE standards.
284. The Delegate of Vietnam declared that, since the beginning of the *HPAI* epidemic in early 2004, **Vietnam** has received kind and generous assistance from the international community, including the OIE, the FAO, and the WHO, as well as from many countries. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Director General and the President of the OIE, the OIE Regional Office in Tokyo, scientists and experts as well as to other international organisations and other OIE Member Countries. The Delegate of Vietnam nevertheless requested the international community to continue to help his country in view of the high risk of *HPAI* re-emerging in Vietnam and the continued risk of a global pandemic, given the complex behaviour of the disease.

Presentations by International Organisations having signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)

International Livestock Research Institute

285. Dr Carlos Serè, Director General of ILRI, reported on that organisation's activities.
286. ILRI works at the crossroads of livestock and poverty, bringing high-quality science and capacity building to bear on poverty reduction and sustainable development. The research portfolio comprises five inter-related themes: *Targeting opportunities*, *Enabling Innovation*, *Market opportunities*, *Biotechnology* and *People, livestock and the environment*.
287. ILRI works in partnerships and alliances with other organisations, national and international, in livestock research, training and information.
288. Animal health research is a critical component of ILRI's outputs. There is growing public awareness of the importance of animal diseases as a 'global public bad'; no country can isolate itself from disease risks in other parts of the world. At the same time there is an urgent need to develop approaches to handle disease control in settings where market

failures prevent the private sector alone from investing in the development of vaccines and diagnostics, in particular for 'orphan' diseases as indicated by the Director General of the OIE. Through a consortium of public and private partners, ILRI's specific efforts in this area focus on developing a recombinant vaccine for East Coast fever.

289. ILRI is developing the Biosciences east and central Africa (BecA), an advanced bioscience facility to serve the demands for technology development in the region. This shared technology platform will greatly enhance the capacity of African institutions to undertake cutting-edge vaccine and diagnostics research. ILRI is actively supporting the development of the Global Alliance for Livestock Vaccines (GALV), a public-private sector partnership for the development of vaccines and diagnostic tests for livestock.
290. It is increasingly recognised that improving market access of poor countries and the poorer sectors of society to livestock products is important to the process of poverty reduction. However, the cost of complying with the SPS Agreement can limit such access. ILRI has initiated studies on this challenging issue.
291. The research mandate of ILRI complements the mandates of the OIE, the FAO and other international institutions working to improve the role of livestock as a tool for wealth creation among the poor while keeping the world a healthy place for all its people and animals.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

292. Dr Junichiro Okamata, representing the SEAFDEC³⁴, reported on that organisation's activities.
293. SEAFDEC is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1967 and has 12 member countries. It has four technical departments in charge of research, training, the development of technologies related to fishing, and aquaculture.
294. The creation in 1999 of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) in partnership with ASEAN has made it possible, since 2000, to implement regional training and health management programmes for fisheries' products, in agreement with the principles of transparency and respect for environmental conditions.
295. SEAFDEC has collaborated with the OIE in the past, in particular by means of the FCG, to the benefit of both organisations. SEAFDEC is delighted to enter into a formal partnership with the OIE through a Memorandum of Agreement for mutual cooperation, which will allow better consideration of the international standards for the greater benefit of the fisheries and aquaculture industry in the ASEAN region.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I

Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2004 and the Beginning of 2005

296. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. I concerning the adoption by the Committee of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2004 and the Beginning of 2005. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. I at the end of this report.

³⁴ SEAFDEC: Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX
Date for the implementation of the modified OIE list of animal diseases

297. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. XXIX on the date for the implementation of the modified OIE list of animal diseases.
298. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIX at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

299. Dr Marc Artois, a member of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, presented the work that had been carried out by the Working Group during its meeting held from 14 to 16 February 2005 under the chairmanship of Dr Roy Bengis (Doc. 73 SG/13/GT).
300. Sixty-two countries sent the OIE an annual report on wildlife diseases in 2004 within the allotted deadline. In seven countries no particular wildlife diseases were reported. A total of 869 different cases of disease or events were reported. Thirty-two incidents of List A diseases were noted in different species of wildlife, in the form of serological indicators or identification of the pathogen. They concerned the following: classical swine fever, African swine fever, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue, peste des petits ruminants and avian paramyxovirus type 1.
301. Among List B diseases, a total of 464 cases of disease were reported in wildlife. Rabies, anthrax, trichinellosis, bovine tuberculosis, tularemia and avian tuberculosis were the most frequent List B diseases observed. In addition, 405 wildlife list diseases were reported. Of these events, sarcoptic mange, salmonellosis, European brown hare syndrome, pseudotuberculosis, avian pox and trichomoniasis were most frequently observed.
302. The milestone events of 2004 include:
- **Avian influenza:** Customs officials at Brussels airport, Belgium, intercepted a passenger from Thailand who had concealed two mountain hawk eagles (*Spizaetus nipalensis*) in his luggage. Tests carried out on the animals revealed the presence of H5N1 virus identical to the strain present in South-East Asia. In view of the fact that the two infected birds did not leave accredited quarantine centres, this diagnosis has no effect on the sanitary status of the Belgian poultry population.

Wild birds, particularly *Anseriformes* (ducks, geese and swans) and *Charadriiformes* (shorebirds, gulls and terns), are reservoirs of influenza A viruses, and the epidemiology of these viruses in free-living birds is complex. However, highly pathogenic H5 and H7 viruses are very rarely found in wild birds. So, recent reports of highly pathogenic H5N1 causing occasional wild bird mortality in South-East Asia are unusual and could be a potential cause for concern. It is clear that wild birds cannot be considered as being in the same compartment as poultry and so the detection of influenza A viruses in wild birds, even of H5 and H7 subtypes, should not trigger trade sanctions against countries undertaking such surveillance and reporting the results in a transparent manner.

The Working Group noted that highly pathogenic strains in domestic poultry appear to be evolving within these captive populations from mildly pathogenic strains that could possibly come from wild birds. Where possible, countries must therefore keep wild birds under surveillance in order to identify and characterise any influenza A

viruses present. The Working Group considers it essential for effective international disease management that the results of epidemiological surveillance in wild birds be shared with the international community.

- **Bluetongue** in the United States of America: the BTV-17 strain was isolated from three wild white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and mule deer (*O. hemionus*) in Idaho. Bluetongue was also reported in red deer in Italy and Spain, and in camels (*Camelus dromedarius*, *C. bactrianus*) and Moufflon sheep (*Ovis musimon*) in Italy. Five cases of bluetongue were diagnosed in Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) at the National Wildlife Research Centre (NWRC) in Taif, Saudi Arabia.
 - In South Africa, an outbreak of **African swine fever** was also detected involving two European wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) that had been illegally translocated to a game farm adjoining the Kruger National Park. This outbreak was linked to contact with infected warthogs (*Phacochoerus africanus*) and ticks (*Ornithodoros porcinus*). Outbreaks were also reported in domestic pigs in Namibia and Tanzania following a likely contact with the natural reservoir.
 - 2004 will definitely be recorded as the year when **anthrax** was rekindled in southern and eastern Africa. A number of climatic, environmental and animal population factors were ideal for the occurrence of focal and multicentric outbreaks of anthrax in Sub-Saharan Africa.
303. In addition to this list, there were also recurrent reports of outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, classical swine fever in wild boar and rabies, although 2004 saw no major geographical spread or disease emergence in new species.
304. Several 'unlisted' wildlife diseases have now been included in the reports sent by Member Countries in answer to the questionnaire. This is due to a growing concern among Veterinary Services that wildlife could constitute a disease reservoir for humans (zoonoses) or productive animals and that such diseases could threaten the survival of endangered animal populations:
- A syndrome referred to as **Devil facial tumour disease (DFTD)** is currently affecting Tasmanian Devils (*Sarcophilus harrisii*, a marsupial predator) in Tasmania (Australia). The disease has now been recorded in over 65% of the State and is almost certainly present in a larger area. It is estimated that there are now likely to be one-third to about one-half the wild Devil numbers in the State compared to 10 years ago. Assessment for DFTD is hampered by a lack of understanding of the aetiology and hence a lack of a diagnostic test. This has led to the hypothesis that DFTD may be directly passed from animal to animal by implantation of the cell line during fighting and biting.
 - The morbidity and mortality associated with **West Nile virus infections** among humans, equidae and wild animals in the Americas in 2002 and 2003 will go down in history as the largest recognised human arboviral meningoencephalitis epidemic in the Western Hemisphere and the largest West Nile virus meningoencephalitis epidemic ever recorded. While reported West Nile virus activity was much lower in the United States of America, in 2004 the virus continued to spread in the north and south of the continent. Several countries in North America and Europe continue to use epidemiological surveillance of wild birds, mosquitoes or sentinel animals, either singly or in combination, to detect West Nile virus. To date, no evidence of West Nile virus infection has been found from surveillance in the United Kingdom. In contrast, West Nile virus circulation was detected early in Camargue (France) using surveillance. It was then possible to signal the propagation of the virus in July and August 2004, before a new outbreak occurred in horses.

- A flavi-virus, the **Usutu virus**, related to the West Nile virus, has been affecting Austria's blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) for the past three years and is threatening to spread to bird populations in central Europe. In 2004, the virus spread across the entire east of the country and probably as far as Slovakia and Hungary.
 - The Working Group urges the Delegates of countries affected by a **decline in vulture populations** of the *Gyps* genus on the Indian subcontinent to ensure that complete information on this important ecological event is made available to the scientific community.
305. The Group reviewed the implications of Resolution No. XXIX on **emerging and re-emerging zoonoses**, adopted at the 72nd General Session. It noted that, in accordance with that Resolution, the OIE had created a new Ad hoc Group with an inter-disciplinary membership. The Working Group on Wildlife Diseases will participate actively in these OIE activities. It was felt that the expertise of members of the Working Group concerning emerging wildlife zoonoses, as evidenced by the work described in several articles of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, would be most beneficial to the new Ad hoc Group.
306. The Working Group reviewed its 2004 report on national preparedness and discussed what further work it might undertake that could be useful to Veterinary Services and the International Committee. It was decided that the Working Group would prepare a briefing document for Veterinary Services on **national preparedness to respond to important disease outbreaks that may involve wild animals**. The purpose of the document will be to provide information useful to Veterinary Services that may wish to plan responses to animal disease outbreaks, and that want to ensure that wild animals are included appropriately in their planning process.
307. The Working Group discussed what it could do to collaborate in these actions being taken toward more effective international disease management. It was decided that the Working Group should focus on surveillance and prepare a **detailed appendix on surveillance of diseases specifically in wild animal populations** for inclusion, through the usual channels of review and approval, in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. This appendix will be written with reference to the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter on disease surveillance, and will include a rationale for surveillance of diseases in wild animals, methods applicable in the field, collection of specimens, laboratory examinations and information management issues peculiar to surveillance in wild animal species and populations.
308. For a number of years, the Working Group has been concerned that diagnostic tests validated for use on samples from particular species of domestic animals are too often used on samples from wild animal species for which the tests have not been validated. The results from such tests can pose problems of interpretation, as they may be radically inaccurate and be replete with false positives or false negatives. In 2004, the Group finalised its analysis of the suitability, for use on wild animal species, of tests used for the diagnosis of diseases of particular importance to the OIE. The detailed results of this analysis are presented in the full report (73 SG/13/GT). The work will be extended in 2005 to cover new major diseases. The Working Group hopes that the analysis presented in this report will serve as a useful guide to Chief Veterinary Officers and diagnostic laboratories wishing to test wild animals for diseases. The Working Group also hopes that the relevant OIE Commissions and Reference Laboratories will recognise the growing importance of surveillance and diagnosis (or screening) of important diseases in wild animals.
309. Other important items tackled at the meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases were:
- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): the Working Group discussed a risk analysis on the use of a vaccine for the cottontail rabbit prepared from a genetically modified myxoma virus. This case study provides insights into the range of issues

that surround the use of GMOs in wildlife disease management. The Working Group now awaits the results of an OIE questionnaire on the application of biotechnology to livestock and animal health products, which is currently in circulation, before making any further review of the GMO issue. In the meantime, the case study will be reviewed by Working Group members. The Working Group will retain the GMO issue as an active agenda item for future meetings.

- The Group recommended that Delegates from countries with international wildlife disease expertise or competent institutions should apply to be OIE Collaborating Centres on wildlife diseases.
- Dr Daniel Chaisemartin, Chargé de Mission to the Director General of the OIE, presented the web pages of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. The current site includes a Group home page that provides access to useful information: terms of reference and composition of the Group, reports from previous years, technical items and useful links. The Group discussed and agreed on how to improve the content of these web pages.

The Delegates may consult the Working Group's web pages at the following address (in English only): www.oie.int/wildlife/eng/en_wildlife.htm. The Group would welcome any suggestions for improvements.

310. Finally, the Working Group was pleased at the success of the questionnaire to evaluate the world status of wildlife diseases. Although a few clarifications are needed, the questionnaire now appears to be operational and should not require significant changes in the next few years. It is difficult for the questionnaire to be returned to the OIE any later than mid- to late February, due to the time required to draw up and translate the report of the meeting of the Working Group responsible for analysing the answers.
311. The President thanked Dr Artois for his excellent presentation and requested him to convey the thanks of the Committee to the other members of the Working Group.
312. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

313. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the Bureau of the Commission had met at the OIE headquarters from 28 June to 2 July 2004, and that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE headquarters from 17 to 28 January 2005. The Commission had met again just before the 73rd General Session to examine comments made by Member Countries on the report of the January meeting, to identify issues that could be dealt with during the General Session. The remaining items and comments received since January would be discussed at the next Bureau meeting in July, and comments on these various topics would not have to be resubmitted.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation of his fellow members on the Commission (Drs W.A. Valder, S.C. MacDiarmid, A. Panin, K. Hargreaves and Prof. A.M. Hassan) for their enthusiasm and expertise. He also thanked Dr Wilson and his staff at the OIE Central Bureau for their hard work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

Dr Thiermann recalled the extensive work programme for the Commission as a result of discussions at the 72nd General Session, with priorities including a further revision of the avian influenza chapter, a three-category approach to country status in the BSE chapter, a revision of the BSE surveillance appendix, as well as advancing appendices on surveillance for FMD, AI and CSF, and finalisation of the first specific standards on animal welfare. Progress on these priorities would be discussed further in this report. In general, he believed that it had been another productive year, with 24 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption and several others in preparation. He referred Delegates to the report of the January meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission (Doc. 73 SG/12/CS1) for additional details.

Dr Thiermann expressed his concern and frustration, and those of the entire Commission, regarding the excessive priority being given to BSE. The disproportionate amount of time devoted to work on BSE continues to prevent the Terrestrial Code Commission from addressing other important and urgent matters in the *Terrestrial Code*. Nearly 50% of the Commission's time is being spent on BSE, while the international community is in need of revised and new chapters on many other diseases.

Dr Thiermann recalled that the full Commission meeting had been held in January to allow more time for Working Group and Ad hoc Group meetings. However, this allowed less time for Delegates to review paper versions of reports. The OIE will continue to provide electronically a preliminary version of meeting reports in English, as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. Dr Thiermann welcomed the new OIE policy of placing Commission reports, with Working Group and Ad hoc Group reports appended, on the OIE public Web site as this provided an opportunity for other organisations and the general public to be aware of the important work being done in the OIE on international standards, and for them to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann strongly encouraged more Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by sending comments in sufficient time for them to be considered by the Commission. He suggested that submission of detailed comments on Commission reports should be made prior to the main meetings of the Commission and not just before or during the General Session, as the latter provides no opportunity for other Delegates to review and support proposed changes.

314. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the International Committee that any insertion or amendment to the *Terrestrial Code* would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Committee during the course of the week.

315. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the International Committee for adoption:

316. **Chapter 1.1.1. General definitions**

The Terrestrial Code Commission had revised the definition of 'buffer zone' and deleted the term 'surveillance zone'. Under the modified definition, a free country or zone may implement certain necessary controls in the 'buffer zone' to protect its status, without those measures adversely affecting its free status.

The definition of 'case' was modified to encourage reporting of diseases not listed by the OIE, including new emerging diseases and pathogens. The change to the definition of 'emerging disease' was designed to limit reporting to those pathogens or diseases showing a

significant impact on animal or public health. A definition for 'Competent Authority' was proposed to address those situations where 'Veterinary Services' may be situated within a larger authority.

A definition of 'notifiable disease' to be applied nationally has been proposed. Another definition clarifying national obligations as opposed to those for notifiable diseases with reference to the OIE, will be proposed at a later date.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of Australia sought and received confirmation from Dr Thiermann that more detailed in-depth comments received from Member Countries will be considered by the Terrestrial Code Commission in July without having to be being re-submitted.

The Delegate of South Africa stated that the proposed text for the definition of buffer zone allowed for a buffer zone to be part of a free zone or of an infected zone. As this may cause confusion, he proposed to add to the text that the buffer zone is not part of a free zone or of an infected zone. With respect to the definition of case, he remarked that OIE was promoting notification of all diseases. South Africa would rather focus on those diseases that have a significant or potentially significant impact on animal and public health. With regard to the Delegate's question on the definition of emerging disease, Dr Thiermann explained that inclusion of the word 'potential' had been declined by the experts as it may have led to any disease being reported.

The Delegate of Argentina drew attention to the lack of any reference to boundaries in the definition of buffer zone, for example political boundaries can be substituted by other more concrete boundaries. Dr Thiermann advised the Delegate that the definitions do not contain such detail but that this can be found in the specific disease chapters.

The Delegate of Guyana asked for the addition of the word 'suspected' to buffer zone and to surveillance zone. The Delegate of Swaziland preferred a clear definition of the various zones. The President proposed the text without the addition of the word 'suspected'.

The chapter was adopted with the agreed modifications.

317. Chapter 1.3.5. Zoning and compartmentalisation

Following discussions with the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Scientific Commission, the Terrestrial Code Commission had drafted a revised chapter to provide more guidance to Member Countries on the procedures for establishing and maintaining zones and compartments, and for having them recognised by trading partners.

The President introduced Chapter 1.3.5. Zoning and compartmentalisation and asked Dr Thiermann to provide some background on the issue. The President thanked Dr Thiermann for this clarification and opened the discussion.

The Delegate of Ireland thanked the Commission for its work and welcomed the introduction of "biosecurity measures" but asked that this concept be placed in the 1st paragraph of the chapter as it would make the approach more proactive. Dr Thiermann explained that the management of biosecurity measures involved both importing and exporting countries due to the need for careful application.

The Delegate of Japan expressed his appreciation for the proposed amendments to the text, which are in line with the comments he had made.

The Delegate of Uruguay, supported by the Delegate of Argentina, thanked Dr Thiermann for his work and stated that he preferred to retain the term 'regionalisation', given that a region includes more than one country, whereas zoning delineates a territory within the borders of a country. The concept of regionalisation enables sanitary measures to be coordinated at the level of an ecosystem involving more than one country.

The Delegate of Haiti explained that the majority of developing countries had no problem with the principle of compartmentalisation but were uneasy about the conditions governing its application.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, welcomed the Commission's work on compartmentalisation and recalled that this concept would have to be applied differently according to each disease chapter's specifications in the *Terrestrial Code*. He considered it important to clarify the role of Veterinary Services in the creation and surveillance of compartments. Dr Thiermann agreed with the Delegate on the flexibility of the concept regarding different diseases. He then clarified that it is the obligation of the exporting country to demonstrate that the compartment is protected by appropriate biosecurity measures; he indicated that the recognition process for compartments should not be completely different from the one used to define zones. Regarding the role of the Veterinary Services, Dr Thiermann pointed out that the creation of compartments, as well as the certification processes, have to pass through the official Veterinary Services and that the private sector has to cooperate throughout the process.

The Delegate of Singapore observed that this proposed chapter gave the opportunity to the importing and exporting countries to define the compartments and zones to be recognised, and asked what the role of the OIE will be in the official disease-free recognition procedures for free zones with regard to FMD. Dr Thiermann agreed with the Delegate of Singapore that it is the duty of the importing and exporting countries to agree on the specifications of compartments and demonstrate their security. He noted that it was the role of the OIE to recognise official FMD-free countries. Dr Vallat clarified the role of the OIE in the official disease-free recognition procedures for free status of Member Countries. He recalled that the procedure is also applied to FMD, BSE, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia but stressed that this procedure was created to apply to countries and zones and was not yet applicable to compartments. He considered that the use of the concept of compartment was not new, and had already been in use for several years even if under a different name (e.g. bovine tuberculosis, through the creation of infected versus non-infected herds). Regarding the role of the Veterinary Services in the compartmentalisation process, he clarified that the Veterinary Services of the importing country had to do their assessment negotiating with counterparts in the exporting country; this requires a mutual evaluation and recognition of Veterinary Services. He underlined the crucial role played by the official Veterinary Services in that they take the responsibility for the final certification.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, supported by the Delegate of Spain, thanked Dr Thiermann for the clarification received and suggested adding to the proposed text that the Veterinary Services are responsible for the control of the compartments in partnership with the private sector.

The Delegate of New Zealand, referring to the comments made by the Delegates of Japan and Singapore, queried the consistency of this chapter with the rules of the SPS Agreement (notably with Article 3). He suggested specifying in the text that this chapter has to apply unless stated otherwise by the SPS Agreement. Dr Thiermann replied that the WTO rules apply in general to the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, and there was no need to state this in each chapter.

The Delegate of Swaziland referred to the bio-management of compartments and asked if it would be better to ask the Veterinary Services to examine and approve the management of compartments rather than just examining them. Dr Thiermann replied that although the

private sector had an important role in the management of the compartment, it is still clear that the final certification lies with the Veterinary Services.

The Delegate of Australia supported the adoption of the chapter, but stated that it was clear that official Veterinary Services have responsibility for certification and are accountable. Partnership arrangements are critical to animal health. Articulation of this concept is sensible and could perhaps be usefully included at a later time. He also stated that compartmentalisation had been practised for many years in Australia under different circumstances.

The President, supported by Dr Vallat and Prof. Caporale, proposed the introduction of more detail in order to clarify the significant role of Veterinary Services and animal identification in the design and surveillance of compartments.

Dr Thiermann proposed the introduction of new text regarding the role of Veterinary Services and asked for endorsement from the Delegates.

The Chapter was adopted with the agreed modifications.

318. **Appendix 3.8.1. General guidelines for animal health surveillance**

Dr Thiermann thanked the Scientific Commission for its work on a revised appendix on general guidelines for animal health surveillance.

It is planned that this text be placed in Section 3.8. of the *Terrestrial Code* to serve as an introduction to the appendices dealing with surveillance of specific diseases, replacing the existing chapter on surveillance and monitoring of animal health and the appendix on the general principles for recognising a country or zone free from a given disease/infection.

Dr Thiermann introduced the Appendix on General Guidelines for Animal Health Surveillance and explained the background of the text.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, supported the Commission's work.

The Appendix was adopted with the agreed modifications.

319. **Chapter 2.1.1 Criteria for listing diseases**

Dr Thiermann advised that the Terrestrial Code Commission had endorsed the report of an Ad hoc Group on disease/pathogen notification, which had produced a revised list of terrestrial animal diseases by judging the diseases against the agreed criteria.

Dr Thiermann introduced the Chapter on Criteria for listing diseases and explained the background to the text.

The Delegate of Australia, supported by the Delegate of New Zealand and the Delegate of Norway, sought clarification on the process for adding and deleting diseases from the list. Australia accepted the criteria, and the Delegate proposed that a country suggesting a change to the list be required to provide a rationale, to increase the transparency of the process.

Dr Vallat recalled the procedure adopted the previous year (through Articles 2.1.1.1. and 2.1.1.2.) for modifying the OIE list of terrestrial diseases and indicated that this procedure has been used by the OIE experts to assess the current list. This is an on-going revision process and any Member Country that wants to propose an addition to or deletion from the OIE list of diseases has to provide a scientifically based assessment of the disease against the approved listing criteria. The OIE will address the request by submitting it to a relevant group of experts and then to the relevant elected Commissions.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, welcomed the Commission's work and sought clarification on what the status of a Member Country notifying tuberculosis, leukosis or brucellosis would be. Dr Thiermann clarified that the diseases would still have to be reported as specified in the relevant *Terrestrial Code* chapters.

The Delegate of Japan stressed the importance of fowl cholera and requested its retention on the list. The request of Japan was accepted.

The Chapter was adopted with the agreed modifications.

320. **Chapter 2.2.10. Foot and mouth disease**

The Terrestrial Code Commission had proposed that, in a vaccinated population where vaccination had been carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the *Terrestrial Manual*, the maturation and deboning of meat should not be required for countries or zones free from FMD with vaccination. The Scientific Commission had endorsed this view.

In Article 2.2.10.5., the Terrestrial Code Commission had removed the reference to 'outbreak' as, if an outbreak occurs, the country or zone would need to follow the recommendations in Article 2.2.10.7. for recovery of status.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of Argentina raised an issue that existed only in the English language, relating to the use of the words 'may', 'should' and 'must'. Dr Thiermann explained that, as OIE standards are recommendations, the word 'should' is used rather than 'must'.

The Delegate of South Africa expressed his concern regarding meat from vaccinated animals, especially meat from vaccinated buffaloes. The Delegate was asked to submit written questions on this subject so that they could be submitted to the relevant experts.

In answer to a question from the Delegate of Singapore as to whether the concept of compartmentalisation is applicable to FMD, Dr Thiermann said that the concept of compartmentalisation is applicable in most situations and gave the example of ruminants of high genetic value in a country not free from FMD being kept FMD free by proven biosecurity measures rather than geography. The Director General also gave an example – some years ago the OIE was asked for a solution to avoid having to apply stamping out to rare cattle breeds and zoo animals and suggested a compartmentalisation approach. However, at present, the OIE does not have a mandate to recognise FMD free compartments, only free countries or zones.

The Delegate of New Zealand noted that Articles 2.2.10.19/20/21/22/23 contained the following phrase: "have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for FMD with favourable results". He was of the view that it was not the task of OIE to mention favourable results of an inspection of foodstuffs and suggested that a reference to the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene would be a preferable approach. In response, Dr Thiermann explained that the chapter on tuberculosis already contains such a reference and this approach could be applicable to other chapters in the future.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, confirmed the support of the EU for the FMD chapter. He also gave support to the FMD surveillance appendix.

The Chapter was adopted with the agreed modifications.

321. Appendix 3.8.7. Surveillance for foot and mouth disease

The Terrestrial Code Commission had been appreciative of the work of the experts who, under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, revised the draft surveillance appendix for FMD. The Terrestrial Code Commission had made some minor editorial changes to harmonise the draft with similar drafts for avian influenza and classical swine fever (CSF).

Dr Thiermann introduced the appendix on guidelines for the surveillance of foot and mouth disease. He explained that no significant comments had been received and proposed adoption of the appendix.

The Delegate of Taipei China questioned the use of tests that had not been validated, for example for the detection of FMD in pigs. The President of the Scientific Commission, Prof. Caporale, explained that the problem of non-validated tests was well-known and that the EU had provided funds for further scientific work on this subject. He advised that the pathway described and the tests referred to in the appendix for pigs were not compulsory for the moment and others may be available.

The Appendix was adopted by the International Committee.

≡ THURSDAY 26 MAY 2005 ≡

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

322. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 31 August to 2 September 2004 and from 26 to 28 January 2005, were presented by Prof. Steven Edwards, President of the Commission (Docs 73 SG/12/CS2 A and B). Additional business had been transacted between meetings by e-mail. He thanked the Members of the Commission, Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, and Dr Anatoly Golovko, Secretary General, for their support, and expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants, Dr Adama Diallo, representing the OIE Collaborating Centre for ELISA and Molecular Techniques in Animal Disease Diagnosis, IAEA³⁵, Vienna, Austria, and Dr Peter Wright, President of the OIE Ad hoc Group on Nonstructural Protein (NSP) Tests for FMD Diagnosis, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Staff at the OIE Central Bureau, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, have been tireless in their support.

³⁵ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

323. The Commission has taken note of the joint initiatives by OIE with other international organisations such as the FAO, the WHO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and has endeavoured to support such activities through its own work on standards for diagnostic laboratory tests and vaccines.
324. The Commission has received reports from the Ad hoc Groups on NSP Tests for FMD Diagnosis, on Antimicrobial Resistance, on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for FMD and on Biosafety/Biocontainment Standards for laboratories. It has also worked with the other Specialist Commissions and their Ad hoc Groups on matters of mutual interest.

325. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

The mandate and terms of reference for OIE Reference Laboratories demand a high level of performance, including the tangible demonstration of activities in support of Member Countries outside the one where the laboratory is located. The Commission is committed to maintaining such standards as a requirement. Even so, it is considered important for global animal health that more OIE Reference Laboratories be identified in developing countries. Delegates are recommended to support, wherever possible, programmes of 'twinning' between laboratories in developed and developing countries to enable such growth and development to happen. A template was drafted to assist laboratories wishing to make such 'twinning' arrangements. The Commission believes that there is a need for OIE Reference Laboratories for Japanese encephalitis, avian infectious bronchitis, and leishmaniosis, and would like Delegates to consider suitable nominations.

326. The Commission supports and recommends proposals to establish an OIE Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Population Animal Health Diagnosis and Surveillance Systems at the International EpiLab at the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research, Søborg, Denmark; and to change the name and remit of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, Moscow, Russia, to OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety, Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; and of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases in Tropical Regions, CIRAD-EMVT³⁶, Montpellier, France, to OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis, Epidemiology and Control of Animal Diseases in Tropical Regions. It is further recommended that the name and remit of the OIE Reference Laboratory for the application of PCR³⁷ methods for diagnosis of viral diseases in veterinary medicine, Uppsala, Sweden, be changed to that of an OIE Collaborating Centre.
327. The Commission recommends acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status. Specific contact information and the names of the designated disease experts in each case are listed in the written reports of the Commission meetings.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza and Newcastle disease: Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Isle of Riems, Germany.

Brucellosis: Institute for Bacterial Infections and Zoonoses, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Jena, Germany.

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis: Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Isle of Riems, Germany.

³⁶ CIRAD-EMVT: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
- Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire

³⁷ PCR: polymerase chain reaction

Bluetongue: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale', Teramo, Italy.

Campylobacteriosis [joint designation]: Division of Infectious Diseases, Lelystad, The Netherlands, and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Utrecht, The Netherlands. It was noted that this Reference Laboratory would cover both bovine genital campylobacteriosis and infections of animals caused by *Campylobacter jejuni* and *C. coli*.

Echinococcosis: Laboratory of Environmental Zoology, Rakuno Gakuen University, Hokkaido, Japan.

328. The Commission has decided to temporarily suspend the designation of the OIE Reference Laboratory for rinderpest and peste des petits ruminants from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and would encourage the 'twinning' of this laboratory with another laboratory capable of supporting its relevant scientific needs.
329. A number of OIE Reference Laboratories have notified changes in their designated disease expert. In each case the Commission has reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she has the appropriate expertise. The names have been circulated to Member Countries in the Commission reports.
330. Reports were received from 121/128 Reference Laboratories and 14/14 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial animals. An analysis of the reported activities is included in the report of the January meeting. The full set of reports will be supplied to Member Countries and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Commission stressed the huge importance of the international activities of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.
331. The Commission noted a report of a mission by OIE experts to the People's Republic of China. The mission assessed the suitability of national reference veterinary laboratories, proposed by the Chinese veterinary authorities, to meet the OIE Reference Laboratory requirements and obligations, and provided advice to the Chinese veterinary authorities on the process for designation of OIE Reference Laboratories.
332. The Commission expressed its gratitude to Brazil for offering to host a conference for OIE Reference Laboratories in 2006, and recommends the Committee to support this proposal as a means of stimulating inter-laboratory collaboration and mutual support.
333. **International standardisation of diagnostic tests and vaccines**

a) Foot and mouth disease (FMD) serology

The Commission adopted new OIE reference sera prepared by the OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD in Pirbright, United Kingdom, for serotypes O, A, Asia 1, and negative bovine (all seven serotypes). These complement the existing OIE reference sera. Datasheets are available with further details. All were evaluated by virus neutralisation, liquid-phase blocking ELISA, and solid-phase competitive ELISA.

Strong positive, weak positive and negative bovine sera suitable for use as reference sera in the NSP tests for FMD have been prepared by the OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They had been evaluated by inter-laboratory comparisons among the OIE Reference Laboratories using a variety of NSP protocols.

The Commission adopted these sera as OIE reference standards for NSP tests. Progress was also reported on the establishment of an evaluation panel of 30 sera that should be suitable, once characterised, for evaluating new tests and for harmonisation studies.

b) Other diseases

Efforts continued to encourage OIE Reference Laboratories to collaborate on harmonisation of diagnostic tests, and to develop OIE reference sera. A number of projects are in progress and have been detailed in the Commission reports.

c) Standardisation of vaccines

The Commission received a detailed report and recommendations of the equine influenza expert surveillance panel. The conclusion of the panel was that both the American and European lineage equine influenza A H3N8 strains should continue to be used for vaccine manufacture, even though only the American lineage appears to be circulating globally at present. Advice was also provided on sources of reference sera for standardisation of vaccines and diagnostic tests.

334. List of prescribed and alternative tests

a) Notifiable avian influenza (NAI)

Following the recommendation of the OIE/FAO International Conference on Avian Influenza, held at the OIE headquarters on 7 and 8 April 2005, the Commission endorses the view that virus isolation tests, with appropriate confirmatory tests for NAI on any positives, should be adopted as prescribed tests for use in international trade where required by the *Terrestrial Code*.

b) FPA³⁸ for determination of antibody to smooth *Brucella* spp. in sheep and goats

The Commission has studied a validation dossier proposing the possible designation of the FPA as a prescribed test for antibody to smooth *Brucella* spp. in sheep and goats. This is still under consultation with experts.

c) Other diseases

The list of Prescribed and Alternative Tests is regularly reviewed by the Commission to ensure that the most appropriate procedures are available to Member Countries for use in international trade.

335. OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (mammals, birds and bees)

Prof. Edwards expressed thanks to the Consultant Editor, Dr James Pearson, for his ongoing efforts to collate comments received from experts and Member Countries in order to produce consensus texts. A feedback questionnaire on the 5th edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* had been sent out to all OIE Delegates and Reference Laboratories. Many useful and constructive comments were received, which will prove helpful in improving future editions. The Commission requested the OIE to investigate the feasibility of a CD-ROM version, as this is likely to be popular with the laboratory user community. Dr Anatoly

³⁸ FPA: fluorescence polarisation assay

Golovko (Secretary General of the Commission) reported that a Russian translation of the *Terrestrial Manual* was well advanced. The Commission has requested the OIE to make arrangements for validation of the text and printing. A French translation is also in progress. A Spanish version is available.

Revised or new texts for the following chapters have been sent to Member Countries: Sampling methods (incorporating the latest UN Model Regulations on transport of infectious pathogens); The role of official bodies in the international regulation of veterinary biologicals (updated information on VICH); Guidelines for international standards for vaccine banks (new chapter); Foot and mouth disease (new information on vaccines); Avian influenza (new information on vaccines including DIVA³⁹) strategy and use of recombinants, and use of specific antibody negative eggs as an alternative to specific pathogen free eggs); Contagious equine metritis (technical update); and Haemorrhagic septicaemia (technical update). Prof. Edwards informed the International Committee that, following comments received from one Member Country on the circulated text on FMD, it was proposed to reinstate the use of cell monolayers as an alternative to cell suspensions for vaccine production. Furthermore, primary bovine cells could be used for this purpose provided that full Good Manufacturing Practice is applied, including screening for adventitious agents. This will be evaluated further by the Commission. It was also proposed to delete the use of potency testing of FMD vaccines in pigs, pending further evaluation of the scientific validity of the method. Following the adoption of the new *Terrestrial Code* chapter on avian influenza, the recommended version for the *Terrestrial Manual* is Chapter 2.7.12. Avian influenza (document No. 6 in the first batch of draft chapters sent for Member Country comment). The Committee is recommended to adopt these chapters. As agreed previously by the Committee, revised chapters that are approved at the General Session will be updated on the OIE Web site.

Detailed technical comments on the *Terrestrial Manual* from Member Countries are regularly referred to experts before the Commission advises the OIE.

The Commission identified chapters needing revision during 2005/2006 and also made preliminary plans for the next full edition, for publication in 2008.

336. Validation and certification of diagnostic assays

Work has progressed on developing a validation template for submission of data for the OIE Registry of Validated and Certified Diagnostic Assays. Work is in progress to develop an electronic, interactive web-based template; this work is supported by the OIE Collaborating Centre in Vienna, Austria. In consultation with Dr Patrick Dehaumont, OIE Expert from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Fougères, France, a standard operating procedure was agreed for the administration of applications by the OIE. All information on the submission of applications can be found on the OIE Web site.

337. Ad hoc Group on NSP tests for FMD diagnosis

The Ad hoc Group met for the third time, from 6 to 8 September 2004. The report was appended to the report of the January meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix IV of Doc. 73 SG/12/CS2 B). The principal output was to evaluate the NSP reference test using the new OIE template for validation and certification

³⁹ DIVA: differentiating infected from vaccinated animals

of diagnostic assays (see above). The Commission declared the NSP test as fit for purpose, in vaccinated or non-vaccinated cattle, for a) declaration of population freedom; b) surveillance programmes; c) prevalence surveys; and d) outbreak management, especially recovery. Further work is needed to validate the test for use in sheep and pigs.

338. Ad hoc Group on Biosafety/Biocontainment Standards

The Commission agreed to a proposal from the International Veterinary Biosafety Advisory Group to prepare a manual on veterinary biosecurity standards. An OIE Ad hoc Group met under the Chairmanship of Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President of the Commission. The FAO and the WHO have been invited to participate. The terms of reference are to develop an international standard for the design, construction and operation of veterinary laboratories dealing with biological agents (and toxins), taking account of existing standards and guidelines for both animal pathogen containment and human biosafety. The work is still in progress, as reported (Appendix V of Doc. 73 SG/12/CS2 B).

339. Ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

The Ad hoc Group met in November 2004, and again in January 2005 in parallel with the Commission (Appendix VI of Doc. 73 SG/12/CS2 B). The Commission welcomed the work of the Ad hoc Group, but was unable to agree to its proposed definition of 'antimicrobial'. The Commission recognises the need for such a definition within the OIE that should also be cognate with the definitions used by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international bodies. The following modified definition is proposed:

Antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine refer to naturally occurring, semi-synthetic or synthetic substances that exhibit antimicrobial activity (kill or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms). Anthelmintics and substances classed as disinfectants or antiseptics are excluded from this definition.

The Ad hoc Group reviewed an appendix from the *Terrestrial Code* on 'Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals' and an appendix on 'Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine'. The Group also began work on the list of 'Veterinary critically important antimicrobials'; this work includes the preparation of a questionnaire to be sent to OIE Member Countries. This will be submitted to the Biological Standards Commission.

340. Liaison with other Commissions and Groups

a) Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Commission reviewed the reports of the following Ad hoc Groups, and took note of any recommendations relevant to its work: Antigen and Vaccine Banks for FMD; Avian Influenza Surveillance; Classical Swine Fever; Epidemiology; Evaluation of Freedom from Rinderpest; and Tuberculosis. The Ad hoc Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks for FMD had drafted the new chapter for the *Terrestrial Manual* on vaccine banks, and had also updated the vaccine section of the FMD chapter.

b) Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

In response to a query from the Terrestrial Code Commission, it was explained that the *Terrestrial Manual* already includes chapters on a number of diseases for which laboratory diagnostic standards are important, but which are not included in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission therefore plans to retain chapters in the *Terrestrial*

Manual for diseases taken off the OIE list of diseases, unless there is no perceivable value in retaining such chapters. It is clear from comments received from Member Countries that such chapters are highly valued, and the demand if anything is for more chapters on laboratory methods, rather than fewer.

341. **Miscellaneous items**

a) Transport of pathogens

Dr James Pearson represented the OIE at the meeting of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2004. The concerns expressed in the OIE paper and by many of the Country Representatives resulted in a compromise that should allow the shipment of samples from 'normal' (healthy) animals with a minimum of restrictions. Such samples will still require packaging in compliance with the regulations, but they will be labelled as "Exempt Animal Specimens". This will facilitate disease surveillance programmes and testing of animals to qualify them for shipment. The other modifications in the UN Model Regulations on infectious agents discussed at this meeting should not have a significant effect on OIE Member Countries. It appears that the changes approved at the previous meeting in July 2004 should become effective from April 2005. The timing of other agreed changes is to be clarified but may not be fully effective until January 2007. The revised chapter on sampling methods in the *Terrestrial Manual* includes the changes. The Commission is very grateful to Dr Pearson for his attention to this very complex piece of legislation.

b) Biological Weapons Convention

Dr Pearson reported on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) meeting that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 6 to 10 December 2004. The BWC Report strongly supported the role of the OIE, the FAO and the WHO in surveillance, detection, and diagnosis of human and animal disease. It also encouraged States Parties to support the activities of these organisations. This serves as a strong endorsement of the OIE's activities in these areas. The BWC also endorsed the States Parties' taking action to investigate and mitigate disease outbreaks, but its support of OIE, FAO and WHO action in this area was less definitive. There was strong support for the OIE's role in disease control, both officially at the meeting and in discussion with the members of the delegations.

c) WHO meeting on Managing Biorisks in Laboratory Environments

Prof. Edwards attended this meeting, which was held on 3 and 4 February 2005 in Lyons, France, on behalf of the OIE, along with Dr Alejandro Schudel, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department. The new WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual (3rd edition) was distributed and will provide a useful reference source for the OIE to develop its own standards for veterinary laboratories. Biosecurity, in the context of this meeting, referred to the curatorship and maintenance of strains and collections of infectious disease micro-organisms, and the protection of such strains and collections from loss, theft and deliberate misuse. Draft guidelines were discussed and it was agreed that the OIE, the WHO and the FAO should work together to establish common principles.

d) OIE/FAO Avian Influenza Network

The Commission revised a document prepared by the Central Bureau on the formation of and terms of reference for a proposed OIE/FAO Avian Influenza Network. This was launched at the OIE/FAO International Conference on Avian Influenza, held at the

OIE headquarters in April 2005. The network will comprise a Steering Committee to be chaired by the President of the Commission. The main activities will be led by a Scientific Committee of experts chaired by Dr Ilaria Capua from the OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza in Padua, Italy, supported by a wider team of scientific collaborators. The Commission commented that this network is an important part of the global response to threats of avian influenza, and emphasised the importance of collaborating with the WHO.

e) Joint FAO/IAEA Consultants Meeting on Early Warning Devices and Tools, 29 November – 3 December 2004, Vienna, Austria

The OIE and the President of the Commission had been represented at the above meeting by Dr Kath Webster, head of the Biotechnology Department at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, United Kingdom. The Commission reviewed her mission report, and took note of the recommendations concerning the development of appropriate diagnostic technology for local needs, but which is capable of being validated according to international guidelines, the provision of international reference standards, and the development of educational and communication tools.

f) Mission report: OIE Technical Assistance Mission to the People's Republic of China, 13–17 December 2004, for the Beijing Olympics

Four OIE experts had participated in a mission to the People's Republic of China to provide advice to the Chinese Authorities in preparation for the Beijing Olympics. The recommendations pertinent to laboratory standards were that, for the People's Republic of China to undertake surveillance for equine diseases: 1) the tests used should be those prescribed by the OIE; 2) the test methods outlined in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* should be followed; 3) standardised reagents should be used and reagents should be obtained from or exchanged with OIE Reference Laboratories or recognised international laboratories; 4) standardisation of testing by blind exchange of samples, with the above laboratories, should be considered; and 5) the tests described in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* to confirm questionable results should be used.

g) Foresight project on Detection and Identification of Infectious Diseases

Prof. Edwards has been nominated to represent the OIE in the 'high level stakeholder group' for a United Kingdom government project on detection and identification of infectious diseases. It will cover diseases of humans, animals and plants, and have an international focus. The FAO and the WHO are also participating. The project is taking a 'futures' perspective between 10 and 80 years ahead to produce state-of-science reviews. The project leaders and Prof. Edwards met with Dr Vallat and Dr Schudel at the OIE headquarters in January 2005.

h) Disease cards

All the existing cards have been updated and 29 new cards have been drafted with contributions from OIE interns. Once reviewed and approved by the Reference Laboratories, the cards will be placed on the OIE Web site. It was decided that in the future the disease cards should be updated by the contributors to the *Terrestrial Manual* at the same time as they update the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters.

i) International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH)

Dr Patrick Dehaumont informed the Commission of the role of the OIE in VICH. VICH focuses on harmonising registration requirements for veterinary medicinal products in the EU, the USA and Japan. Countries not involved in VICH are kept informed of its progress through the OIE. Fundamental to the existence of VICH is the Steering

Committee that is empowered to drive the harmonisation process. IFAH (International Federation for Animal Health) coordinates the positions of the three regional industry federations. IFAH and the OIE have signed an official agreement to improve the exchange of information between the two organisations. The Steering Committee has created a Task Force chaired by the OIE and composed of one representative from each member region and from the observers. The work of this task force will help the Steering Committee to evaluate needs and resources and to draw up proposals for remodelling the future VICH, including new ways of working.

The OIE, as an associated member, pays particular attention to all of these activities and does its utmost to help to contribute to the process of harmonisation of veterinary medicines at the world-wide level in order to strengthen the protection of public and animal health and to help to harmonise international practices. The Biological Standards Commission agreed that it is important to keep it and the OIE Member Countries informed of the activities of VICH.

j) **Conferences**

The Commission continues to participate actively in the planning and organisation of scientific conferences. These include:

OIE/FAO International Conference on Avian Influenza, held at the OIE headquarters, 7 and 8 April 2005.

Marker Vaccines and Differential Diagnostic Tests in Disease Control and Eradication, held from 4 to 6 April 2005 in Ames, Iowa, United States of America, in conjunction with the IABs⁴⁰ and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas;

Rabies in Europe, to be held in Kiev, Ukraine, rescheduled to 15–18 June 2005, co-sponsored by the OIE, the WHO, the EU and AFSSA⁴¹;

New Diagnostic Technology: Applications in Animal Health and Biologics Controls, to be held from 3 to 5 October 2005 in Saint-Malo, France, in collaboration with IABs, AFSSA, and APHIS⁴²;

7th OIE Seminar on Biotechnology, on the theme of 'Application of Biotechnology to Zoonotic Disease Diagnosis', to be held on 17 November 2005 during the WAVLD⁴³ meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Proposed conference for OIE Reference Laboratories in Brazil in 2006.

342. The President thanked Prof. Edwards for his comprehensive presentation and opened discussions on the various issues raised.
343. The Delegate of Syria congratulated Prof. Edwards for his outstanding presentation and thanked the members of the Biological Standards Commission for their excellent work. Regarding the quality control of FMD vaccines, he mentioned that the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* indicates that serological tests are useful to assess vaccine potency but the link between serological tests and PD₅₀ (50% protective dose) is not clear. He pointed out that different laboratories have different ways of making their calculations and some

⁴⁰ IABs: International Association for Biologicals

⁴¹ AFSSA: Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments

⁴² APHIS: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA, United States of America)

⁴³ WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

laboratories may not accept the methods used by others, thus leading to problems between the Veterinary Services and vaccine manufacturers. He therefore suggested that the Commission establish a clear link between serological tests and the PD₅₀ when describing vaccine potency. He also observed that challenge tests using animals are not practical in certain countries where there is a lack of facilities and where biosecurity is not optimal. Prof. Edwards replied that the Commission would certainly take note of these observations. He pointed out that while the *Terrestrial Manual* makes general recommendations, vaccine manufacturers are free to apply alternative approaches, but these need to be validated against the OIE standard procedures. He also added that the FMD chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* is continuously revised.

344. Speaking on behalf of the EU, the Delegate of Luxembourg congratulated Prof. Edwards and the members of the Commission for the outstanding work carried out during the past year, recognising that many sensitive issues had to be dealt with. He stated that the EU had submitted several comments on the FMD chapter and he hoped that these comments would be taken into consideration during the editing process. Prof. Edwards assured him that this would be the case. He added that, in his view, the vast majority of comments would be accepted; should there be any specific issues, these would be submitted to relevant experts for advice.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX

Adoption of seven draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

345. The Committee adopted unanimously Draft Resolution No. XIX on the Adoption of seven draft chapters for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. The text appears under Resolution No. XIX at the end of this report.
346. The Committee adopted the reports of the Biological Standards Commission.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

347. Chapter 2.3.13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Thiermann noted with thanks the detailed submissions received from Member Countries, invited OIE experts, OIE Regional Commissions and industry, in support of the Terrestrial Code Commission's work on the proposed three-category system. He advised that, as a result of the discussion on BSE at the 72nd General Session, the universal support expressed in comments received and the endorsement of the Scientific Commission, the Terrestrial Code Commission had prepared for adoption a revised BSE chapter based on the three-category system.

With regard to the safety of hides and skins from the head, the Commission was of the view that potential surface contamination of hides would be eliminated through the routine industrial processes of soaking the hides for hair removal and subsequent washing. In addition, further processing steps, e.g. for extraction and conversion into gelatin, would help ensure the safety of the final product. The Terrestrial Code Commission therefore had proposed that the exception for hides and skins from the head be removed.

With regard to blood and blood products, Dr Thiermann recalled the views of the Ad hoc Group on the BSE chapter on the safety of bovine blood and blood by-products, subject to stunning having been carried out in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code*. Accordingly, the Commission had recommended that blood and blood products be placed on the list of commodities that require no BSE-specific risk mitigation measures.

The Commission was also of the view that there was no scientific basis for considering that boneless skeletal muscle meat (excluding mechanically separated meat) would contain BSE infectivity. Accordingly, the Commission has recommended that boneless skeletal muscle meat be placed on the list of commodities that require no BSE-specific risk mitigation measures.

The Commission had considered submissions from several Member Countries that surveillance burdens be commensurate with the BSE risk determined through a structured, formal, science-based risk assessment. Some Member Countries had recommended a significant reduction in surveillance burdens in countries that had already demonstrated negligible risk, while others had recommended that high levels of surveillance and risk mitigation measures be applied in all countries. The Commission had considered these comments and proposed that the formal surveillance requirements specified in Appendix 3.8.4. should not apply to those Member Countries where the BSE risk had been assessed as negligible. However, criteria 2, 3 and 4 of Article 2 would still apply, in particular the compulsory notification and investigation of all cattle showing clinical signs consistent with BSE. Dr Thiermann emphasised that this approach was consistent with the requirements for many other OIE-listed diseases.

The text on the feed ban had been strengthened, and more emphasis has been placed on the risk assessment and less on disease prevalence. The Commission considered that the significant difference between the requirements in Articles 3 and 4 was whether a Member Country could demonstrate that the appropriate generic measures had been in place for the relevant period of time.

Dr Thiermann advised that comments from Member Countries that required consideration by BSE experts would be addressed after the General Session.

Dr Thiermann introduced the chapter with an explanation of the changes proposed.

The Delegate of Paraguay, speaking on behalf of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries of South America, congratulated the Terrestrial Code Commission on the hard work done and proposed that the titles of the categories should be 'negligible-risk', 'controlled-risk' and 'undetermined-risk' as they are more easily understood, as well as more proportional to the outcomes of the risk assessment. He also requested that surveillance systems be tailored to production systems and to take into account the outcomes of the risk assessment studies.

The Delegate of Japan thanked Dr Thiermann for the explanation. He then expressed his strong opposition to the inclusion of paragraph g) deboned skeletal muscle meat and paragraph h) blood and blood products in Article 1 as 'safe' commodities. He stated his view that fresh meat, with or without bone, from a cattle population of non-negligible risk should be subject to risk mitigating measures, as stipulated in Articles 10 and 11. He then drew attention to another concern – that, if those commodities were included in Article 1 with BSE-related measures to avoid contamination, a serious contradiction from a legal viewpoint would then arise, as Article 1 stipulates that the veterinary administration should not require any BSE-related measures for the commodities listed.

The Delegate of Taipei China fully supported Japan's view. He asked about the certainty of the safety of muscle, referring to a research paper published in 2004 indicating the existence of prions in the tongue muscle of experimentally infected hamsters.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea supported Japan and noted that the import conditions for 'deboned skeletal muscle meat' included in Article 1 in the list of 'safe commodities' are not consistent with the import conditions for other bovine meat, which are based on the status of the exporting country. He also stated that blood and blood products

need to be carefully reviewed because other TSE⁴⁴, such as scrapie and vCJD⁴⁵, can be transmitted through blood.

The Delegate of India, sharing the position of Japan, Taipei China and the Republic of Korea, expressed concern at the evidence for the circulation of prions suggested in the scientific paper referred to by the Delegate of Taipei China.

The Delegate of the United States of America, supporting the inclusion of paragraphs g) and h) in Article 1, commented on the inconsistency of certain countries' stance towards scientific evidence in that they claimed on the one hand that distal ileum rather than intestine should be included in SRM (specified risk material), while questioning the safety of deboned skeletal muscle. He also expressed strong concern at the excessive attention given to the results of research using genetically modified mice, while the real-life experience in Europe where BSE has been prevalent was not sufficiently taken into account.

The Delegate of Singapore stated that skeletal muscle meat from an infected animal, even deboned, should not go into the food chain. Epidemiological evidence clearly showed that nvCJD victims had consumed skeletal muscle meat contaminated with abnormal PrP. He considered that evidence found in research, even in mice and hamsters, should be respected. German researchers reported in May 2004 that pathological PrP accumulated in muscles of hamsters orally exposed to scrapie and that different muscles had different infectivity titres, some produced infection and some did not in infectivity bioassay. He urged caution in including skeletal muscle meat as a safe commodity in the BSE *Code*.

The Delegate of Russia, supporting Japan, commented that we should be more cautious on this issue.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, thanked the OIE and expressed his appreciation for the drafting of a much simpler BSE chapter. He then stated that the EU would be willing to work with the Terrestrial Code Commission to improve the text on deboned muscle meat to include age differentiation, as the EU considers meat from cattle under 30 months of age to be safe. He also expressed the EU's support for Paraguay's proposal regarding the category titles.

The Delegate of Egypt expressed concern at the requirement in Article 1 g) – not subject to a 'stunning process', from an animal welfare viewpoint. He also queried whether the negative outcome of a prionic test should be interpreted as the test being negative or as the test not being able to detect the prion. Dr Thiermann explained that the proposed text excluded only a certain method of stunning, because of possible contamination.

The Delegate of New Zealand, supporting the proposed text, expressed concern at the rather hysterical reaction to BSE, comparing the significance to human health of BSE and salmonella poisoning. He suggested that the OIE should follow the recommendation of the world experts who believe beef to be safe and that the risk of external contamination could be managed by following the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene.

The Delegate of Senegal declared that, based on new information on BSE in his possession, he had formed his own opinion on the question of deboned skeletal muscle meat and consequently wished scientists to shed more light on the matter.

⁴⁴ TSE: transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

⁴⁵ vCJD: new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

The Delegate of Canada recalled the importance of maintaining the solidarity of Member Countries in addressing scientific issues and noted that the OIE had access to the foremost experts available in revising the text. He also noted that the WHO had not been sufficiently concerned to include BSE on the agenda of the recent World Health Assembly, and that it seemed to be the OIE Member Countries that had been making BSE a big issue in the media. He then proposed that Member Countries work with the Terrestrial Code Commission to develop a compromise text in the commodity list to deal with this difficult issue.

The Delegate of Taipei China reiterated that the view of scientists was not yet conclusive, and recalled that the major studies were based on hamster models. He emphasised the importance of risk assessment, based on which Taipei China had resumed beef imports from the United States of America, rather than expanding the commodities listed in Article 1.

The Director General expressed his frustration and regret, as for many years the OIE had been engaging the world's best scientists to deal with the issue. He then stated that even for those people who had died of vCJD, a causal relationship with eating muscle meat for 20 years remained inconclusive, as brain tissue was in the past often mixed as a binder with muscular tissue, for example in hamburgers. He suggested the need to strengthen the measures to avoid contamination by SRM⁴⁶ during slaughter in order to move forward, and many developing countries might lose the chance to export red meat because of a lack of resources to meet the conditions of surveillance if the article is not adopted.

The following day, the Director General explained that, at the request of the President, he had convened an Ad hoc Group (consisting of the five Regional Representatives supported by experts) that had reached a consensus on a compromise text.

The compromise concerned the following points:

- changes to the titles of the proposed categories;
- a commitment by the Central Bureau to further improve the two models for BSE surveillance and to present a new proposal next year;
- a proposed new text for deboned skeletal muscle meat, and a commitment to rapidly develop an expert opinion, in particular on the age limit factor.

The Delegate of Australia sought clarification on the 30 months age limit for skeletal muscle meat, asking whether the 30 months clause was also applicable to a country classified in category 1, negligible risk. Dr Thiermann indicated that a category 1 country could trade all commodities without restriction.

The Delegate of Australia then pointed out that he could accept the revised proposal, but that publication of the scientific evidence on food safety would be very helpful for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Delegate of Egypt supported this position.

The Delegate of Cuba supported the new proposal, but stressed the difficulties for developing countries to comply with the criteria for surveillance.

The Delegate of Taipei China considered that risk assessment was necessary when importing meat from countries not free from BSE; besides, consumers could be reluctant to consume such meat.

The Delegate of New Zealand made several remarks. He thanked the Terrestrial Code Commission for the new proposal that had been developed regarding deboned skeletal muscle meat. He supported the changes in principle but sought clarification on a number of

⁴⁶ SRM: Specified risk material

issues. Firstly, he suggested that deboned skeletal muscle meat from cattle over 30 months of age be placed under new studies and reported on next year with a scientific report and full transparency in the process. The Delegate also suggested that the reference to ante- and post-mortem inspection, and the need to avoid cross-contamination, should be replaced with compliance with the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene. The Delegate also asked for clarification regarding countries free of BSE, like New Zealand and Australia, and trade in their meat. He suggested that the existing categorisation of countries should be applied in the period of transition from the old chapter to the new chapter, to enable those countries to facilitate trade. The Delegate also asked for consideration to be given to introducing gelatin produced from degreased bones into Article 1, as the safety of gelatin produced from this source has been proven by peer-reviewed science. Finally, the Delegate asked that the OIE consider an exit strategy so that countries that have negligible risks of BSE, as shown by a risk assessment, do not have to comply with the measures within the *Terrestrial Code* on an ongoing basis.

The Delegate of Russia wondered about the scientific basis of the new proposal.

The Delegate of Canada noted the importance of including a WHO expert in an Ad hoc Group to put the public at ease. The Director General answered that the WHO was invited to participate in the Ad hoc Group meeting.

The Delegate of Singapore agreed with the opinions expressed by the Delegates of Australia, Canada, Russia and New Zealand and was of the view that the text on deboned skeletal muscle meat should be placed under study, as had been done in the case of the avian influenza chapter the year before. He requested that the OIE convene an international conference with the FAO and the WHO to provide the latest scientific information

In response of the Delegate's proposal for a conference, the Director General recalled the scientific conference on BSE organised by OIE-FAO and the WHO three years ago. The text of the recommendations of this conference has been distributed to all Delegates. The proposed text is in compliance with these recommendations.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU, accepted the new proposal.

The Delegate of Japan appreciated the effort made by the Ad hoc Group and supported the new proposal for deboned skeletal muscle meat. He also supported the concerns expressed by the Delegate of Singapore. He doubted if the proposed surveillance system would be feasible and proposed non-adoption of the Chapter and Appendix.

348. **Appendix 3.8.4. BSE surveillance**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted that the Ad hoc Group had been reluctant to recommend the use by Member Countries of the BSurVE computer model without adaptation. Dr Thiermann noted that the peer review of the model was under way.

The Commission had noted that the 'point values' used in the approach recommended by the Ad hoc Group had not been selected arbitrarily but were derived from an in-depth statistical analysis of all EU (other than the United Kingdom) data on BSE cases detected by all methods of surveillance.

The Commission had also noted that the experts would need to meet again to further consider 'maintenance surveillance'.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The President emphasised that the proposal would be amended over the coming years due to progress in science.

In response to a question from the Delegate of Vietnam regarding whether the concept of compartmentalisation could be applied to BSE, Dr Thiermann explained that countries are free to apply the concept of compartmentalisation, but no obligation exists. If countries apply this concept, they have to justify their biosecurity measures to importing countries.

The Delegate of New Zealand agreed with the new proposal and asked how long the former category system would be in force, as all countries needed time to apply the new system. New Zealand also wants clarification if the European BSurvE model can be applied. It is a very interesting model that could be an option, not an obligation.

The Director General explained that the new BSE Resolution on recognition of status dealt with the subject of transition. Countries already approved and countries in the process of approval could be judged on the basis of the existing system of five categories. Within a year the approval should be based on the new system of three categories. Moreover, the simplified BSurvE model was the cornerstone of the proposal and was based on the result of 40 millions tests carried out in the European Union. Countries may now use it. He also stated that agreement could be reached in principle on the proposed surveillance system, and made a commitment to reconvene the Ad hoc Group to discuss further details of the BSE chapter and the appendix with a view to addressing the concerns of several delegations.

The President proposed the chapter and the appendix for adoption: Eight Delegates voted against adoption and six Delegates abstained. The chapter and the appendix were adopted, with the agreed modifications.

349. Appendix 3.6.3. Inactivation procedures for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy agents

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The appendix was adopted.

350. Chapter 2.2.13. Bluetongue

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had discussed with the Scientific Commission, Member Country comments on the revised chapter on bluetongue.

The two Commissions were not aware of any new information to contradict their proposal regarding the infective period for bluetongue, and the Terrestrial Code Commission had not made any changes in this regard.

The period for which animals need to be vaccinated before movement had been increased to 60 days to make it consistent with the accepted viraemic period.

After consulting with an expert, the Terrestrial Code Commission had made changes regarding the timing of serological testing in various articles relating to semen and embryo collection.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of Portugal thanked the Commission for its excellent work and noted that the quarantine stations mentioned in the chapter could be inappropriate for isolating animals with a vector-borne disease. Dr Thiermann stated that the Commission had decided to amend the definition of 'quarantine station', taking into account vector concerns. A new proposal will be formulated soon.

The Delegate of South Africa sought clarification of several issues including the infective period for bluetongue virus. Dr Thiermann explained that all the changes made in this chapter took into consideration the Recommendations of the recent OIE International Conference on Bluetongue.

The chapter was adopted with the agreed modifications.

351. Chapter 2.3.3. Bovine tuberculosis

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had received from the Scientific Commission a revised chapter on bovine tuberculosis based on the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

In line with a recommendation from the Scientific Commission, the reference to hides and skins was deleted.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of New Zealand was pleased with the progress made, but he regretted the lack of work on risk assessment, that deer were not yet included and that modern diagnostic tests were not yet included in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The chapter was adopted.

352. Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Terrestrial Code Commission was still of the view that certain measures relating to animal identification, swill feeding and vaccination were not required to be in place for a country or zone free from CSF to maintain its status.

Dr Thiermann also indicated that the concept of compartmentalisation would soon be introduced into the chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, welcomed the Commission's work and noted that there are some issues related to surveillance (reference to animal identification) and prevention (special treatment of waste materials) that are not sufficiently taken into account in the chapter.

The Delegate of South Africa was pleased by the work done but expressed concern at the elimination of swill from animal feeding.

Dr Thiermann replied that when defining a country as free from CSF, animal identification or prohibition on the use of swill are not included as these are not necessary in a free country. This was consistent with the approach adopted in other chapters.

The President put the text for adoption and the chapter was adopted with, 17 Member Countries voting against. Dr Thiermann encouraged the Member Countries to send written comments to the Commission in order to address the issues raised at the next Commission's meeting.

353. Appendix on surveillance for classical swine fever

Dr Thiermann indicated his appreciation of the work of the experts who, under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, developed a surveillance appendix for CSF. The Terrestrial Code Commission had made some minor editorial changes to harmonise the draft with similar drafts for avian influenza and FMD.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted.

354. Chapter 2.7.12. Avian influenza

Dr Thiermann recalled that, during the 72nd General Session, a revised *Terrestrial Code* chapter on highly pathogenic avian influenza had been adopted by the OIE International Committee, incorporating 'under study' the Terrestrial Code Commission's proposals. This revised chapter and Member Country comments received until that time formed the basis for expert discussion at an Ad hoc Group meeting in November 2004. The views of the experts, comments received from Member Countries and two risk assessments from DEFRA⁴⁷ were considered by the Commission in its deliberations on the chapter in January 2005.

The Commission had retained the term 'NAI free establishment' as it believed that allowing trade only from an NAI free compartment would unnecessarily restrict trade in genetic material.

The Commission had grouped commodities into four groups, based on the relative likelihood of transmission of the virus: live poultry, other genetic material (day-old birds, hatching eggs and poultry semen), commodities for human consumption (eggs and fresh meat) and other commodities.

The Commission's recommendations for commodities for human consumption (fresh meat and eggs) were based on the low likelihood of LPNAI⁴⁸ transmission, taking into account the possible negative effects onerous trade measures may have on Member Countries' reluctance to report LPNAI.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

Dr Vallat recalled the importance of this text for public and animal health, especially in the current situation of severe avian influenza outbreaks and emphasised the need to find a solution. He also noted that the chapter proposed was developed by an Ad hoc Group including a WHO expert, to appropriately consider human health concerns. He also emphasised the importance of timely and accurate notification. He explained the major components of the new proposal and its benefits.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, reiterated his concern over the difficulty of the application of compartmentalisation to avian influenza, suggesting that such application should be limited to LPAI. The Delegate of Morocco agreed with the EU and stated that careful examination would be required for application of compartmentalisation to avian influenza.

⁴⁷ DEFRA: United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

⁴⁸ LPNAI: low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza

The Delegate of Japan stated that he could not support the concept of freedom with vaccination, as from his viewpoint a country should obtain free status only after a certain period of time without vaccination. He also shared the concerns of the previous speakers about the application of compartmentalisation to avian influenza.

The Delegates of Russia and India also supported the view of the previous speakers.

The Delegate of New Zealand agreed on the need to differentiate between LPNAI and HPNAI and proposed an introductory article to the chapter indicating that, with regard to LPNAI, eggs and meat would be safe for human consumption.

Dr Thiermann explained that the application of compartment is not mandatory, only an option as another tool, as for example zoning.

The Delegate of the United States of America reconfirmed that the acceptance of compartmentalisation should be based on individual risk assessment. The Delegate of Chile stated his view that the concept of compartment was a useful tool in disease prevention, disease control and trade.

The Delegate of Germany was interested in the question of the application of the concept of compartmentalisation to HPAI in terms of the risk of a new variant of the disease developing that would be communicable to humans, bringing with it the risk of a pandemic. She also emphasised the importance of retaining a separate approach so as to ensure the safety of trade.

The Director General then informed the Delegates that the OIE would develop guidelines on applying the concept of compartmentalisation.

The chapter was adopted after the Director General proposed to link this adoption with the proposed modifications to the chapter on compartmentalisation.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII Implementation of OIE standards in the framework of the SPS Agreement

355. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXVII on Implementation of OIE standards in the framework of the SPS Agreement.

The discussion covered the following points of Draft Resolution No. XXVII:

- Point 1 of the Resolution:

At the request of Senegal, seconded by Algeria, the text was changed to include capacity building and regional training of officials, including veterinarians.

- Points 3 and 4 of the Resolution:

At the request of Mauritania, the Director General clarified points 3 and 4 aimed specifically at developing countries, referring in particular to the results of the questionnaire distributed to all Member Countries, as well as to the recommendations of the recent Cairo meeting (October 2004): "Implementation of international animal health standards: the quest for solutions".

The text of these points remains unchanged.

- Point 6 of the Resolution:

The Delegate of Australia commented that he had made remarks after Dr Brückner's presentation, but Australia had not been invited to join the writing group and Australia's comments on animal welfare were not evident in the Resolution. Australia is one of several countries that has problems with involving the WTO in animal welfare issues. He suggested an alternative approach: that the OIE first develop a paper describing the implications of the decisions for consideration by Member Countries.

The Director General proposed to add to the Resolution the following text: "The outcome of these discussions will be reported for assessment to the International Committee."

356. The Committee adopted unanimously the Draft Resolution with the noted modifications. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXVII at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII Applications of genetic engineering for livestock and biotechnology products

357. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXVIII on Applications of genetic engineering for livestock and biotechnology products.

The discussion covered the following points of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII:

- Point 1 of the Resolution:

The Delegate of New Zealand requested that the text be modified from "research on containment and environmental release of live attenuated vaccines" to "research on the use of live attenuated vaccines".

- Point 3 of the Resolution:

Since Germany had remarked that other international organisations were already drawing up guidelines on inter-species cloning, the Director General proposed rewording this article, the aim of which is to develop guidelines and recommendations for the animal health risks associated with cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer.

358. The Committee adopted unanimously the Draft Resolution with the noted modifications. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXVIII at the end of this report.

NINTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions (Docs 73 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

359. Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission, gave a report on the 16th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 7 to 10 February 2005.
360. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2005 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 73 SG/11B AF).
361. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Khartoum.

Regional Commission for the Americas

362. Dr Peter Fernandez (United States of America), President of the Commission, gave a report on the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Panama City (Panama) from 16 to 19 November 2004.
363. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2005 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 73 SG/11B AM).
364. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Panama.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

365. Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2005 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 73 SG/11B AS).
366. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

367. Dr Patrick J. Rogan, Delegate of Ireland, gave a report on the 21st Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Avila (Spain) from 28 September to 1 October 2004.
368. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2005 at the OIE headquarters (Doc. 73 SG/11B EU).
369. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Avila.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

370. Dr George Khoury (Syria), Secretary General of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2005 at the OIE headquarters (Doc. 73 SG/11B ME).
371. The Committee noted the report.
372. The Director General thanked the Presidents, Rapporteurs and the staff of the Central Bureau for having made the reports available on time in the three official languages of the OIE. He announced the procedures for the elections to fill vacancies on the Administrative Commission and Regional Commissions to be held the following day. He noted that four of the five had for the time being unreservedly adopted the 4th Strategic Plan.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

373. Appendix on surveillance for avian influenza

The Terrestrial Code Commission was appreciative of the work of the experts who, under the auspices of the Scientific Commission, developed a surveillance appendix for avian influenza. The Terrestrial Code Commission had made some minor editorial changes to harmonise the draft with similar drafts for CSF and FMD.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The appendix was adopted.

374. Matters relating to semen and embryos

Dr Thiermann reported that an expert had briefed the Commission on the continuing work of the IETS in categorising diseases and pathogens regarding the likelihood of their transmission via embryos. Appendix 3.3.5. had been modified in accordance with the latest work of the IETS.

At the request of the Terrestrial Code Commission, the expert had also prepared a single appendix on bovine and small ruminant semen. Dr Thiermann noted that this appendix was less prescriptive and used, to the extent possible, the semen articles in the relevant disease chapters.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The appendices were adopted.

375. Chapter 2.2.14: Rift Valley fever

Dr Thiermann presented a new article on embryos to the International Committee.

The Chapter was adopted.

376. Section 3.9. Antimicrobial resistance

The Terrestrial Code Commission received from the Biological Standards Commission revised appendices on the prudent use of antimicrobials and risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the International Committee.

The Delegate of Luxembourg, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States made several suggestions to improve the text, relating to “feed for pets” and advertising of antimicrobials.

The Delegates of the United States of America and Australia requested not to make such modifications at this session, as they felt the need to evaluate those proposals with experts.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Commission would examine points raised by the EU together with all other comments received, considering the comments made by the United States of America and Australia.

The Delegate of Denmark thanked the Commission for its work but questioned the change of the title from risk analysis to risk assessment. He suggested, for a future revision, that the place of risk management and risk communication procedures in the text be clarified.

The Delegate of New Zealand pointed out that the risk of antimicrobial resistant bacteria is also a risk that can pass through food, and stressed the importance of the work done by the OIE being harmonised with the work done by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The appendices were adopted with the agreed modifications.

377. Animal production food safety

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety had presented to the Committee a summary of the activities of the Working Group and its work programme for 2005–2006. He indicated that he would include in this report a summary of the presentation.

378. Animal identification and traceability

Dr Thiermann briefed the International Committee on the preparatory work under way at the OIE headquarters on animal identification and traceability, under the auspices of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

He indicated that the aim of this work was to provide the Working Group with information on the current state of animal identification in the different OIE regions based on data collected from responses to an OIE questionnaire on 'Animal Identification and Traceability' circulated to OIE Member Countries in January 2004 and from additional information currently being collected.

Dr Thiermann noted that future guidelines on animal identification and traceability in the *Terrestrial Code* would need to focus on both animal and public health objectives. Such guidelines would have to propose various options for animal identification in order to take into account the identified differences existing among OIE Member Countries. Among those options, identification by herd or lot, and, when relevant, individual animal identification, would need to be examined.

The progress on traceability by various Codex Committees will be monitored and taken into consideration during the evolution of these guidelines within the OIE in order to ensure a harmonised approach throughout the food chain.

Dr Thiermann advised that an OIE Ad hoc Group would meet in June.

379. Future work programme

Dr Thiermann noted that the Bureau of the Terrestrial Code Commission would review the Commission's work programme in July 2005, taking into account the outcomes of the 73rd General Session, submissions received from Member Countries and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

Additional issues already scheduled for consideration included the development of a new chapter on the small hive beetle of honey bees, the development of revised chapters on paratuberculosis and brucellosis, and the updating of chapters on African horse sickness, dourine and surra. Dr Thiermann also noted the need to address some points raised in the report of the OIE delegation to China for the Beijing Olympics.

380. The Delegate of New Zealand thanked the entire Commission for the excellent and voluminous work presented to the International Committee. He considered that the time the International Committee had to analyse the proposals made by the Commission was insufficient and he hoped that in the future the situation would improve. Dr Thiermann agreed on this issue and informed the Committee that, to address the problem, the Commission would be modifying its meeting dates so to leave more time for Delegates to study the reports. He added that there was already an increased transparency in the standard-setting procedure (through the comprehensive Commissions' reports circulated and through their publication on the OIE Web site) but that suggestions from the Delegates to further improve it would be welcome.

Dates of the 74th General Session (May 2006)

381. The Committee decided that the 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee would be held from Sunday 21 May to Friday 26 May 2006.

Technical Items for the 74th General Session (May 2006)

382. The Committee confirmed the following Technical Items already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission:
- Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education meets societal demands.
 - Economic and social justification of investment in animal health and zoonoses

Technical Items for the 75th General Session (May 2007)

383. The Committee selected the following Technical Item from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the agenda:
- The use of epidemiological models for the management of animal diseases.
384. Further to a decision of the Administrative Commission on 21 May 2004, the second Technical Item will be determined by the Administrative Commission at a future meeting so as to take into account developments in the field of animal health and welfare.

Presentation of the new OIE animal health information system

385. Dr Ben Jebara presented an overview of the new World Animal Health Information System (forms and Internet application).
386. Regarding the annual questionnaire, the Delegate of the United Kingdom asked for confirmation that fatal human cases of zoonoses should be reported. Dr Vallat pointed out that the annual questionnaire is a joint OIE/FAO/WHO questionnaire and that the WHO would no doubt be interested in having several sources of information, but that it would not be compulsory to enter this information.
387. The Delegate of Norway pointed out that, in her country, all reports transmitted at the national or international level have to be archived, and she asked whether the system would allow this obligation to be taken into account. Dr Ben Jebara indicated that the system allowed reports to be saved and printed before being transmitted to the OIE.
388. The Delegate of Senegal asked for a demonstration of the system before the end of the Session. The President promised that this would be provided.
389. The Delegate of Botswana requested that training sessions be organised for the Delegates' staff. The Director General stated that he would ask each Regional Representation to organise training sessions before the next General Session.

≡ FRIDAY 27 MAY 2005 ≡

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

390. The roll call of Delegates showed that 119 countries were represented at the Administrative Session and that a quorum had been reached.

Adoption of Recommendations of the Regional Commissions

391. The Recommendations of the Regional Commissions were adopted unanimously.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XI
Appointment of the Director General**

392. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XI.
393. The Committee adopted Draft Resolution No. XI unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. XI at the end of this report.

**Report of the Director General
On the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2004**
(Doc. 73 SG/3)

394. Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Head of the Administrative and Financial Department, informed the Delegates that the Central Bureau had provided them with the new compilation of the OIE Basic Texts (2005 edition).
395. He reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE, and reminded the Delegates that elections would be held during the Session (replacement of Commission members).
396. He went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE headquarters building and the rented office space in the adjacent building.
397. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. II on the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. II at the end of this report.

**OIE Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year
(1 January - 31 December 2004)**
(Doc. 73 SG/4)

Reserved on Delegates

**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year**
(Docs 73 SG/15 and 73 SG/16)

405. The Committee noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Correa Messuti (Uruguay).

406. The Committee noted the reports of the External Auditor.
407. The Delegates of Singapore and Swaziland asked for details regarding the excess of income over expenses in the table of the consolidated balance sheet. Mrs Cordier stated that these were consolidated figures and therefore different from those relating to the surplus for the 2004 financial year, which concerned only the Regular Budget. She also pointed out that the consolidated balance sheet took receivables into account.

408. The Director General stated that the consolidated balance sheet was being presented to the International Committee for the first time and that future annual financial reports would include the detailed consolidated balance sheet. He indicated that the English translation of “excédant des ressources sur les emplois”, which was incorrect in the distributed document, would be amended.
409. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. III on the Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year. The text appears as Resolution No. III at the end of this report.

**Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of
Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE,
or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings**

(Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, European Commission, France, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Lithuania, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Taipei China, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America and Vietnam)

410. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. VIII. The text appears as Resolution No. VIII at the end of this report.

Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor
(Doc. 73 SG/17)

411. The President proposed to the Committee to renew the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as the External Auditor of the OIE for a period of one year.
412. The Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. VII. The text appears as Resolution No. VII at the end of this report.

2005 Budget
(Doc. 73 SG/5)

Reserved on Delegates

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. IX
Planned Working Programme for 2006**

432. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. IX on the Planned Working Programme for 2006.
433. The Delegate of Germany requested that the words “when possible” be added at the end of the second paragraph of Resolution No. IX.
434. The Delegate of Spain requested details regarding the preparation of the draft Planned Working Programme for the year 2006.
435. Dr Vallat stated that this programme is elaborated a year in advance in order to prepare the budget estimates and calculate the level of contributions.
436. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. IX at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

⁴⁹ OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

437. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), approved by the Administrative Commission.
438. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XII at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)**

439. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), approved by the Administrative Commission.
440. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XIII at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

441. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), approved by the Administrative Commission.
442. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XIV at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

443. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), approved by the Administrative Commission.
444. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XV at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)**

445. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), approved by the Administrative Commission.
446. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVI at the end of this report.

**Intervention by the Delegates of Costa Rica and Botswana
on the Agreements**

447. The Delegate of Costa Rica stated that a new Agreement between OIRSA and the OIE had been signed on 20 May 2005.
448. Dr Vallat stated that this new Agreement complemented the previous Agreement signed in 1999 and would be ratified by the International Committee the following year.
449. The Delegate of Botswana asked what were the budgetary consequences of the very many formal Agreements.
450. Dr Vallat said that the OIE receives very many requests from public and professional

organisations for formal agreements with the OIE. This is evidence of the interest of these organisations in the work of the OIE. The Administrative Commission had decided not to accept formal agreements with national organisations or professional organisations that do not have a world-wide coverage. The effects on the budget of these agreements are almost totally related to sending publications and the travelling expenses of OIE staff taking part in meetings to which the OIE has been invited within the framework of these agreements.

TENTH PLENARY SESSION

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI
Amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

451. The President proposed Draft Resolution No. XXVI for adoption.
452. The Delegate of Japan expressed strong concerns over the decision-making process. He believed that the new BSE chapter had been adopted without full discussion and that the science on which the proposals were based was not always clear. The publishing of

supporting documents was necessary in order for Delegates to explain to stakeholders the reasons for decisions. Every effort should be made to reach decisions by consensus; he believed that the current procedures could damage OIE's credibility.

453. The Delegates of India, Singapore and Russia shared the opinion of the Delegate of Japan. The Delegate of Singapore also stated that more time should be allocated for discussions on the *Terrestrial Code*. The Delegate of Australia asked the Director General to issue a statement clarifying the transition arrangements for the new BSE chapter and surveillance appendix. Regarding the recognition of countries' BSE status, the Director General indicated that assessments currently in progress and applications for assessment already submitted would be determined according to the 2004 *Terrestrial Code* whereas new applications would be assessed according to the 2005 *Terrestrial Code*.
454. The Director General recalled that the report of experts had already been circulated to Delegates. He stated that he would work with the Terrestrial Code Commission to adjust the work timetable so as to allow the Delegates more time to examine the reports of the Commission.
455. The Delegate of Uruguay asked for the new version of the *Terrestrial Code* to be made available on-line on the OIE Web site as soon as possible.
456. Draft Resolution XXVI was accepted with the following modifications:
- In Appendix XI (Chapter 2.3.13.)
- In Articles 3 and 4
- a) replace the existing titles of the Articles with the titles 'Negligible BSE risk' (Article 3) and 'Controlled BSE risk' (Article 4)
457. The President presented Resolution XXVI for adoption. Nine Member Countries voted against (Belarus, India, Japan, Russia, Taipei China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), eight Member Countries abstained (Bhutan, Cambodia, Ghana, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, South Africa) and the remainder of the Member Countries approved the adoption of the Resolution.
458. The Committee noted the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

Verification of the quorum for elections

459. In accordance with the Statutes, the President verified the number of participants. Since 119 Delegates were present, exceeding the necessary quorum, voting could take place.

Election of members of the Administrative Commission

460. The election of members of the Administrative Commission to fill the vacancies arising following the departure of Dr Shubh Narayan Mahato (Nepal) and Dr Mansour Kassab (Lebanon) was presided by Dr Niang and took place by electronic vote.

The Director General informed the Committee that the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania had proposed, during the presentation of the report of its meeting on Tuesday, the candidature of Dr José Molina (Philippines).

The results of the vote were as follows:

Number present	: 108
Yes	: 96
No	: 1
Abstentions	: 4
Non voters	: 7

The President declared that Dr Molina had been elected as a member of the Administrative Commission.

The Director General informed the Committee that the Regional Commission for the Middle East had proposed, during the presentation of the report of its meeting on Tuesday, the candidature of Dr George Khoury (Syria).

The results of the vote were as follows:

Number present	: 119
Yes	: 100
No	: 2
Abstentions	: 7
Non voters	: 10

The President declared that Dr Khoury had been elected as a member of the Administrative Commission.

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

461. The President asked the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan)

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Europe

462. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Europe to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland)

Election of the President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

463. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

President: Dr Salman Abdul Nabi (Bahrain)

Election of the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

464. The President asked the Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Hamed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

THIRD ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Progress Report on the preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (Doc. 73 SG/26)

Reserved on Delegates

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. X Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE

473. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. X.
474. The Committee adopted Draft Resolution No. X unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. X at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVII Resolution authorising the Director General of the OIE to propose, in May 2006, a new mechanism, in order to allow the Central bureau and the Regional Representations to implement the global and regional activities planned by the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE

475. The President presented Draft Resolution No. XVII authorising the Director General of the OIE to propose, in May 2006, a new mechanism, in order to allow the Central Bureau and the Regional representations to implement the global and regional activities planned by the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE.
476. A proposal was made to study in particular a mechanism for allocating part of the income from contributions to regional activities.
477. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XVII at the end of this report.

ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

478. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
479. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2005** to submit in

writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to be adopted in its final form. He drew the attention of the participants to the document that had just been distributed containing all the Resolutions that had been adopted during the 73rd General Session.

Closing Session

480. The President thanked the Delegates and other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Central Bureau, the translators and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 73rd General Session closed.
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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

**adopted by the International Committee of the OIE
during its 73rd General Session**

22 – 27 May 2005

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| No. I | Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2004 and the Beginning of 2005 |
| No. II | Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2004 |
| No. III | Approval of the Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2004) |
| No. IV | Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 80th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2006) |
| No. V | Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2006 |
| No. VI | Authorisation to allocate part of the surplus of the 78th Financial Year of the OIE to the 2005 budget |
| No. VII | Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor |
| No. VIII | Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation of OIE Meetings |
| No. IX | Work Programme for 2006 |
| No. X | Fourth Strategic Plan |
| No. XI | Appointment of the Director General |
| No. XII | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) |
| No. XIII | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) |
| No. XIV | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) |
| No. XV | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) |
| No. XVI | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) |
| No. XVII | Resolution authorising the Director General of the OIE to propose, in May 2006, a New Mechanism, in order to allow the Central bureau and the Regional Representations to implement the Global and Regional Activities planned by the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE |
| No. XVIII | Amendments to the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i> |
| No. XIX | Adoption of seven draft chapters for the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i> |
| No. XX | Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries |
| No. XXI | Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries |

No. XXII	Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease
No. XXIII	Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
No. XXIV	Animal Production Food Safety
No. XXV	Animal Welfare
No. XXVI	Amendments to the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
No. XXVII	Implementation of OIE Standards in the Framework of the SPS Agreement
No. XXVIII	Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products
No. XXIX	Date for the implementation of the modified OIE list of animal diseases

RESOLUTION No. I

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004
and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2004 and the Beginning of 2005**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2004 (73 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2004 and the beginning of 2005 (73 SG/2).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. II

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities
and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2004**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE during the 78th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2004) (73 SG/3).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. III

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2004)**

In application of Article 15 of the Internal Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Financial Report for the 78th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2004) (73 SG/4).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. IV

**Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 80th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2006)**

[Reserved on Delegates](#)

RESOLUTION No. V

Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2006

Reserved on Delegates

RESOLUTION No. VI

**Authorisation to allocate part of the surplus of the 78th Financial Year
of the OIE to the 2005 budget**

Reserved on Delegates

RESOLUTION No. VII

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of her mandate,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of one year (2005) the mandate of Ms Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. VIII

**Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries
that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participated in the Organisation
of OIE Meetings**

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2004,

THE COMMITTEE

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vietnam and the European Commission for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2004.
2. Brazil, Cambodia, Egypt, Honduras, Japan, Laos, the Lebanon, Nepal, Panama, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Taipei China, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates for their participation in the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2004.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. IX

Work Programme for 2006

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Third Strategic Plan by the International Committee during its 68th General Session in May 2000,

The OIE Draft Fourth Strategic Plan 2006-2010,

Resolution No. IX adopted by the International Committee during the 69th General Session in May 2001,

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. DECIDES

To approve the 2006 Work Programme prepared by the Director General and to revise this programme, if necessary, in May 2006, according to the orientations of the 2006-2010 Work Programme, in compliance with the Fourth Strategic Plan.

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and voluntary contributions or subsidies when possible.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. X

Fourth Strategic Plan

Considering the document 73 SG/24 that presents the draft Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2006-2010 period

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE

ASKS

The Director General to prepare:

- A Work Programme for the 2006-2010 period, in compliance with the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE, which will be submitted to the approval of the Committee in May 2006
- Annual work programmes, based on the guidelines of this Work Programme, with the corresponding budgets and contribution mechanisms, which will be submitted every year to the approval of the Committee

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XI

Appointment of the Director General

Taking note of the Basic Texts of the OIE, particularly Article 8 of the Organic Statutes, and Article 29 of the General Rules

CONSIDERING

The result of the election that took place on 25 May 2005

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To appoint Dr Bernard Vallat as Director General of the OIE for a period of five years, beginning on 1 January 2006.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 25 February 2005 and signed by the Director General (73 SG/19),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XIII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 25 February 2005 and signed by the Director General (73 SG/20),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XIV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 25 February 2005 (73SG/21),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 25 February 2005 (73 SG/22),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XVI

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to extend the field of application of the agreement between the OIE and the IFAP,

The agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 25 February 2005 (73 SG/23),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Appendix of Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XVII

Resolution authorising the Director General of the OIE to propose, in May 2006, a new mechanism, in order to allow the Central Bureau and the Regional Representations to implement the global and regional activities planned by the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE

The International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

TAKING NOTE of the growing importance of the missions of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, in particular regarding the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2006-2010;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the convenience of raising the contributions of the general budget of the OIE for the financing of the activities of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, and the need to liberate resources for this purpose;

DESIRING TO ensure the coordination and facilitating the development of the activities of the Regional Representations of the OIE;

ESTIMATING, consequently, the convenience of inviting the Director General of the OIE, being in charge of implementing the OIE budget, to propose to the International Committee for the following budgetary year, an increase in the contributions of Member Countries as well as the principles and modalities of their allocation to the financing of the activities of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, actually financed exclusively by the voluntary contributions of some countries, particularly the host countries;

CONSIDERING, that according to the estimates of the Fourth Strategic Plan the product of the increase in contributions should be assigned by halves to the operating expenses of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, respectively;

CONSIDERING, that the convenience of taking into account that the part of the contributions assigned to the Regional Representations will only be based on the contributions effectively paid by the Member Countries;

GIVEN the Organic Rules of the OIE, and in particular articles 13 and 14;

GIVEN the General Rules of the OIE, and in particular chapter III and articles 31, 34, 46, 49 and 50;

GIVEN the Financial Regulations of the OIE, and in particular article 3

GIVEN the Fourth Strategic Plan

REQUESTS MEMBER COUNTRIES

Including those already making voluntary contributions for the benefit of regional or global activities of the OIE, to apply the provisions of Article 14 of the Organic Rules, notably those relating to annual complementary contributions.

REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OIE

1. To prepare the budgetary provisions, in accordance with article 3 of the Financial Regulations, so that additional resources are available for the financing of activities of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, in the aim of allowing the implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE.

2. For this purpose, to request and collect the financial contributions of Member States, in compliance with article 31 of the General Rules, including the complementary annual contribution established by the Committee, in compliance with article 14 of the Organic Rules, on the basis of the annual contribution of each Member State.
 3. To submit to the International Committee the above propositions, for their examination and adoption, during the 74th General Session – May 2006.
 4. To assign, in such case, the complementary resources, in equal proportion, for the financing of the activities of the Central Bureau and of the Regional Representations, taking note of article 5 below.
 5. To assign the portion of these resources for the Regional Representations, only on the basis of the contributions effectively paid by the contributing countries of each Regional Commission.
 6. That the Regional part of the contribution of countries linked to two or more Regional Commissions will be assigned to the Regional Representation to which the Member Country belonged at the time of its accession to the OIE.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XVIII

Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the Aquatic Animal Health Code (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the January 2005 report of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III, IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI of Document 73 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Appendices III, IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI, of Document 73 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

1.1. In Appendix III (Chapter 1.1.1.)

in Article 1.1.1.1.

- a) replace the definition of “Aquaculture activities” with the definition of “Aquaculture”. The definition of “Aquaculture” reads: “The farming of *aquatic animals* with some sort of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc.”.

1.2. In Appendix IV (Chapter 1.1.2.)

in Article 1.1.2.2.

- a) at the end of the 1st paragraph add the words “(1 or 2, and 3 or 4.)”;
- b) at the end of criterion 4 add the words “of wild or cultured *aquatic animals*.”;
- c) at the end of the explanatory notes for criterion 4 replace the words “national or multinational (zonal or regional) level.” with “*zone, compartment* or country level. “Naïve” means animals previously unexposed either to a new disease or a new form of a known disease.”;

in Article 1.1.2.3

- a) delete the 4th criterion for immediate notification of aquatic animal diseases.

1.3. In Appendix V (Chapter 1.1.3.)

in Article 1.1.3.2.

- a) add the words “[under study]” after “Infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*”;
- b) add the words “[listing under study]” after “Infection with *Perkinsus olsen*”;

in Article 1.1.3.3.

- a) add the words “[under study]” after “Necrotising hepatopancreatitis”;
- b) add the words “[under study]” after “Infectious myonecrosis”;

1.4. In Appendix VII (Chapter 1.2.1.)

in Article 1.2.1.3.

- a) delete point 1-d);

in Article 1.2.1.4.

- a) in point 1) replace the word “*territory*” with the word “country”;
- b) in point 2) delete the word “determined”;
- c) in point 3) replace the words “A country may *declare itself free* again from a specific *disease* when it can show that all the conditions given in the corresponding chapters of Parts 2, 3 or 4 of this *Aquatic Code* have been implemented fulfilled.” with the words “A country may again declare itself free (i.e. *self declaration of freedom from disease*) from a specific *disease* when it complies with all the conditions given in the corresponding chapters of Parts 2, 3 or 4 of this *Aquatic Code*. ”;
- d) in point 4) replace the words “The *Veterinary Administration* of a country that sets up one or several *free zones* or *compartments* shall inform the OIE, giving necessary particulars of the *zones* or *compartments* and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS co-ordinates).” with the words “The *Veterinary Administration* of a country in which one or more *free zones* or *compartments* have been established may wish to inform the *Central Bureau*, giving necessary particulars of the *zones* or *compartments* and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS co-ordinates). The *Central Bureau* may publish this information.”;

1.5. In Appendix VIII (Chapter 3.1.5.)

in Article 3.1.5.1.

- a) at the beginning of the Article add the words “For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Marteilia refringens* means infection only with *Marteilia refringens*.”;

in Article 3.1.5.2.

- a) in the first paragraph delete the words “*Ostrea* species, in particular the”;

in Article 3.1.5.4.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”;

in Article 3.1.5.5.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”.

1.6. In Appendix IX (Chapter 4.1.2.)

in Article 4.1.2.4.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”;

in Article 4.1.2.5.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”.

1.6. In Appendix X (Chapter 2.1.1.)

in Article 2.1.1.4.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”;

in Article 2.1.1.5.

- a) in point 4-b) replace the words “a *stamping-out policy* has been implemented in the *infected zone*” with the words “infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*,”;

in Article 2.1.1.11.

- a) in the Spanish text only, in the 1st paragraph, 3rd line, after the word “*compartimento*” add the words “no declarado”.

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XIX

**Adoption of seven draft chapters for the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation and promotion of trade in animals and animal products,
2. The *Terrestrial Manual* is entirely revised approximately every four years. It is the intention of the Biological Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the International Committee, the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* will be updated on an annual basis,
3. Member Countries have been asked for the contributions of their specialists for the proposed seven new or revised chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it is finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,
4. All chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Member Countries and the Biological Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To adopt the seven updated chapters of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XX

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, 'Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised', and 'Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries', respectively,
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which asks that the Director General publish a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.2.10 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee, and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission regarding the evaluation of countries as being free from foot and mouth disease have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission proposed that an updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from foot and mouth disease and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission in consultation with Member Countries be annually adopted by resolution,
6. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free, annually confirm by letter during the month of November that their FMD status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
7. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
8. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXI delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, an FMD free zone created following outbreaks within a Member Country or its territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.3.5. and 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
9. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from FMD to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,

10. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Albania	Germany	Netherlands
Australia	Greece	New Caledonia
Austria	Guatemala	New Zealand
Belgium	Guyana	Nicaragua
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Honduras	Norway
Bulgaria	Hungary	Panama
Canada	Iceland	Poland
Chile	Indonesia	Portugal
Costa Rica	Ireland	Romania
Croatia	Italy	Singapore
Cuba	Japan	Slovakia
Cyprus	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Czech Rep.	Latvia	Spain
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden
El Salvador	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Madagascar	Ukraine
Finland	Malta	United Kingdom
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Mauritius	United States of America
France	Mexico	Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Taipei China Paraguay and Uruguay

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Argentina: zone situated south of the 42° parallel;

Botswana: zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General on 24 July 2003;

¹ For information on the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, please address enquiries to that country's Delegate or to the Director General

- Colombia: Northwest region of Choco Department;
- Malaysia: zones of Sabah and Sarawak designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General on 15 December 2003;
- Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General on 6 February 1997;
- Peru: one zone as designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2004.
- Philippines: Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate;
- South Africa: zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2002;

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

- Argentina: Zone situated above the 42° parallel;
- Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General on January 2003;
- Brazil: States of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of Amazon state, Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins, the Federal District, and Rondonia;
- Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on January 2003 and two zones designated by the Delegate in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXI

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 69th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XV, asking Member Countries that wish to be evaluated for conformation with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) free status to submit a formal application to the Director General of the OIE for consideration by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission),
2. An Ad hoc Group of experts on BSE (OIE Ad hoc Group for Evaluation of Country Submissions for Recognition as Complying with the *Terrestrial Code* as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Free) has been set up by the OIE and the Group has developed guidelines to facilitate the submission of data by Member Countries in accordance with the requirements in the current edition of the *Terrestrial Code*,
3. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
4. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXII authorising the Scientific Commission to also evaluate submissions for provisional freedom from BSE in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. The Ad hoc Group has already examined submissions from several countries and made appropriate recommendations that have been endorsed by the Scientific Commission
6. These recommendations have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution No. XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee for foot and mouth disease (FMD),
7. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE International Committee adopted Resolution No. XX asking the Director General to establish a list of countries or zones recognised by the OIE as BSE 'free' and 'provisionally free' in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13 of the *Terrestrial Code*. This list should be updated as and when new countries are approved by the International Committee and shall be adopted annually by resolution.
8. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XX asking the Director General to inform Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as 'free' or 'provisionally free' from BSE that they should annually confirm by letter during the month of November whether their status and the criteria by which their status was recognised have remained unchanged. The list of countries or zones will be published free of charge by the OIE.
9. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases continue to examine the dossiers of applicant countries in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13 of the 13th edition of the *Terrestrial Code* (2004), until one year after a new BSE chapter (describing three categories of BSE country status) and its complementary surveillance appendix are adopted by the International Committee.

Countries having already submitted dossiers for the evaluation of country status need not pay any additional costs should they have to renew their applications.

In future, applications from countries may take into account the requirements of the new BSE Chapter and its complementary surveillance guidelines if these are adopted.

The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as ‘provisionally free’ from BSE in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13 of the 13th edition of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina, Iceland, Singapore and Uruguay.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXII

**Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection
and Rinderpest Disease**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XIV 'Establishment of a list of countries that are free of rinderpest',
2. During the 68th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XIII designating a baseline list of Member Countries that were free from rinderpest infection. The countries included in the list certified that they met the requirements specified in Chapter 2.3.14. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The OIE has also developed a list of countries that are considered to be free from rinderpest disease in accordance with Chapter 2.3.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) regarding countries that are evaluated as free from rinderpest disease and from rinderpest infection have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International committee and has supported the recognition of countries and zones as free from rinderpest disease and rinderpest infection for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
6. During the 71st General Session, the Scientific Commission proposed that Member Countries so recognised reconfirm annually whether their rinderpest status as well as the conditions under which such status was granted have remained unchanged and that this annual reconfirmation would be a requirement for maintaining OIE recognition,
7. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII resolving that most of the costs incurred by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation of country applications for obtaining the free status with respect to rinderpest disease or rinderpest infection would be recovered whenever possible from sources other than the applicant countries,
8. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from disease or infection,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from rinderpest infection, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.3.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Germany	New Caledonia
Algeria	Greece	New Zealand
Andorra	Guatemala	Norway
Argentina	Guyana	Panama
Australia	Honduras	Paraguay
Austria	Hungary	Peru
Barbados	Iceland	Philippines
Benin	Indonesia	Poland
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Bhutan	Italy	Romania
Bolivia	Jamaica	Senegal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Japan	Singapore
Botswana	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovakia
Brazil	Laos	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Latvia	South Africa
Canada	Lesotho	Spain
Chile	Lithuania	Swaziland
Colombia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Costa Rica	Madagascar	Switzerland
Croatia	Malawi	Thailand
Cuba	Malaysia	Taipei China
Cyprus	Malta	Togo
Czech Rep.	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Denmark	Mexico	Tunisia
Ecuador	Moldavia	Turkey
El Salvador	Mongolia	Ukraine
Eritrea	Morocco	United Kingdom
Estonia	Namibia	United States of America
Finland	Nepal	Uruguay
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Netherlands	Vanuatu
France		Venezuela
		Vietnam
		Zimbabwe

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as being free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.3.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Burkina Faso	Ghana	Mali	Nigeria
Chad ¹	Guinea	Mauritania	Tanzania
Cote d'Ivoire	India	Myanmar	
Egypt	Lebanon	Niger	

¹ Zone designated by the Delegate of Chad in documents addressed to the Director General on December 2003

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries having zones designated by their respective Delegates as free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.3.14. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Ethiopia: zone designated by the Delegate of Ethiopia in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2004

Sudan: zone designated by the Delegate of Sudan in a document addressed to the Director General in October 2004

AND

That the Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as rinderpest infection or rinderpest disease free, annually reconfirm by letter in November of each year that both their status and the criteria by which such status was recognised have remained unchanged. It is understood that these Delegates will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest infection or disease occur in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXIII

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Appendix 3.8.3 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) provides for a pathway for Member Countries to be declared free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) by the OIE if an application including supporting data as outlined in Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Code* is submitted to the OIE. The *Terrestrial Code* also provides a procedure for the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) to review these applications and report its recommendations to the International Committee,
2. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee approved Resolution XXIV regarding the recognition of the CBPP status of specific Member Countries,
3. Appendix 3.8.3 contains provisions for countries or zones within their territories that are continuously free from CBPP for at least 10 years and meet the relevant requirements of Appendix 3.8.3 for “freedom from CBPP” in that a) no vaccination has been carried out for at least 10 years, b) throughout that period there has been no clinical or pathological evidence of CBPP infection, c) throughout that period a permanent adequate disease surveillance and reporting system has been and is still in place covering all susceptible domestic livestock, and d) in appropriate circumstances, use of diagnostic procedures capable of differentiating *Mycoplasma mycoides* from other bovine *Mycoplasma* infections in the investigation of respiratory disease has been made, with findings consistent with freedom from *M. mycoides* infection, may be declared free from CBPP by the Scientific Commission without the necessity to proceed through the normal intermediate steps detailed in Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
4. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from CBPP to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
5. During the 72nd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXIII asked the OIE Director General to establish a list of countries or zones free from CBPP with or without vaccination and include in that list countries already recognised free of CBPP by the OIE.
6. The Scientific Commission continue to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee with respect to the recognition of disease free status and support the recognition of the CBPP free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee.
7. An updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from CBPP and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission after consultation of Member Countries will be annually adopted by resolution.
8. Member Countries recognise that information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP without vaccination according to the provisions of Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Botswana, Portugal and Switzerland

2. The Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as free from CBPP reconfirm by letter in November of each year that both their status and the criteria by which such status was recognised have remained unchanged. It is understood that these Delegates will immediately notify the Central Bureau if CBPP occurs in their countries or in zones within their territories.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXIV

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, which has met again in 2005, and has drafted a work programme for 2005/2006,
2. The Working Group has developed various texts relating to minimizing the risks from hazards arising from animals at the farm level, including guidelines for 'Good Farming Practices' and a paper on the 'Role and functionality of Veterinary Services throughout the food chain', modified versions of which may form part of the *Terrestrial Code*,
3. The Working Group is developing a paper on the control of hazards of public and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem inspection, intended to provide guidance to veterinary services,
4. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure animal production food safety standards being developed by either party take a whole of food chain approach to addressing food safety, and ensure as much consistency as possible with each others work

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintains the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him as well as the relevant Specialist Commissions on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety.
2. The Working Group's 2005/2006 work programme be a guide for the OIE's activities on animal production food safety for the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
3. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group gives special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting a text dealing with *Salmonella* Enteritidis in eggs, for consideration by the International Committee.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXV

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted public policy issue which includes important scientific, ethical and economic dimensions,
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, which draws up a detailed annual work programme
3. The Working Group's 2005/2006 work programme has identified list of selected priority topics for future OIE involvement,
4. Work on developing guidelines for the four initial priority topics has been completed and they have been recommended for adoption,
5. The active involvement of all OIE Member Countries, and close interaction with international stakeholders (scientific, private sector and NGO), will be essential to the success of the initiative,

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Working Group on Animal Welfare to advise him, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, on OIE activities in the field of animal welfare,
2. The Working Group's 2005/2006 work programme be a basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the selected strategic priorities,
3. Veterinary Services be actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of animal welfare guidelines, regulations and legislation in their countries, based on the adopted OIE standards,
4. All OIE Member Countries play an active role in their Regions with all relevant partners in promoting this OIE initiative,
5. The OIE Headquarters and the Working Group continue to build strategic relationships with key international stakeholders willing to contribute expertise and resources to this OIE initiative,

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXVI

Amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the January 2005 report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III to XXII of Document 73 SG/12/CS1), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices III to XXII of Document 73 SG/12/CS1 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 1.1. In Appendix III (Chapter 1.1.1.)

in the definition of *Epidemiological unit*

 - a) replace the words “dipping tank system” with the words “animal handling facility”
 - 1.2. In Appendix IV (Chapter 1.3.5.)

in Article 1.3.5.1.

 - a) at the end of the 2nd paragraph add the words “, including biosecurity management”

in Article 1.3.5.2.

 - a) in the 3rd paragraph, replace the words “An exporting country which is establishing a zone or compartment within its territory for international trade purposes should clearly define the subpopulation in accordance with the measures stipulated in the relevant Chapters in the Terrestrial Code and should be able to explain to an importing country” with the words “The Veterinary Services of an exporting country which is establishing a zone or compartment within its territory for international trade purposes should clearly define the subpopulation in accordance with the measures stipulated in the relevant Chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and should be able to explain to the Veterinary Services of an importing country”

- b) in the final paragraph, replace the words “An *importing country* should recognise the existence of this *zone* or *compartment* and accept the application of the appropriate measures recommended in the *Terrestrial Code* corresponding to the *animal health status* of the *zone* or *compartment* with regard to the importation, or transit through its territory, of *commodities* from the *zone* or *compartment*.” with the words “An *importing country* should recognise the existence of this *zone* or *compartment* when the appropriate measures recommended in the *Terrestrial Code* are applied.”

in Article 1.3.5.4.

- a) in point 4), insert the words “biosecurity management, animal husbandry practices”, after the words “environmental factors,”;

in Article 1.3.5.5.

- a) in the chapeau, replace the words “trading partners choose” with the words “the veterinary services of importing and exporting countries choose and implement”;
- b) in point 2)a), replace the words “an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease/specific diseases” with the words “an identifiable animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease/specific diseases; and that this status is maintained through a partnership between the relevant enterprise/industry and the veterinary services of the exporting country”;
- c) in point 2)b), delete the word “jointly”.

1.3. In Appendix V (Appendix 3.8.1.)

in Article 3.8.1.2.

- a) in the 3th sentence of the definition of “Confidence”, delete the word “our”;

in Article 3.8.1.3.

- a) in the 1st sub-point of point 1)b)i), delete the word “random”;
- b) at the end of the 3rd sentence of the 1st paragraph of point 2)f), add the words “and predictive values”; and replace the words “Therefore, predictive values of the test should, whenever possible, be taken into account in the design of surveillance systems and analysis of surveillance data.” with the words “Therefore, these parameters should be taken into account in the design of surveillance systems and analysis of surveillance data.”;
- d) in the 3rd paragraph of point 2)f), replace the words “single test” with the words “testing protocol”;

in Article 3.8.1.4.

- a) in point 1)b), add the words “systematic sampling” in a new sub-point;
- b) delete the title “2) Systematic selection”;

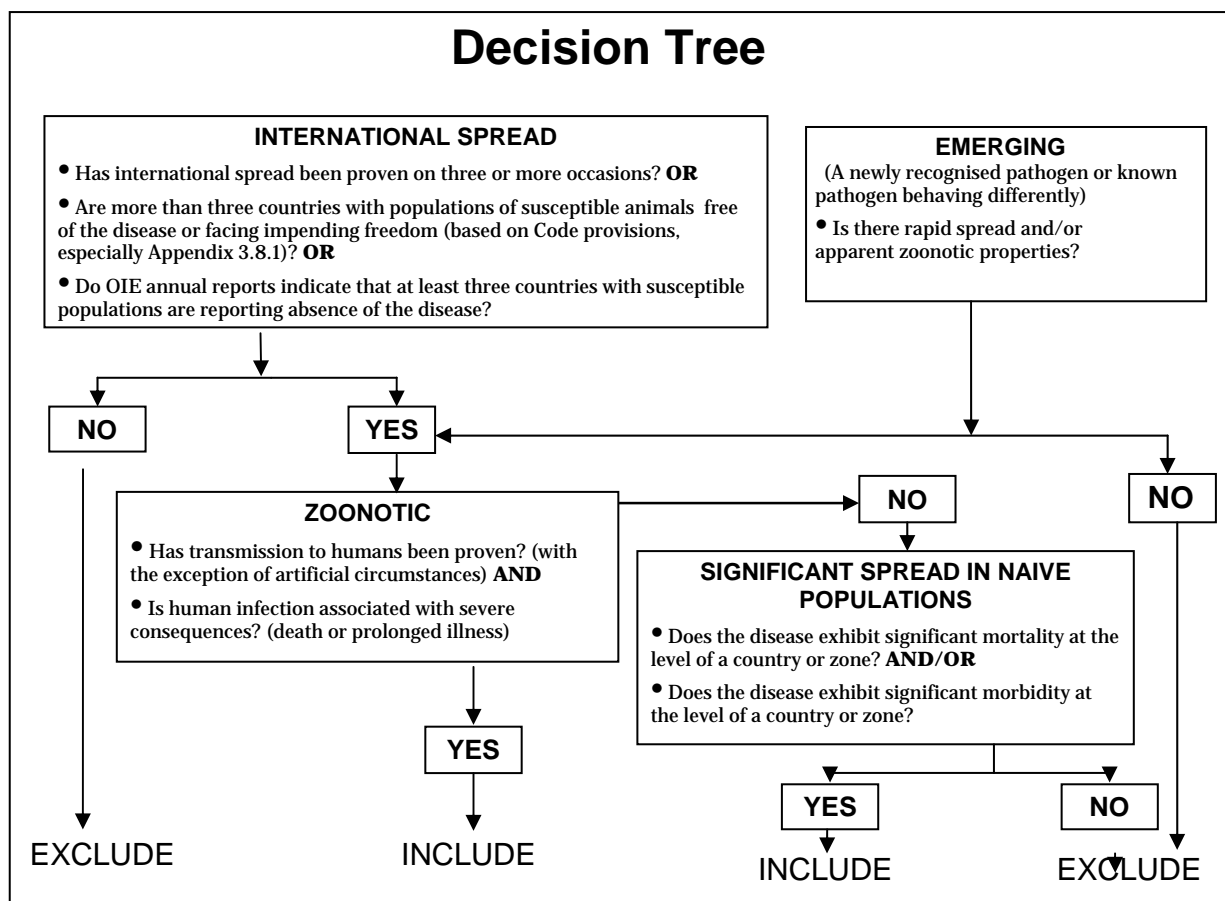
in Article 3.8.1.6.

- a) at the end of the 3rd paragraph of point 4), add the words “unless otherwise stated in the relevant disease Chapter”.

1.4. In Appendix VI (Chapter 2.1.1.)

in Article 2.1.1.2.

- a) replace the decision-making model with the following figure.



- b) retain the disease fowl cholera in the category of avian diseases.

1.5. In Appendix VII (Chapter 2.2.10.)

in Article 2.2.10.4.

- a) in the 1st paragraph, replace the words “The animals in the FMD free zone should be protected” with the words “Susceptible animals in the FMD free zone should be separated”;
- b) at the end of point 4)b), add the words “if applicable”;
- c) in point 4)c), insert the words “control of” after the word “including”;

in Article 2.2.10.5.

- a) in the 1st paragraph, replace the words “The animals in the free zone where vaccination is practised should be protected” with the words “Susceptible animals in the free zone where vaccination is practised should be separated”;

in Article 2.2.10.20.

- a) in the title, insert the words “(*Bubalus bubalus*)” after the word “buffalo”;

in Article 2.2.10.22.

- a) in the title, replace the word “bovines” with the words “cattle and buffalo”.

1.6. In Appendix IX (Chapter 2.2.13.)

in Article 2.2.13.2.

- a) in point 1)b), replace the words “as described in” with the words “according to”;

in Article 2.2.13.7.

- a) in point 2), delete the words “on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being”, and replace the words “21 days” with the words “28 days”;
- b) in point 3), delete the words “on blood samples taken on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being”, and replace the words “7 days” with the words “14 days”;

in Article 2.2.13.8.

- a) in point 2), delete the words “on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being”, and replace the words “21 days” with the words “28 days”;
- b) in point 3), delete the words “on blood samples taken on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 7 days between each test, the first test being”, and replace the words “7 days” with the words “14 days”.

1.7. In Appendix X (Chapter 2.3.3.)

in Article 2.3.3.2.

- a) in point 2), insert the words “and buffalo” after the word “cattle”;
- b) in point 3), replace the words “ensure the discovery of” with the word “detect”;

- c) in point 3), delete the words “In addition, a prescribed test can also be used for surveillance purposes. The *Veterinary Administration* should be able to trace and test the herd of origin of any reactor to a prescribed test or of any animal which discloses gross pathological lesions of tuberculosis in an abattoir or elsewhere disclosed after removal from the considered territory”;
- d) in point 4), insert the words “and buffalo” after the word “cattle”;

in Article 2.3.3.3.

- a) in the chapeau, insert the words “or buffalo” after the word “cattle”;
- b) in point 3), replace the word “cattle” with the word “animals”;

in Article 2.3.3.6.

- a) in point 1)c), replace the words “at an interval of 6 months” with the word “annually”;
- b) in point 1)c), replace the words “an artificial insemination centre” with the words “a herd”;

in Article 2.3.3.7.

- a) in point 1)a), replace the words “departure to the *collection centre*” with the words “the embryo collection”;

in Article 2.3.3.8.

- a) in the title, insert the words “and meat products” after the words “for fresh meat”;
- b) replace the words “inspections for bovine tuberculosis carried out by the *Veterinary Services* in an *approved abattoir* with favourable results” with the words “inspections as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice for Meat Hygiene”;

delete Article 2.3.3.9.

in Article 2.3.3.10.

- a) in point 2), delete the words “in reducing *M. bovis* in raw milk”.

1.8. In Appendix XI (Chapter 2.3.13.)

in Article 1.

- a) in point 1) g) replace the existing words with the words “deboned skeletal muscle meat (excluding mechanically separated meat) from cattle 30 months of age or less which were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process, and which were subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection and were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases; and which has been prepared in a manner to avoid contamination with tissues listed in Article 13.”.

in Articles 4 and 5

- a) replace the existing titles of the Articles with the titles “Negligible BSE risk” (Article 4) and “Controlled BSE risk” (Article 5).

in Articles 6 to 16,

- a) replace every occurrence of the words “a negligible BSE risk without commodity specific risk mitigation measures” with the words “a negligible BSE risk” and the words “a negligible BSE risk with commodity specific risk mitigation measures” with the words “a controlled BSE risk”.

1.9 In Appendix XII (Appendix 3.8.4.)

in Article 3.8.4.3.

- a) in the 1st paragraph of point 1), replace the words “Depending on the country's choice, the application of the following procedure will allow the detection of BSE prevalence of either at least one case per million in the adult cattle population, or” with the words “The application of the following procedure will allow the detection of BSE prevalence of”;
- b) in the heading of point 2), delete the words “(under study)”;
- c) after the 1st paragraph of point 2), add a new paragraph “In order to implement efficiently a maintenance surveillance strategy for BSE, a country must use good quality data (or reliable estimates) concerning the age distribution of its adult cattle population and the number of cattle tested for BSE stratified by age and by subpopulation. The application of the following procedure will allow the detection of BSE prevalence of at least one case per 50,000 in the adult cattle population, at a confidence level of 95% in the country, zone or compartment of concern. This Appendix utilises Tables 1 and 2 to determine a desired surveillance point target and the point values of surveillance samples collected.”.

in Article 3.8.4.4.

- a) in Table 1, delete the column for DP 1/1,000,000 and add the column for DP 1/50,000 as follows:

Adult Cattle Population Size (24 months and older)	*DP 1/100,000	*DP 1/50,000
≥ 1,000,000	300,000	150,000
800,000 – 1,000,000	240,000	120,000
600,000 – 800,000	180,000	90,000
400,000 – 600,000	120,000	60,000
200,000 – 400,000	60,000	30,000
100,000 – 200,000	30,000	15,000
50,000 – 100,000	15,000	7,500

1.10. In Appendix XIV (Chapter 2.6.7.)

in Article 2.6.7.4.

- a) in the 1st paragraph of point 2), insert the words “and surveillance in accordance with Appendix 3.8.X” after the words “as referred to in Article 2.6.7.2.”;
- b) in point 2)h), replace the word “monitoring” with the word “surveillance”;

in Article 2.6.7.9.

- a) in point 3), replace the words “has been regularly monitored” with the words “has undergone surveillance”;

in Article 2.6.7.19.

- a) in point 2), replace the words “had been regularly monitored” with the words “had undergone surveillance”.

1.11. In Appendix XV (Appendix X.X.X.)

in Article X.X.X.6.,

- a) in point 1), replace each occurrence of the word “re-seeking” with the words “seeking reestablishment of”.

1.12. In Appendix XVI (Chapter 2.7.12.)

in Article 2.7.12.9.

- a) at the end of point 3), delete the word “and”;

in Article 2.7.12.13.

- a) in point 1), replace the words “a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from HPNAI infection” with the words “an HPNAI free country, *zone* or *compartment*”;

in Article 2.7.12.24.

- a) at the end of point 2), add the words “(under study)”;

in Article 2.7.12.25.

- a) at the end of point 2), add the words “(under study)”;

in Article 2.7.12.27.

- a) at the end of point 2), add the words “(under study)”;

in Article 2.7.12.29.

- a) at the end of point 1), add the words “(under study)”.

1.13. In Appendix XVII (Appendix 3.X.X.)

in Article 3.X.X.1.

- a) in the 2nd paragraph, replace the words “The presence of NAI” with the words “The presence of avian influenza viruses”;

in Article 3.X.X.2.

- a) in point 1)a), insert the words “or NAI infection” after the words “*outbreaks of disease*”;

in Article 3.X.X.4.

- a) in point 1), add the words “or HPNAI” after the word “NAI” and the words “or HPNAIV” after each occurrence of the word “NAIV”;

in Article 3.X.X.5.

- a) at the end of the 1st paragraph, add the words “The use of sentinel birds may facilitate the interpretation of surveillance results.”;

in Article 3.X.X.7.

- a) in the list of abbreviations of Figure 2, delete “NI Neuraminidase inhibition” and “SN Serum neutralization”.

1.14. In Appendix XIX (Appendix 3.2.1.)

in Article 3.2.1.3.

- a) at the end of point 3), add the words “susceptible to OIE-listed ruminant diseases transmissible via semen”;

in Article 3.2.1.5.

- a) in the 1st paragraph of point 2), insert the words “subsp. *venerealis*” after the words “*Campylobacter fetus*”;

in Article 3.2.1.9.

- a) in point 2)a), replace the words “as soon as it arrives in the laboratory” with the words “as soon as possible after collection”.

1.15. In Appendix XX (Chapter 2.2.14.)

in Article 2.2.14.12.

- a) in point 3), delete the words “using an ELISA on the samples”.

1.16. In Appendix XXI (Appendix 3.9.3. and Appendix 3.9.4.)

in Appendix 3.9.3. and in Appendix 3.9.4.

- a) replace each occurrence of the word “bacteria” with the word “microorganism”;
- b) replace each occurrence of the word “antibiotic” with the word “antimicrobial”;

in Article 3.9.3.2.

- a) at the end of point 8), add the words “with respect to residues of antimicrobial drugs, and the ability to transfer antimicrobial drug resistant microorganisms to humans.”;

in Article 3.9.3.3.

- a) in the third sub-point of point 6)a)i), insert the word “and” after the word “Pharmacokinetic”;
- b) in the first sub-point of point 6)a)ii), replace the words “mode and spectrum of activity” with the words “spectrum of activity and mode of action”;
- c) at the end of point 10)d), add the words “and age or production category”.

in Article 3.9.3.7.

- a) at the end of point 1), add the words “and food safety”;

in Article 3.9.4.1.

- a) in point 5)a), replace the word “resistant” with the word “resistance”;
- b) in point 5)c), replace the words “and the estimated probability of its occurrence” with the words “in terms of risks to human and/or animal health”;

in Article 3.9.4.2.

- a) in point 4), delete the 16th sub-point “dose, route of administration (oral, parenteral) and duration of human treatment”;

- b) in the last sub-point of point 5), delete the word “bacterial”.

1.17. In Appendix XXII (Guidelines for animal welfare)

in Chapter “Guidelines for the slaughter of animals for human consumption”

in Article 4

- a) in the 9th point, insert the word “humanely” before the words “killed immediately”;

in Article 5

- a) place the Article (under study);

in Article 7

- a) under the heading “Electrical stunning”, in point a), in the table replace the figure “0.5” for “Sheep & Goats” with the figure “1.0”;
- b) under the heading “Gas stunning”, in point b), replace the words “Gas mixture:” with the words “Such gas mixtures include:”;
- c) under the heading “Gas stunning”, in point c)i), add the word “include” at the end of the chapeau;

in Article 10

- a) at the end of the last point, delete the words “except fish”.

in Chapter “Guidelines for the land transport of animals”

in Article 2

- a) in the 1st point, insert the word “and/” after the words “formal training”;

in Article 3

- a) under the heading “space allowance”, at the end of the 4th point, delete the words “without body contact with other animals”.

in Article 6

- a) under the heading “Goads and other aids”, in the 5th point, delete the word “muzzled,”.

in Chapter “Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea”

in Article 3

- a) in the 2nd point, at the beginning of the 4th sub-point, add the word “expected”

in Article 4

- a) under the heading “Vessel and container design and maintenance”, in the 7th point, insert the words “loading and” at the beginning of the point and “fire hazard,” before the words “the elements and sea water”.

in Article 7

- a) under the heading “Sick and injured animals”, in the 2nd point, insert the words “or veterinarian’s” before the word “recommendations”

in Chapter “Guidelines for the humane killing of animals for disease control purposes

in Article 8

- a) under the heading “Requirements for effective use”, in the 6th point, replace the words “figures 1-5” with the words “figures 1-4” and delete figure 5 “The optimum shooting position for poultry”

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXVII

Implementation of OIE Standards in the Framework of the SPS Agreement

CONSIDERING

Participation in the international and regional trade in animals and animal products offers opportunities for all Member Countries of the OIE,

Compliance with and the maintenance of international sanitary standards for the trade in animals and animal products are major constraints for many Member Countries to successfully participate in international and regional trade in animals and animal products,

International standards, guidelines and recommendations of the OIE and the SPS Agreement facilitate access to the international trade market for animals and animal products,

New concepts to facilitate the trade in animals and animal products following technological developments in veterinary science are continuously evaluated and updated by the OIE,

The Veterinary Services of many importing and exporting countries do not yet have a system of export certification and import procedures that complies with international standards,

Standards regarding the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services have been developed by the OIE in order to among other things strengthen the credibility of export certification procedures established by the national Veterinary Services of OIE Member Countries,

OIE international sanitary standards may be used even by non-exporting OIE Member Countries as relevant guidelines to improve their national animal health status,

The Directors General of the OIE, FAO, WTO, WHO and World Bank have expressed the commitment of their organisations in a combined declaration at the Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Doha, Qatar in November 2001, to strengthen the capacity of Member Countries and especially developing countries, in meeting SPS standards.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE, in collaboration with other international organisations, facilitate the capacity building and regional training of officials, including veterinarians, to actively participate in the development, evaluation and implementation of OIE standards including the application of international certification standards for trade in animals and animal products, and of compartmentalisation and zoning.
2. The Director General of the OIE request the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission to continue with their efforts to establish a uniform format for developing standardised Chapters and Appendices for the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* to facilitate a common and uniform understanding and implementation of standards to enhance country participation.
3. The Director General of the OIE request the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission to continue to take into account the needs and specific circumstances in Developing Countries in the development of standards.

4. The Director General of the OIE request the relevant Commissions to consider when possible the inclusion in each disease chapter of the relevant *Codes* to describe risk mitigation procedures that can be applied to specific animal products to render them safe for trade and to also list in each disease Chapter those products that can be traded without restriction for that given disease.
 5. The OIE request the WTO to consider observer status for relevant regional organisations for representation of countries that do not have the capacity or expertise to ensure continuity of representation at the SPS Committee meetings of the WTO.
 6. The OIE will work with the WTO to study how to take into account the guidelines, recommendations and standards developed and provided by the OIE on animal welfare. The outcome of these discussions will be reported for assessment to the International Committee.
 7. The OIE, in collaboration with relevant partners, consider support methods for the evaluation of *Veterinary Services* and the establishment of an independent audit system for Veterinary Services functioning under the auspices of the OIE, which could be used by Member Countries to evaluate the delivery of their Veterinary Services and to facilitate in the identification of their needs for compliance to OIE standards of quality and for relevant investments if requested.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXVIII

Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products

CONSIDERING THAT

The development of animal health applications for biotechnology is accelerating at a rapid pace and has the potential for significant advances in animal and veterinary public health.

A survey of the OIE 167 Member Countries conducted in 2005 identified a number of potentially beneficial applications of biotechnology and noted the absence of uniform guidance or international standards for assessment.

Responses received from this survey of OIE Member Countries indicated broad consensus that comprehensive regulatory controls are required and that ethical issues and societal concerns will need to be addressed in order to ensure responsible introduction and social acceptance of these technologies.

The maximising of benefits and minimising of negative consequences are best achieved through transparency and an international engagement to ensure that science-based standards are developed to direct the application of emerging technologies and to protect animal and public health.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

OIE continue to provide scientific advice and support to enable countries to develop harmonised technical standards for regulation of biotechnology-derived animal health products, and genetically modified production animals through:

- The constitution of an Ad hoc Group on Biotechnology to support the work of OIE Specialist Commissions and related Working Groups.
- Maintaining and expanding collaboration with other international organisations including, but not limited to, the FAO, WHO, VICH, and IETS.
- Facilitating international collaboration among regulatory agencies.
- The standardisation of the techniques of assessment of bioengineered animals or products and training Member Countries to conduct risk analysis through the recognition of international collaborating centre(s).

These objectives will be reached by the OIE taking into account the following priorities:

1. Development and adoption of standards and guidelines for research on the use of live attenuated vaccines in animal health.
2. Development of recommendations and guidelines for use of DNA vaccines.

3. Development of guidelines and recommendations for the animal health risks linked with somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning.
 4. Develop objective criteria for assessing the health of embryos and production animals derived from cloning, and associated safety of cloned production animals and their products.
 5. Develop policy guidelines for exclusion of unapproved animals and products from the livestock population, and segregation from the feed and food supply.
 6. Develop identification, testing, and certification guidelines for international trade in production animals and their products for which biotechnology procedures have been employed.
 7. Development of guidelines relevant to the application of Nanoscience/Nanotechnology as it relates to animal health
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

RESOLUTION No. XXIX

Date for the implementation of the modified OIE list of animal diseases

CONSIDERING

The adoption of Resolution No. XXIII relating to the OIE lists of diseases during the 69th General Session in May 2001,

That one of the principal objectives of the OIE is to inform Governments on the occurrence, evolution and distribution of animal diseases and zoonoses throughout the world and on the methods of control and prevention that are implemented,

The results of the work of the Ad hoc Group on diseases / pathogenic agent notification and their examination by the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions,

The adoption of Resolution No. XXVI on amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* during the 73rd General Session in May 2005,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

1. In case of modifications of the list of animal diseases resulting from amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and /or the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* during each annual General Session the new list come into force on 1 January of the following year.
2. In case of modification the list of animal diseases adopted during each General Session remains in application and unchanged until 31 December of the same year.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2005)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2004**

**Endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 26 May 2005**

**21st Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Avila (Spain), 28 September-1 October 2004

- Recommendation No. 1: Contingency planning and simulation exercises for the control of epizootics
- Recommendation No. 2: Structure and organisation of the Veterinary Services to implement the concept 'from the stable to the table'
- Recommendation No. 3: Simplification of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) categorisation system and new surveillance and monitoring mechanisms for BSE adapted to the structure and dynamics of the national cattle population

Recommendation No. 1

Contingency planning and simulation exercises for the control of epizootics

CONSIDERING THAT

The introduction or spread of a highly contagious disease is a continuous threat to livestock and international trade in all countries,

Early warning, early detection and early reaction are fundamental policies for the control of animal diseases,

Negative sanitary experiences in several Member Countries has emphasised the need of a broad involvement of available resources to control an epizootic,

Contingency planning in Member Countries does not adequately cover all the following diseases: foot and mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, swine vesicular disease, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, bluetongue, sheep pox and goat pox, African horse sickness, African swine fever, classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease,

There is an increased demand for high-level computerised information systems,

The 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe already recommended that countries develop scenarios in 'peace time' with detailed contingency plans of measures to be taken in case of outbreaks,

Lack of public support for stamping-out measures and poor cooperation with animal welfare and environmental groups has been a cause of concern,

Simulation exercises are an important tool to test contingency plans on their efficiency and on their practicability,

Information on and experiences with simulation exercises have not always been sufficiently shared between Member Countries,

Simulation exercises involving neighbouring states can assist planning for the control of outbreaks occurring in bordering regions,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries be encouraged to establish contingency plans for all the following diseases: foot and mouth disease, vesicular stomatitis, swine vesicular disease, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever, bluetongue, sheep pox and goat pox, African horse sickness, African swine fever, classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease.

2. Member Countries be encouraged to establish and strengthen a broad and comprehensive participation of all Government Services and stakeholder organisations in the preparation of contingency plans.
 3. Member Countries regularly conduct simulation exercises and publish the lessons learnt, and improve their plans where necessary following such exercises.
 4. The OIE encourage cooperation and exchange on simulation exercises, including the publication of national reports.
 5. Member Countries ensure Contingency Plans bring into their content the relevant recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe concerning animal welfare.
 6. Member Countries give special consideration in the Contingency Plans and simulation exercises to the following: actions in the initial period after suspicion and before disease is confirmed, national reference laboratory capacity and preparedness for scaling up of activities, cross-border co-operation, and emergency vaccination scenarios.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 1 October 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 2

**Structure and organisation of the Veterinary Services to implement the concept
‘from the stable to the table’**

CONSIDERING THAT

Food Safety, like animal health, is a public health priority in all the Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe,

An integrated approach to sanitary risks has become indispensable throughout the production chain for animal products, ‘from the stable to the table’, notably within the context of international trade,

The 68th and 69th General Sessions of the OIE International Committee adopted the Third Strategic Plan and the Work Programme of the Director General for the period 2001-2005 and gave the Director General a clear mandate to address food safety issues,

The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have signed an agreement aimed at clarifying the respective mandates of the two organisations, to avoid gaps and possible contradictions in the standards adopted by each of the two organisations,

The OIE permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety has established permanent cooperative relations with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO and the WHO with the aim of developing international standards, guidelines and good practices intended to facilitate risk-based approaches and the implementation of risk management programmes at all stages of food production ‘from the stable to the table’; the work of this Group notably consists of proposing international standards to be presented for adoption by the OIE; the scope of these standards covers hazards for consumers, such hazards needing to be managed from the animal production phase through to the primary processing of animals and animal products, even if the said hazards have no direct effect on the health of the animals,

The Working Group proposes to develop a common Codex / OIE stance on the roles and missions of the Veterinary Services relating to meat hygiene throughout the production chain, including the animal health and welfare missions, which can be conducted by the veterinarians responsible for food controls,

Veterinarians are qualified to play a key role in implementing the concept ‘from the stable to the table’,

The Veterinary Services have a major and non-substitutable role to play in implementing controls and inspections during the production phase, in particular during primary processing at the abattoir,

The structure and organisation of the Veterinary Services and other services involved need to be adapted to modern food safety approaches,

Sanitary risks extend well beyond national borders, and the cost of sanitary crises is out of all proportion to the cost of preventing them,

The World Bank notably recognises the surveillance and early warning activities of the Veterinary Services as an International Public Good, and thus in the interests of the international community as a whole,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS

A. THAT THE OIE:

1. Continue its activities within the framework of the permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, in particular those relating to the role of the Veterinary Services 'from the stable to the table'.
2. Complete Chapter 1.3.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* relating to the quality and evaluation of the Veterinary Services, so as to take into account the concept 'from the stable to the table', notably concerning the resources needed to guarantee the quality of certification of animals and animal products for export.
3. In association with the other relevant international organisations, continue its action to convince policy decision-makers to view the work of the Veterinary Services as an International Public Good and, as a consequence, to grant them the resources they need in order to comply with OIE standards.
4. Provide OIE Member Countries with the necessary technical assistance and guidance to enable them to implement all of the OIE standards.

B. THAT THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. At very least, consider the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 1.3.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* relating to the quality and evaluation of the Veterinary Services as a priority.
2. Promote and put in place an integrated, intersectoral system of veterinary control within the fields of production and control of feed, foodstuffs and products of animal origin.
3. Make fully sure that the organisation of public services ensures a continuum of sanitary controls throughout the food production chain.
4. When the national organisation does not itself ensure this continuum, set up effective coordination structures.
5. Assign to the Veterinary Services (as defined in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*), the Head of which is in the vast majority of Member Countries the Delegate to the OIE, responsibility for supervising the application of all OIE standards in their country.
6. Take into account, for the management of sanitary risks, non-scientific aspects such as socioeconomic considerations and the technical and financial feasibility of the proposed measures, notably when the risk assessment and risk management functions are separate.
7. Provide the competent national authorities, and in particular the Veterinary Services, with the necessary legal and financial support to fulfil the missions they have been assigned, notably those relating to the application of OIE standards.

8. Put in place all the necessary measures to maintain or develop a network of veterinary practitioners to assure an efficient on-farm sanitary surveillance, particularly to meet the emerging and re-emerging phenomena.
 9. Encourage and implement communication relating to sanitary risks and to actions carried out by the Veterinary Services for the prevention and management of these risks, in particular to consumers.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 1 October 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 3

**Simplification of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) categorisation system
and new surveillance and monitoring mechanisms for BSE adapted to the structure and
dynamics of the national cattle population**

CONSIDERING THAT

During the 71st General Session in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, mandating the Director General to take all necessary measures to submit to the 72nd General session a draft proposal for a simplification of categories for the sanitary status of Member Countries with respect to BSE,

The OIE Code Commission organised a meeting of an Ad hoc Group of BSE experts to address a request from the International Committee to simplify the current BSE categorisation system in the *Terrestrial Code* and consider suggestions from several Member Countries on alternative approaches,

The BSE Ad hoc Group that met in April 2004, recommended to replace the current categorisation system by a new one, which would group countries into the following three categories: negligible risk of BSE, controlled BSE risk, undetermined risk of BSE,

During the 72nd General Session in May 2004, the OIE requested that Member Countries send their comments to the OIE to give the Code Commission some indications as to the direction in which it should be heading. Furthermore, the OIE recalled that in addition to the priority of a simplified approach to country categorisation in the BSE chapter, a revision of the BSE surveillance appendix was included in the work programme of the OIE Code Commission,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT THE OIE

1. Further develop the proposal to replace the current BSE categorisation by a system establishing the following three proposed categories: general category, controlled risk and negligible risk.
2. Further develop the list of tradeable products regardless of the BSE status of the exporting country.
3. Develop standards and guidelines for surveillance based on epidemiological grounds in order to replace the current appendix by a more scientific surveillance programme.
4. Establish a Collaborating Centre as centre of excellence in the field of TSE epidemiology, in relation with an international panel of experts, to provide the necessary guidance for Member Countries to design the appropriate surveillance programme taking into account the structure and dynamics of the cattle population.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 1 October 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Panama City (Panama), 16-19 November 2004

Recommendation No. 1: Risk communication

Recommendation No. 2: Veterinary education: meeting the needs of official Veterinary Services

Recommendation No. 3: Simplification of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) categorisation system and new surveillance and monitoring mechanisms for BSE adapted to the structure and dynamics of the national cattle population

Recommendation No. 4: Functioning of Committees and Ad hoc Groups within the scope of the OIE Regional Commissions

Recommendation No. 1

Risk communication

CONSIDERING THAT

Risk communication is an integral phase of the risk analysis process and is the basis for the transparency required in applying health measures,

Effective risk communication calls for a strategy to identify the audience to which the message is to be communicated, the source and the most efficient communication channel,

Several countries have developed guidelines for risk communication,

The Ad hoc Group on Risk analysis of the Regional Commission for the Americas has revised the chapters of the Code relating to risk analysis, including Article 1.3.2.7 on risk communication, and has proposed a number of amendments, including the development of an article on risk communication components,

Article 1.3.2.7 considers scientific critique to be part of the risk communication process and that it is desirable for risk analyses to be submitted for impartial peer review,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The heading of Article 1.3.2.7 of the Spanish version of the *Code* be changed to read: "*Principios de la comunicación sobre el riesgo*" and that the word "*información*" be replaced with "*comunicación*" in the rest of the text to accord with the English version. The Spanish version uses the term "*información sobre el riesgo*" to refer to both risk communication and risk information in the English version.
2. The OIE convene an ad hoc group to carry out the following tasks:
 - a) Prepare a proposal for adding an Article 1.3.2.8. on risk communication components.
 - b) Prepare a more detailed guide on the principles of risk communication.
 - c) Develop guidelines for the scientific review of risk analysis studies by impartial experts.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 2

Veterinary education: meeting the needs of official Veterinary Services

CONSIDERING THAT

The rationalisation of public sector spending in most countries of the Americas is causing difficulties for official Veterinary Services, preventing the entry of new officials, or reducing their numbers,

The demand for activities is growing steadily, relative to the demand from markets purchasing livestock production and from consumers, and as a result of the occurrence of diseases that hitherto were exotic,

In all countries there is a good supply of private veterinary professionals with spare capacity,

Centres for pre and post-graduate training represent the source of supply for the public veterinary sector,

It is essential to link the needs of official Veterinary Services with vocational training programmes, and official Veterinary Services are entirely willing to discuss those needs,

Training for new veterinary professionals must not only meet national demand, but must also take into account global issues,

The OIE and its rules represent rules of great value for countries to follow in determining the health status and safety of animal products, and that the entire veterinary profession should be familiar with these rules,

In the *Terrestrial Code* the free exercise of the profession is complementary to the actions of the official Services,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Official Veterinary Services take the initiative of establishing strategic alliances with the veterinary education authorities, educators and students, in order to discuss the feasibility of adapting training programmes for new veterinary professionals to meet the needs of public organisations.
2. Those needs of official Veterinary Services be based on norms and regulations of the OIE in order to facilitate a harmonised application.
3. The participation of private veterinary professionals in those activities, which can be delegated, and which are currently carried out entirely by public officials, be promoted.
4. This involvement be supported by professional ethics and disciplines, regulated and guaranteed by a statutory body, and optionally by accreditation.

5. In order to standardise the relation between the private veterinarian and the official Veterinary Services it is appropriate to prepare through an ad hoc group the basis and format of this alliance to the completion of this proposal.
 6. The official Veterinary Services support integration between the Veterinary and Medical Schools to further education in the areas of zoonosis, food safety, epidemiology and other disciplines to strengthen the principles of public health.
 7. Collaboration between official Veterinary Services and Veterinary Learning Institutions within Member Countries be promoted.
 8. Cooperation with the OIE Collaborating Centre in Lyon (France) to encourage advanced training be promoted.
 9. Promote better usage of electronic tools to develop the necessary competencies between public and private sectors, and to guide current and future efforts in this context.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 3

**Simplification of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) categorisation system
and new surveillance and monitoring mechanisms for BSE adapted to the structure and
dynamics of the national cattle population**

CONSIDERING THAT

During the 71st General Session in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, mandating the Director General to take all necessary measures to submit to the 72nd General session a draft proposal for a simplification of categories for the sanitary status of Member Countries with respect to BSE,

The OIE Code Commission organised a meeting of an Ad hoc Group of BSE experts to address a request from the International Committee to simplify the current BSE categorisation system in the *Terrestrial Code* and consider suggestions from several Member Countries on alternative approaches,

The BSE Ad hoc Group that met in April 2004, recommended to replace the current categorisation system by a new one, which would group countries into the following three categories: negligible risk of BSE, controlled BSE risk, undetermined risk of BSE,

During the 72nd General Session in May 2004, the OIE requested that Member Countries send their comments to the OIE to give the Code Commission some indications as to the direction in which it should be heading. Furthermore, the OIE recalled that in addition to the priority of a simplified approach to country categorisation in the BSE chapter, a revision of the BSE surveillance appendix was included in the work programme of the OIE Code Commission,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
RECOMMENDS THAT THE OIE

1. Further develop the proposal to replace the current BSE categorisation by a system establishing the following three proposed categories: negligible risk, controlled risk and undetermined risk of BSE.
2. Further develop the list of tradeable products regardless of the BSE status of the exporting country. Furthermore, continue to work on measures applied to products which do depend on the sanitary status of the exporting country.
3. Based on recent scientific advances, continue to improve the Appendix on surveillance with its recommendations directly linked to the production systems, and commensurate with the outcomes of a risk assessment in compliance with Article 1.3.6 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 4

**Functioning of Committees and Ad hoc Groups within the scope
of the OIE Regional Commissions**

CONSIDERING THAT

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas has identified a need to work in close collaboration with Associations, having a regional or continental focus, of primary producers or other livestock industry sectors, to be more aware of the needs and proposals of these sectors within the framework of the OIE mandate,

There are no procedures within the General Regulations of the OIE, as no specification in this respect exists,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The following text be introduced in Chapter III of the General Rules of the OIE, as Article 18:

“The Bureau of the Regional Commission, in agreement with the General Director, and based on the sanitary priorities of the region, can establish committees and ad hoc groups, to analyse, discuss and develop proposals on their specific expertise, that will be submitted to the Regional Commission for approval and subsequently brought before the International Committee through its official procedures.”

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 19 November 2004 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

**16th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Khartoum (Sudan), 7-10 February 2005

- Recommendation No. 1: Organisation and management of transhumance in Africa
- Recommendation No. 2: The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the livestock sector in Africa
- Recommendation No. 3: Animal health and production policies and implementation mechanisms in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Organisation and management of transhumance in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

Transhumance is a very important pastoral management method that is practised in many African countries,

It often provides the most relevant system to manage natural pastoral resources,

It is a cultural, social and economic basis of many pastoral African communities representing large populations,

There is a need to exchange information in this field among the countries,

In some instances, there is dire lack of regulations and legislation on transhumance,

Transhumance is a source of social conflicts that often has dramatic consequences,

Transhumance can carry epidemiological risks and diverse resulting losses,

Recommendation No. 1 of the Regional Conference of Maputo in 2003 relating to the importance of livestock identification and movement control to the promotion of animal disease control and facilitation of trade,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE ORGANISATIONS AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN CHARGE OF LIVESTOCK IN OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER COUNTRIES

1. Take advantage of current initiatives, such as the ALive Platform and the GF-TADs Programme, for the development of animal production and the control of animal diseases and zoonoses.
2. Identify, whenever possible, grazing zones and transhumance corridors, as well as their appropriate development, in a more precise and operational manner.
3. Boost epidemiological surveillance and tools for the control of the major diseases associated with transhumance (foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, PPR, animal trypanosomoses, anthrax, etc.).
4. Take into account the sustainability of pastoral natural resources managed within pastoral systems linked with transhumance.
5. Implement mechanisms for the supervision of animal movement linked with transhumance practices.

6. Make use of the supportive specialised framework of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the AU-IBAR to develop capacity-building in Member Countries and transfer of knowledge among African countries for the development of animal production and animal health actions.
7. Strengthen cooperation between sub-regional organisations (ECOWAS, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, IGAD, AMU, etc.) in order to limit the negative effects of transhumance.

B. GOVERNMENTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

1. Allocate as a priority adequate public resources for developing livestock production and controlling animal diseases, in compliance with the decision of the Heads of States taken in Maputo (i.e. 10% of the national investment budgets allocated to agriculture).
2. Draw up, harmonise and implement sub-regional agreements and directives and national laws and regulations adapted to transhumance practices.
3. Strengthen the capacities of the sub-regional organisations for setting up sub-regional observatories for collecting and processing the information required to organise and manage transhumance.
4. Strengthen national and regional devices for preventing and managing conflict arising from transhumance.

C. THE OIE

Provide Member Countries with standards and guidelines on livestock identification and traceability taking into account the economic and practical constraints to be faced by Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 10 February 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 2

**The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
for the livestock sector in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

A range of strategies is required in agriculture to adequately address the growing need for increased food security, nutrition and poverty reduction,

Livestock production requires substantial development to keep pace with the growing demand for increased food production,

Several advances have been made in recent years in the field of biotechnology and many applications, including genetically modified organisms, are relevant to livestock production,

The potential for the application of biotechnology, including genetic modification, in disease management and livestock production is gaining increasing recognition,

There is need for policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks in Member Countries to facilitate the exploitation of such new technology, taking into account potential risks to human, animal and environmental health, and consumer concerns,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries review or develop national policies, legislation and guidelines in compliance with international standards for the safe application of biotechnology, including genetically modified organisms, in the livestock sector.
2. Member Countries, in relation with industry, engage in general awareness and educational initiatives on biotechnology, in particular genetically modified organisms.
3. Member Countries develop, improve, acquire and/or maintain the necessary institutional and technical capacity, and infrastructure, to optimally utilise the value of available biotechnologies (including genetically modified organisms) in the livestock sector.
4. The OIE assist Member Countries in these efforts within its mandates.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 10 February 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Recommendation No. 3

Animal health and production policies and implementation mechanisms in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

The Cairo Declaration and four Recommendations adopted during the Africa-Middle East Conference on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, which was held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004,

The mandate of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, composed of the Delegates of Member Countries nominated by their respective governments having submitted valid and legal adhesion documents to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE),

The legal status of the recommendations adopted by the OIE Regional Commissions, which are subsequently submitted for validation to the General Session of Delegates of OIE Member Countries (OIE International Committee composed of 167 Member Countries on 31 December 2004),

The mandate of the African Union (AU) and the Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR),

The mandate of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, adopted by the OIE International Committee during its 69th General Session,

The respective mandates of Sub-Regional and International Organisations, such as the FAO, dealing with livestock development in Africa,

The necessity for the Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to progressively adhere to the SPS agreement of the WTO in order to have better access to inter-regional and international trade in animals and their products, in particular with regard to the quality of their Veterinary Services,

The positive impact of public health and poverty alleviation linked to the regional and national implementation of public investment programmes aimed at controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses,

The necessity to harmonise the animal health and production policies and to improve and strengthen the regional implementation mechanisms,

The recent development in international initiatives aimed at promoting the animal health and production policies in Africa, such as the ALive Platform (African Livestock), GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) and STDF (Standards for Trade Development Facility),

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Mechanisms associating closely the OIE Regional Commission for Africa via the elected Representatives, the African Union, the Sub-Regional Institutions of economic integration (ECOWAS, IGAD, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, AMU ...), the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, the FAO and the donors be set up to implement efficiently the ALive, GF-TADs and STDF programmes as soon as they are operational.
 2. The AU-IBAR plays a major role in the governance of the said mechanisms, in particular on the level of the Regional Steering Committees of these initiatives, in association with other concerned Regional Organisations in Africa.
 3. The permanent Secretariat of the ALive Platform currently conducted by the World Bank in Washington be transferred to Africa, to give support to joint implementation by the AU-IBAR and the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.
 4. Donor meetings be organised on a regular basis under the joint aegis of the OIE, AU-IBAR and the FAO in order to mobilise the multi-donor fiduciary funds of ALive and GF-TADs.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 10 February 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2005)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 73rd General Session
Paris, 24 May 2005**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 24 May 2005

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 24 May 2005 at the Salons Hoche, near the OIE Headquarters, from 8.45 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. The meeting was attended by 69 Delegates and observers from 37 OIE Member Countries, and representatives of 12 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observers: France, Italy and the United Kingdom

International Organisations: AU/IBAR, CEBEVIRHA⁵², CIRAD-EMVT, EISMV⁵³, FAO, ILRI, Office gabonais d'alimentation et production de viande, PACE, PANVAC, SADC, Vaccination Institute in Botswana and the World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr Hamadou Saïdou (Cameroon), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland) and Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was read and adopted with the addition of the following item:

– ALive Programme.

The following item was chosen for inclusion on the agenda of future meetings of the Regional Commission: 'The African point of view on controversial issues at the General Session'.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The question of OIE Member Countries in arrears with their contributions was discussed at length. It was emphasised that this was a recurrent problem in spite of the efforts made by Member Countries during the past three years.

⁵² CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)

⁵³ EISMV: Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

3. Proposals for Technical Items to be included on the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee, to be held in May 2007

The Commission proposed the following Technical Items:

- a) In what respect are Veterinary Services an international public good?
- b) Commodity-based approach for promoting international trade while safeguarding animal and public health.

4. Recommendations of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Khartoum (Sudan)

All the Recommendations adopted at the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 7 to 10 February 2005, were distributed to the participants and unanimously endorsed.

5. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004

All the Delegates and participants at the seminar had already received a copy of the complete proceedings. The Recommendations and the Declaration approved at the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Khartoum (Sudan), were distributed to the participants and endorsed by the Regional Commission.

6. Venue, date and technical items for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Eritrea in February 2007

During the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 7 to 10 February 2005, the Delegate of Eritrea, on behalf of the Government of his country, offered to host the 17th Conference in his country in February 2007.

On behalf of his Government, the Delegate of Eritrea confirmed his country's invitation to host the 17th Conference in Eritrea in February 2007. This was unanimously endorsed by the participants.

The Delegate of Chad also confirmed, on behalf of his Government, the invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in February 2009, as had been voted in Khartoum.

The following technical items were proposed for the 17th Regional Conference:

- a) Strategy for strengthening national epidemiological surveillance systems in Africa.
- b) Harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan, 2006-2010

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission, presented the Fourth Strategic Plan, 2006-2010, submitted to the International Committee in May 2004 after a synopsis of the proposals from the various Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

The Regional Commission approved the Strategic Plan.

8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. The complete report was distributed to the participants.

Dr Sidibé also stated that the Regional Representation was committed to strengthening its activities in the following areas:

- Improving access to regional and international markets for animals and animal products, in compliance with OIE standards and respecting the obligations of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Guaranteeing the quality and accuracy of information on animal diseases and zoonoses
- Improving the qualifications of Chief Veterinary Officers and other members of the Veterinary Services
- Strengthening cooperation with sub-regional organisations (AU-IBAR, ECOWAS ⁵⁴, SADC, WAEMU ⁵⁵, CEBEVIRHA, AMU ⁵⁶)
- Strengthening national Veterinary Services, thanks to the possibility of obtaining funding under the ALive programme and GF-TADs
- Setting up the OIE sub-regional Representation in Botswana to cover the SADC countries.

Following discussions and suggestions regarding the strengthening of the activities of the Regional Representation, the report was approved by the Members of the Commission.

9. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official Agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA, SADC

- AU-IBAR: The Director of AU-IBAR reviewed the points discussed at the consultative meeting held at the OIE headquarters on Saturday, 21 May 2005. The floor was then given to the Chairman of the meeting to present the recommendations that had been distributed to all the participants.
- CEBEVIRHA: The representative of the organisation congratulated the OIE Central Bureau for having included regional institutions on the agenda for the meeting.
- SADC: The announcement of the opening of the OIE sub-regional Representation in the SADC region was confirmed by the representative of the SADC.
- World Bank: Dr François Le Gall responded to the participants' concern for information and invited all the Delegates to participate in the General Assembly of ALive, due to be held at the Paris headquarters of the World Bank on Tuesday 31 May 2005.

10. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Caroline Planté, Chargée de mission at the Regional Representation in Bamako, gave a brief demonstration of the site for the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

Dr Planté stated that the Web site for the OIE Regional Representation for Africa had been operational since September 2004 and that the official opening was planned for the near future.

⁵⁴ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁵⁵ WAEMU: West African Economic and Monetary Union

⁵⁶ AMU: Arab Maghreb Union

11. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Africa in 2006

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the FAO Animal Health Service (AGAH), stated that the OIE and the FAO considered the problem of transboundary diseases to be crucial and that the two Organisations were seeking to address the issue rapidly through the GF-TADs⁵⁷ programme, which he then went on to outline. Dr Domenech provided additional information on the programme and stressed the need for a regional approach, to supplement actions taken at the national level to contain this major problem.

12. Other matters

- Dr Daniel Chaisemartin, Project Officer of Information Systems at the OIE Central Bureau, presented the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

.../Appendix

⁵⁷ GF-TADs: Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 24 May 2005

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
3. Proposals for technical items to be included on the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007 (see 'Technical Items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commission since 1997')
4. Recommendations of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 7 to 10 February 2005
5. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004
6. Venue, date and technical items of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Eritrea in February 2007
7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (activities and work programme)
9. Presentations of international and regional organisations having an official Agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, World Bank
10. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
11. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Africa in 2006
12. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 24 May 2005

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 24 May 2005 at the Salons Hoche, close to OIE headquarters, from 8.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 80 Delegates and observers from 25 OIE Member Countries and two observer countries, as well as by representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Observers: Spain and the United Kingdom

Regional and international organisations: CARICOM⁵⁸, IICA, OIRSA and PAHO/PANAFTOSA⁵⁹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter Fernández (United States of America), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil) and Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Hernán Rojas Olavarria (Chile), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans and Dr Correa Mesutti, auditors of the Administrative Commission, reminded Member Countries that had not paid their dues to rapidly bring their contributions up to date, in compliance with Article 3 of the OIE General Rules. In spite of the fact that contributions were successfully collected last year, some countries in the region still have outstanding contributions dating back several years.

⁵⁸ CARICOM: Caribbean Community

⁵⁹ PAHO/PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization / Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2007 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1996')

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Applications of the compartmentalisation concept
- b) Activities and efforts to attract veterinarians to work on regulatory aspects of the Veterinary Services.

4. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Brazil in November 2006 (dates and selection of technical items)

Dr Jorge Caetano Junior, the Delegate of Brazil, reported on the preparation being made for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Florianapolis (Brazil) from 21 to 24 November 2006.

The Regional Commission confirmed the following technical items:

- a) Animal welfare in the Americas (proposal from Chile)
- b) Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories (proposal from Mexico).

5. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The President of the Commission presented the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan for 2006-2010, which was submitted to the International Committee following a synopsis of the proposals by the various Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission. The importance of this Strategic Plan was highlighted as a useful tool for achieving the objectives of the region's Veterinary Services.

The Member Countries from the Americas Region gave it their support and the plan was officially approved.

6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation. The Delegates were handed a full report. The following areas were highlighted:

- Participation in various meetings, seminars and workshops, both within the Regional Representation and externally.
- Harmonisation and development of technical groups, such as COPEA, CAMEVET, CISA and the new technical group on fish diseases.
- The 2006 plan of activities, including strengthening Veterinary Services and developing information systems.

Dr Fernández thanked Dr Barcos for the efficient work he had accomplished in his short time in the Regional Representation for the Americas, and all the participants gave their unanimous endorsement.

7. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

The Regional Representative concluded by saying that the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas had been updated. He said that he was working with the Delegate of Brazil on translating the Web site into Portuguese, in addition to Spanish and English. The phases in the updating process were shown, together with amendments to the *Code* and a proposal for interactions with the different sectors at national level. Lastly, Dr Barcos urged Member Countries to submit their comments and suggestions.

8. Future election of the OIE Director General

The election will take place on Wednesday at 9.00 a.m. with a single candidate (Dr Bernard Vallat).

9. Risk analysis and a comparison between the OIE and CODEX systems

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, explained that the OIE had prepared risk analysis documents and that they include a comparison with what CODEX proposes.

10. First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for the Americas, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on 14 and 15 April 2005

Dr Luis Barcos summarised the results of the First Meeting of the GF-TADs, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on 14 and 15 April 2005.

Dr Peter Fernández said that the idea was to continue with this initiative at regional level, after which a meeting of donors would be held at international level.

11. Other matters

• **Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories**

Dr Alejandro Schudel, Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, described the characteristics required of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. He also presented their situation in the world and especially in the region. Finally, there was a presentation and discussion of the steps that Member Countries must follow to apply.

• **OIE Collaborating Centre for Screwworm Training, at the COPEG Laboratory, Panama**

The Delegate of Panama presented a proposal for an OIE Collaborating Centre on Screwworm. The proposal was unanimously supported by the Regional Commission and will be sent to the Director General to continue with OIE procedures.

• **Trust fund for the Regional Representation for the Americas**

Dr Luis Barcos presented a proposal for an additional voluntary payment to the actual voluntary contribution already made by the host country of the Regional Representation's office. This payment will come from an additional increase on the voluntary contributions from all the countries in the region. The proposal was endorsed subject to consultation and confirmation from each government and will be implemented via the OIE through a letter from the Director General to each Minister justifying the additional contribution and indicating the importance of the activities of the Regional Representation.

- **Trust fund for the development of the use of the Spanish language in the OIE**

Dr Fernando Crespo León presented a report on the progress of the translation into Spanish of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and on future scheduled activities. These include the translation of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* and its inclusion in the OIE Web page. He thanked the Member Countries that were providing financial support and urged other countries to cooperate by providing funding.

Dr Luis Barcos emphasised the importance of this fund for the region.

- **Request from Panama tabled at the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in November 2004**

The Delegate of Panama proposed his country for collaboration with OIE activities and indicated Panama's interest in being considered in the event that the OIE should decide to set up a sub-regional office in the future.

- **World Animal Health Information System – progress with its implementation in the Region**

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, briefly described the principles and operation of the new world animal health information system for the OIE. Afterwards he highlighted the benefits for the OIE Member Countries. The first annual questionnaire will appear in January 2006.

- **Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases**

Dr Sharon McGladdery made a presentation of the Ad Hoc Group's, objectives and mode of operation. The Member Countries must put forward the names of experts in their countries. Chile congratulated Canada on its efforts and stressed the importance of the participating experts. At the request of Dr Michael David, Dr McGladdery clarified that they wished to be given the name of one contact person in each country, for the technical discussions of the Working Groups. One of the first tasks of the Ad Hoc Group will be to organise an electronic conference within the next two months and a regional conference in 2006.

- **Presentations from International or Regional Organisations that have an official agreement with the OIE:**

CARICOM

Dr Margaret Kallou, Senior Project Officer, said that the Caribbean Community comprised 15 Member Countries (six of which are OIE Member Countries). CARICOM was created in 1973 with the principal objective of achieving economic development based on the coordination of economic policies, functional cooperation and increased trade. She mentioned that one of CARICOM's strengths is that the existence of FMD, BSE and avian influenza is unknown in the Community.

OIRSA

Dr Luis Espinosa, Technical Director for Animal Health, started by reporting that Nicaragua and El Salvador planned to eradicate classical swine fever by the year 2009 and concluded by listing OIRSA's activities in support of countries in 2004 and its cooperation activities with the FAO, OIE and PAHO.

PAHO-PANAFTOSA

Dr Eduardo Correa, Director of PAHO-PANAFTOSA, described the aims of his organisation, its structure, the principal activities and mechanisms used, international coordination bodies, and regional and subregional alliances. He briefly reported on the status of rabies and foot and mouth disease in the Americas. He concluded by saying that the Hemispheric Conference on the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (Houston 2004) had resulted in the Houston Declaration, involving the creation of the Inter American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (GIEFA).

IICA

Dr Kevin Walker, Director of IICA, presented the tool created jointly with the OIE, called 'Performance, Vision and Strategy' (PVS) and pointed out that the most important thing was not to consider it as a diagnostic tool, but as a forward-looking process. Lastly, he highlighted the importance of private sector participation, not only as a necessity, but also as an enriching factor.

The meeting was closed at 12.00 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS
Paris, 24 May 2005**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007 (see “Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1996”)
4. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Brazil in November 2006 (dates and selection of technical items)
5. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)
7. Website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (including the update of the *Terrestrial Manual*)
8. Future election of the OIE Director General
9. Risk analysis and a comparison between the OIE and CODEX systems
10. First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the Americas, held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) on 14 and 15 April 2005
11. Other matters:
 - OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Alejandro Schudel)
 - OIE Collaborating Centre for Screwworm Training, at the COPEG Laboratory, Panama (Delegate of Panama)
 - Trust fund for the Regional Representation for the Americas
 - Trust fund for the development of the use of the Spanish language in the OIE
 - Request from Panama tabled at the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in November 2004
 - Translation and updating of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* from English into Spanish and Portuguese (Brazil, Portugal) (Luis Barcos)
 - World Animal Health Information System – progress with its implementation in the Region
 - Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases (Brian Evans/Sharon McGladdery)
 - Presentations from International or Regional Organisations that have an official agreement with the OIE:
CARICOM (Margaret Kallou), OIRSA, PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 24 May 2005

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 24 May 2005 at the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters, from 8.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 56 Delegates and observers from 19 OIE Member Countries, 3 observer countries, and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Caledonia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam

Observers: Canada, France and Hong Kong

International organisations: FAO, SEAFDEC, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), WHO and WTO

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr José Q. Molina (the Philippines), Vice-President, and Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted with the addition of two items:

- Election of a Member of the Administrative Commission for the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region
- Election of a Vice-President for the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that the issues of outstanding contributions and low rates of contribution from a number of countries are of concern to the Administrative Commission. The latter recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not settled their contributions for several years.

3. Report of the President of the Commission on his activities in the Region for the previous 12 months

The President of the Commission tabled his activities in the Region for the previous twelve months.

Dr Barry O'Neil, Vice-President of the Administrative Commission, gave an update of the key issues arising from the Administrative Commission meetings during the year.

4. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2007

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Epidemiological modelling for the management of disease outbreaks (preferred item)
- b) Electronic certification and its applicability to trade in livestock and livestock products.

5. Preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea gave a presentation on the preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in Seoul from 15 to 18 November 2005.

The following technical items for the conference were confirmed:

- a) Avian influenza and emerging diseases of relevance in the region (Speakers: Dr Chantanee Buranathai and Dr Kim Jae Hong)
- b) Epidemiological analysis of BSE cases in Asia (Speaker: Dr Takashi Yokoyama).

6. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2004–2005

Dr Ronello Abila, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the FMD control programme and the paper was distributed to the participants.

In the discussion, many participants thanked Dr Abila for his report, and emphasised the opportunities the SEAFMD model presents when dealing with other disease problems in the area, such as avian influenza.

- **11th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Cebu (the Philippines) from 27 February to 4 March 2005**

Dr Abila gave a summary of the results of the 11th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Cebu (the Philippines). The report of the meeting was distributed to all participants. He also briefly reported on the outcome of the Donors' meeting held on 4 March 2005.

The Delegate of Myanmar gave an update of the situation in his country, including the MTM project. The Representative of Thailand complimented Dr Abila on his work. Representatives from Vietnam emphasised the need to take into account political, social and other factors in the management of the programme. The Delegate from Cambodia re-enforced the value of SEAFMD as a model for other diseases.

The President commented on the importance of the Asia 1 FMD strain, and suggested that Dr Abila should provide a technical analysis of the situation.

- **Recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia**

Dr Gardner Murray, President of the Regional Commission, gave a summary of the recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia, which were distributed to all participants. The recommendations were unanimously accepted by the participants and put to the International Committee for approval.

Dr Murray highlighted the key challenges ahead: technical, financial and political. He was convinced that the programme can succeed and encouraged participants to attend the next SEAFMD meeting to be held in Thailand in February 2006.

7. First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs in Asia and the Pacific held in Tokyo (Japan) from 7 to 9 March 2005

Dr Teruhide Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, gave a summary of the results from the First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs in Asia and the Pacific held in Tokyo (Japan) from 7 to 9 March 2005. Dr Fujita's report was noted by the participants.

8. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Fujita presented the report of his activities and work plan, which was distributed to the participants.

Dr Fujita presented the six priority areas of work, and the key activities and publications undertaken in 2004/2005. He also presented the key points in the work plan for 2005/2006, which was adopted by the participants.

9. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010)

The President of the Commission presented the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010, submitted to the International Committee, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

The Fourth Strategic Plan was supported by the Regional Commission with the President noting that the submission developed by the Regional Commission had been taken into account in the Fourth Strategic Plan.

10. Avian influenza

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE Central Bureau, gave a short presentation on the avian influenza situation.

This was followed by brief comments on the FAO perspective by Dr Joseph Domenech, Head of the Animal Health Service (AGAH) of the FAO.

Dr François-Xavier Meslin, Coordinator of the 'Department for the development and follow-up of strategies for the control of zoonoses, food toxicoinfections and kinetoplastid infections' of the WHO, reported on a number of key WHO initiatives.

Following discussions, the members:

- Noted the progress of joint OIE, FAO and WHO programmes to control avian influenza

- Re-affirmed the importance of ready access to experts and diagnostic facilities
- Confirmed their support for the GF-TADs programme
- Re-affirmed the need for the OIE, FAO and OFFLU new network to provide advice on vaccination for avian influenza and provide animal virus strains to the WHO
- Noted the OIE/FAO/WHO meeting on Avian Influenza to be held in Malaysia from 4 to 6 July 2005.

11. Presentation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Dr Stephen Angus gave an update on the work of the SPC, and the animal health status of countries involved.

Dr Angus highlighted concerns about the declining number of veterinary and paraveterinary staff within Pacific nations.

12. Other matters

o World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

Dr Julio Pinto, Deputy Head of the Animal Health Information Department of the OIE Central Bureau, updated participants with the progress in implementing WAHIS.

o The President advised the meeting that Dr David Banks was tragically killed in a plane crash recently

Participants paid tribute to his work and asked that their deepest sympathies be passed on to Dr Banks' family.

• Election of a Member of the Administrative Commission for the Asia Region

It was agreed that Dr José Molina, Delegate of the Philippines, who was nominated by Sri Lanka, and seconded by the Republic of Korea and Taiwan, be the Regional Commission's nomination for membership of the Administrative Commission.

• Election of a Vice-President for the Bureau of the Commission

The following persons were proposed:

Dr Hirofumi Kugita, Delegate of Japan, was nominated by the Delegate of the Republic of Korea and seconded by the Delegate of New Zealand.

In the event that Dr Molina resigns from the position of Vice-President, since he will be elected to the Administrative Commission, the meeting agreed that Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amaresekara, Delegate of Sri Lanka (nominated by Thailand and seconded by India), would take up the other Vice-President position. The President asked for a ruling on the validity of the relevant 2004 Regional Commission recommendation. The OIE Central Bureau confirmed that the nomination shown in last year's Regional Commission report was no longer valid.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 24 May 2005

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
3. Report of the President of the Commission on his activities in the Region for the previous 12 months
4. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1991')
5. Preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Seoul (the Republic of Korea) from 15 to 18 November 2005
6. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2004-2005
 - 11th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia held in Cebu (the Philippines) from 27 February to 4 March 2005
 - Recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia
7. First Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Asia and the Pacific held in Tokyo (Japan) from 7 to 9 March 2005
8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (activities and work programme)
9. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
10. Avian influenza (AI) (Dr Dewan Sibartie)
11. Presentation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
12. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)
 - The President advised the meeting that Dr David Banks was tragically killed in a plane crash recently
 - Election of a Member of the Administrative Commission for the Asia Region
 - Election of a Vice-President for the Bureau of the Asia Commission

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 24 May 2005

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 24 May 2005 at the OIE headquarters in the René Vittoz Conference Room, from 8.30 a.m. to 9.50 a.m. The meeting was attended by 83 Delegates and observers from 44 OIE Member Countries, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom

International or Regional Organisations: Secretariaat of the Council of Europe, European Commission and European Union

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-President, and Dr Petr Ivanovitch Verbytsky (Ukraine), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates and representatives of the international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted, with the following additional item under 'Other matters':

- Election of a Vice-President for the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe.

Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland) was proposed as Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Europe and was nominated unanimously.

2. Report on the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Petr Verbytsky, Secretary General of the Commission, presented the annual report of the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe. The complete report was distributed to all participants. It was adopted with one small modification, namely, deletion of the last sentence regarding resources.

3. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice-President of the Commission, briefly outlined the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010, submitted to the International Committee, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Delegate of the Netherlands commented that while fully supportive of the work of the OIE and the development of the Fourth Strategic Plan, there is a concern that the organisation may be at risk of over committing itself. There is further work to be done in the delivery of items 1 to 3 of the current Plan and the addition of items 4 and 5 may affect the core activities of the OIE. A further concern relates to the resource implications of the expansion of the new Plan.

The Delegate of Germany suggested that the Regional Commissions develop a list of experts in different fields. The lists should be forwarded to the Director General of the OIE to assist him in selecting members of the different Working Groups. If the Fourth Plan is to be adopted at this General Session, the adoption should be conditional, to allow for step by step implementation.

4. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lyon (France)

Dr Monique Eloit, Delegate of France, on behalf of the Government of her country, confirmed the organisation of the next Conference of the Commission in Lyon in September 2006.

The technical items retained for the Conference are the following:

- a) Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians
- b) Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools.

5. Seminars

The President of the Regional Commission requested Dr Kostadin Gruzdev and Dr Levan Ramishvili to give details of the two OIE-organised seminars that are to be held in their respective countries.

5.1. Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe, to be held in Suzdal (Russia) from 12 to 14 September 2005

A member of the Russian delegation, Dr Kostadin Gruzdev, informed participants on the preparation of the seminar.

5.2. Seminar on the New OIE Information System, to be held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 23 to 27 October 2005

The Delegate of Georgia, Dr Levan Ramishvili, informed participants on the preparation of the seminar.

6. OIE/FAO/WHO Conference on Rabies in Europe, to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) from 15 to 20 June 2005

Dr Petr Verbytsky gave details on the Conference to be held in Kiev from 15 to 20 June 2005.

7. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2007

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- Compartmentalisation: definition, pros and cons for disease control and ensuring the safety of products
- Use of epidemiological modelling as a tool for veterinary administrations.

8. Preparation of the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Lukauskas gave an update of the situation regarding the Web site for the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe. An intern from Russia, Ekatarina Panin, finalised a Site prototype in English, which must now be updated and maintained by the Regional Representation. It will be implemented in November 2005. He also mentioned that the Web site will exist in Russian in the future. The Web site was adopted by the participants.

9. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Eastern Europe to be held on 13 and 14 October 2005 in Paris (France)

Dr Patrick Rogan, Delegate of Ireland, stated that the OIE and the FAO considered the problem of transboundary diseases to be crucial and that the two Organisations were seeking to address the issue rapidly through the GF-TADs programme, which he then went on to outline.

Dr Belev stressed the importance of this meeting and extended his thanks to the European Commission for their valuable input in implementing this work.

10. Other matters:

- **Seminar on Collaboration between OIE Member Countries (EU and non EU Member States)**

Dr Rogan briefly outlined the aim of the series of seminars on collaboration between OIE Member Countries (EC and non EC Member States) that would be held in various countries. The first group will meet from 1 to 10 October 2005. He also stressed the financial aspects of these projects, which are intended to encourage the widest possible participation.

The meeting was closed at 9.50 a.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 24 May 2005

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Report of activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (activities and work programme)
 3. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
 4. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lyon (France) from 25 to 28 September 2006
 5. Seminars of the Regional Representation:
 - 5.1. Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe, to be held in Suzdal (Russia) from 12 to 14 September 2005
 - 5.2. Seminar on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System, to be held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 23 to 27 October 2005
 6. OIE/FAO/WHO Conference on Rabies in Europe, to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) from 15 to 20 June 2005
 7. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998')
 8. Preparation of the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe
 9. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe, to be held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 13 and 14 October 2005
 10. Other matters
 - Seminars on Collaboration between OIE Member Countries (European Union [EU] and non EU Member States), to be held in various countries of the Region
 - Election of a Vice-President for the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Europe
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 24 May 2005

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 24 May 2005 at the OIE headquarters in the Salon Ramon, from 8.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 28 Delegates and observers from 14 OIE Member Countries and two observer countries, as well as one regional organisation:

Member Countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observers: France and the Palestinian National Authority

International or Regional Organisations: Red Sea Livestock Trade Commission (RSLTC)

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain) Acting President of the Commission, assisted by Dr George Khoury (Syria), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted, with the addition of the following item under 'Other matters':

- 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

2. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities and the proposed programme of work for the years 2005-2006, which was distributed to the participants.

The main points included: information about conferences, workshops and meetings organised during 2004, their recommendations, and a list of the proposed programmes for 2005-2006.

3. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President mentioned the need for certain Member Countries to settle their outstanding contributions as soon as possible and requested the Delegates to remind their appropriate Ministry to make the payments. The Administrative Commission recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not settled their membership fees for a number of years.

4. Information on the Recommendations and Declaration of the OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, held in Cairo (Egypt), from 11 to 13 October 2004

All Delegates and other participants at the seminar had already received a copy of the complete proceedings. The Declaration and Recommendations were again distributed to the participants. Adoption of the Recommendations was confirmed.

5. Proposal of a Member of the Administrative Commission, of the President of the Regional Commission and of a Member of the Bureau of the Commission

The Acting President of the Regional Commission asked for proposals for the election of a Member of the Administrative Commission for the Middle East Region.

Dr George Khoury was proposed and nominated unanimously by the Regional Commission.

The Acting President then requested a proposal for the President of the Regional Commission.

Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim was proposed as the new President of the Commission and nominated unanimously.

As the nominee is one of the present members of the Regional Commission Bureau, a further nomination was made to replace him.

Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan) was proposed as Vice-President of the Regional Commission and nominated unanimously.

6. Preparation of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005

Dr Salman Nabi Ebrahim, Delegate of Bahrain, confirmed that his country will host the 8th Conference in Manama from 26 to 29 September 2005.

The following technical items for the conference were established:

- a) Capacity-building in the Veterinary Services of Middle Eastern countries (Speaker: Dr Jean-Michel Bergès)
- b) Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals (Speaker: Dr Hassan Aidaros)

Six additional subjects to be discussed at the conference are:

- Update on the OIE activities on aquatic animal health (Dr Barry Hill)
- Control of horse movements in Middle Eastern countries (Dr Ghazi Yehia and Dr Tom Morton)
- Food-borne diseases in products of animal origin (Dr Ahmed Hassan)
- Presentation of the FAO/OIE initiative: GF-TADs (Dr Joseph Domenech)
- Follow-up of the FAO/OIE project for recognition of freedom from rinderpest in the Middle East (Dr Peter Roeder)
- Follow-up of the RVF climate modelling system (Dr Maxx Dilley).

7. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the Middle East

The President of the Commission gave the broad outlines of the GF-TADs⁶⁰ programme and announced the establishment of the Middle East Regional Steering Committee, which will include the OIE-FAO and representatives of specialised regional organisations, as well as specific regional donors. The first meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 7 and 8 November 2005.

8. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The President of the Commission presented the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010, submitted to the International Committee, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

The Regional Commission adopted the Fourth Strategic Plan.

9. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Quality assurance programmes. A transparent method of improving and maintaining standards in national laboratories and a basis for approval for export testing purposes
- b) Economic impact of brucellosis.

10. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region**

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department of the OIE Central Bureau, presented the different steps in the implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) with the obligations of Member Countries in terms of animal health notification to the OIE. He presented the steps in the development of the WAHIS Web application and its benefits for Member Countries.

- **9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

The Delegate of Syria informed the meeting that his country is willing to host the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Damascus in September 2007.

One of the two technical items of the conference was already proposed:

- The role of Veterinary Councils and Veterinary Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services.

The meeting was closed at 12 p.m.

.../Appendix

⁶⁰ Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 24 May 2005

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
 3. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
 4. Information on the Recommendations and Declaration of the OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar on the Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions, held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004
 5. Proposal of candidates for the election of the President of the Regional Commission
 6. Preparation of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005
 7. First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for the Middle East, to be held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 7 and 8 November 2005
 8. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
 9. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 75th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2007
 10. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region
 - 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
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