

# Session PARIS

• 25-30 may 2008

76<sup>th</sup> OIE  
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# Final Report

OIE



**76th General Session • Paris, 25-30 May 2008**

# Final Report 2008



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## List of abbreviations

ALA:	Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)
ALive:	Platform for African Livestock
AU-IBAR:	African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Livestock Resources
AVMA:	American Veterinary Medical Association
AVSF:	<i>Agronomes &amp; Vétérinaires sans frontières</i>
CEBEVIRHA:	<i>Communauté Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques de l'Afrique Centrale</i>
CIRAD:	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)
CIRAD-EMVT:	<i>Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement – Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire</i> (Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine of the International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development)
CVO:	Chief Veterinary Officer
EC:	European Commission
EC-DG SANCO:	European Commission Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General
ECTAD:	Emergency Center for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
EISMV:	Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires
EUFMD:	European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FAO)
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI:	<i>Fédération Equestre Internationale</i>
FVE:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GATT:	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GF-TADs:	Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GIS:	Geographical information systems
GISAID:	Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data
GLEWS:	Global Early Warning and response System for animal diseases including zoonoses
HPAI:	Highly pathogenic avian influenza
HPNAI:	highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza
IABs:	International Association for Biologicals
IATA:	International Air Transport Association
ICFAW:	International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare
ICLAS:	International Council for Laboratory Animal Science
ICMM:	International Committee of Military Medicine
IDF:	International Dairy Federation
IEC:	International Egg Commission
IETS:	International Embryo Transfer Society
IFAH:	International Federation for Animal Health

IFAP:	International Federation of Animal Producers
IICA:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
IPC:	International Poultry Council
IPPC:	International Plant Protection Convention
IZS:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
LPAI:	Low pathogenic avian influenza
LPNAI:	Low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza
NACA:	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
OFFLU:	OIE/FAO Network on Avian Influenza
OIRSA:	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuario (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)
PAHO:	Pan American Health Organization / PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PANVAC:	Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
PVS:	Performance of Veterinary Services
RSPCA:	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
SARPRC:	Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
SPS Agreement:	WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SRM:	specified risk material
SSAFE:	Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
STDF:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
UNSIC:	United Nations System Influenza Coordination
USDA:	United States Department of Agriculture
WAEMU:	West-African Economic and Monetary Union
WAHID:	World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS:	World Animal Health Information System
WHO:	World Health Organization
WSPA:	World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO:	World Trade Organization
WVA:	World Veterinary Association

# ***Final Report of the Sessions***





## Introduction

1. The 76th General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held at the OIE Headquarters<sup>1</sup>, 12 rue de Prony, Paris, France, from 25 to 30 May 2008, under the chairmanship of Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), President of the International Committee. Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (Senegal), Immediate Past-President, chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item I and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item II.
2. Delegations from 148 Member Countries and Territories participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from four non-member countries or territories and representatives of 56 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 Jeffrey C. Mariner (ILRI<sup>2</sup>), Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission) and Ms Christiane Wolff (WTO<sup>3</sup>) participated in the General Session in their capacity as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of some *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, Honorary Director General of the OIE, were also present.
8. Nine Members of Government of Member Countries and Territories participated in the Opening Session.

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≡ SUNDAY 25 MAY 2008 ≡

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## Opening Session

9. President O'Neil welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence during the opening ceremony: Mr René Montero (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Belize), Mr Sitaheng Rasphone (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Laos), Mrs Madeleine Bâ Diallo (Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Mali), Major Bright Rwamirama (Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda), Mr Mtiti Fakudze (Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Swaziland), Mr James Wanyancha (Deputy Minister of Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania), Mrs Svetla Bachvarova (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Bulgaria), Mr Joaquín Lezcano López (Deputy-Minister of Agriculture of Cuba), Mr Jean-Marc Bournigal (representing the Minister of Agriculture of France) and Mr Jim Butler (Deputy Director-General of FAO<sup>4</sup>).
10. Following the President's address, Mr Montero took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Mr Rasphone, Mrs Bâ Diallo, Major Rwamirama, Mr Fakudze, Mr Wanyancha, Mrs Bachvarova, Mr Lezcano López, Mr Bournigal and Mr Butler.

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<sup>1</sup> All the meetings during the first five days were held at the Maison de la Chimie (Paris)

<sup>2</sup> ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

<sup>3</sup> WTO: World Trade Organization

<sup>4</sup> FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### **Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards**

11. Dr O’Neil 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 Amadou Samba Sidibé (Mali) for the Gold Medal and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania) for the Meritorious Service Award.
12. Dr O’Neil commended Dr Sidibé and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding service to the OIE and the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Lukauskas and presented him with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the International Committee.
13. Following the ceremony, Dr O’Neil declared the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee open.

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≡ MONDAY 26 MAY 2008 ≡

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<b>FIRST PLENARY SESSION</b>
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14. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as members or observers.

### **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

15. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.
16. 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 for the 78th and 79th General Sessions**

17. The International Committee appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 78th and 79th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Tenzin Denhup (Bhutan), was composed of the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

### **Nomination of the Credentials Committee**

18. The International Committee appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr George Khoury (Syria) to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
19. In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Commission, they communicated to the Chairman the list of Delegates who, due to their country’s situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE, were ineligible either to take part in the elections or to be paid the Delegates’ per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

**Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2007**  
(Doc. 76 SG/1)

20. Dr Vallat presented the main points of the report.
21. In 2007, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund continued to be used, notably to address the priority objective of improving governance, in particular through the application of the PVS<sup>5</sup> Tool.
22. Forty-nine national evaluation missions were carried out in 2007.
23. Grants from the World Bank were used to finance economic studies on the cost of disease prevention and on animal health insurance schemes.
24. The OIE continued to participate in the STDF<sup>6</sup> mechanism (WTO) and the ALive platform for Africa.
25. Regional and national seminars for training and competence building and regional seminars on communication were organised.
26. The OIE proceeded with its laboratory twinning programme (approximately twenty twinning operations are currently being set up).
27. The programme for official OIE recognition of diagnostic tests was continued.
28. Several scientific conferences were organised or co-organised by the OIE.
29. The OIE now has 10 offices throughout the world (including the Headquarters). The creation of Regional Animal Health Centres in conjunction with FAO continued. Three such centres came into operation in 2007 (Bamako, Gaborone, Beirut).
30. Partnerships with other intergovernmental organisations and with international and regional organisations in the public or private sector were extended. Six official Agreements were signed in 2007 (bringing the total number of Agreements to 36).
31. Implementation of the GF-TADs<sup>7</sup> GLEWS<sup>8</sup> agreements continued.
32. The new WAHIS<sup>9</sup> and WAHID<sup>10</sup> systems were consolidated.
33. Updating of the *Codes* and *Manuals* was actively pursued.
34. By the end of 2007, the OIE had 24 Collaborating Centres and 171 Reference Laboratories. The OIE hosts the OFFLU<sup>11</sup> network secretariat.
35. Preparations for the on-line management of OIE publications were made in 2007, and the system is due to come into operation in mid 2008.
36. Communication activities were stepped up.

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<sup>5</sup> PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services

<sup>6</sup> STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility

<sup>7</sup> GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

<sup>8</sup> GLEWS: Global Early Warning and response System for animal diseases including zoonoses

<sup>9</sup> WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

<sup>10</sup> WAHID: World Animal Health Information Database

<sup>11</sup> OFFLU: OIE/FAO Network on Avian Influenza

37. On the subject of the PVS Tool, Dr Vallat emphasised the need to clearly separate the diagnosis (evaluation) from the treatment (analysis of gaps with respect to OIE standards and preparation of national investment programmes) and from PVS follow-up missions (follow-up of programmes by OIE-certified PVS experts).
38. He considered that the PVS activity was now a permanent function of the OIE.
39. The Delegate of India thanked the Director General for his report though expressed regret at not having received the copies of the report earlier. He suggested that copies of financial reports also be circulated prior to the Administrative Session. He further enquired what remedial measures the OIE proposes, following application of the PVS Tool – which is basically only a diagnostic tool –, to rectify the weaknesses in the Veterinary Services and what support it can provide to strengthen infrastructure in developing countries. He also wanted to know about the mode of utilisation of the Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the reasons, if any, for the decrease in donors' contributions to the Fund between 2006 and 2007.
40. The Delegate of Senegal expressed his satisfaction with the setting up of the PVS mechanism. He was also in favour of economic studies being carried out to justify the necessary investments. He requested information on the organisation of national seminars.
41. The President announced that a Resolution on food security and animal health would be submitted to the Delegates during the Administrative Session.
42. The Director General provided further information on the use made of the World Fund. He reminded Delegates that there was a Management Committee and an Advisory Committee and pointed out that a report on the World Fund would be made during the Administrative Session.
43. The Director General stated that the activities conducted by the OIE fell within the framework established by the Fourth Strategic Plan adopted by the Members of the OIE. The funding of infrastructure was currently excluded from the World Fund. This could change, but would require a modification of the OIE's mandate in this respect and a substantial increase in contributions.
44. The Director General considered it would be appropriate in 2009 to raise the awareness of donors once again so as to enable the continued financing of the World Fund. The fall in income between 2006 and 2007 is not a cause for concern as some of the funds received in 2006 correspond to three-year multiannual programmes paid in advance.
45. With regard to the PVS, the Director General recalled that there were three mechanisms: diagnosis, needs analysis, and follow-up. He indicated that for the needs analysis other organisations, such as the World Bank and FAO, were closely involved. He invited all OIE Members to apply the PVS Tool, including developed countries, which could apply it at the national level.
46. The Director General indicated that the financial documents had been sent to the Delegates 60 days before the General Session, in accordance with the OIE's legal obligations.
47. Concerning the holding of national seminars, the Director General stated that this depended on the availability of specific resources, in most cases provided by the host country.
48. The Committee noted the report of the Director General.

### **Composition of the Working Groups**

49. 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)
  - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
  - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (President)
  - Dr D.A. Leighton (Canada)
  - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
  - Dr Yasuhiro Yoshikawa (Japan)
- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
  - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
  - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
  - Mr Michael Scannell (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<sup>12</sup>)
  - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
  - 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 Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
  - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
  - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)
  - A Representative of IFAP<sup>13</sup>

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

### **Planned Working Programme for 2009**

(Doc. 76 SG/6 – Appendix I)

51. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2009, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Delegates elected to the Administrative Commission.
52. The Delegate of Pakistan thanked the Director General for his detailed reports and suggested that the OIE could award medals at the regional level.

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<sup>12</sup> WHO: World Health Organization

<sup>13</sup> IFAP: International Federation of Animal Producers

53. The President indicated that the Administrative Commission would study this proposal. He also encouraged Delegates to submit candidatures for honorary awards, which would be studied by the Administrative Commission at its meeting in February 2009.
54. The Planned Working Programme for 2009 submitted to the Delegates for approval is presented in Appendix I of document 76 SG/6.
55. The International Committee adopted the Planned Working Programme for 2009.

#### TECHNICAL ITEM I

#### **Participation of Small Farmers in Animal Health Programmes**

(Doc. 76 SG/9)

56. Dr Niang, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this Technical Item, Dr Jeffrey C. Mariner.
57. Dr Mariner presented his report, which was partly 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.
58. Small farmers own 85% of the world's farms and their participation in animal health programmes is crucial if these programmes are to achieve their goals. A questionnaire sent to the Veterinary Authorities of OIE Members showed that the majority (median 90%) of livestock farms are considered small. Veterinary Authorities believed that small farmers contribute to the livestock economy, but are a major weak point for national biosecurity. Small farmers' animal health needs were seen as higher, but their available capacity to address these needs was lower than larger farmers. Although the majority of countries did not disaggregate data by farm size, most respondents believed that publicly funded projects should be reviewed for size bias, and that small farmers' associations should have a role in guiding animal health policies. In the majority of countries, small farmers have a role in all aspects of control of priority and non-priority diseases. In one-third of countries that responded, they have a role in extension, and in a few countries are even involved in veterinary drug importation and sale. Community animal health workers (CAHWs), who are usually small farmers selected by their community and trained as service providers on selected animal health activities, are emerging as important providers of services in Africa, the Americas and Asia. Officially mandated disease prevention and control programmes focus mainly on the diseases of cattle, and are hence less relevant to small farmers. Small farmers directly provide information used for surveillance in most countries, and provide more than 80% of such information in some countries. Veterinary Authorities had a positive attitude towards the role of small farmers in surveillance, with most agreeing that small farmers had useful knowledge, could identify common diseases and had a lot of trust in their national Veterinary Services. Respondents considered extension by veterinarians, radio and community meetings to be the most highly effective way of reaching small farmers. The majority of Veterinary Authorities (79%) felt that the role of small farmers in animal health should increase, and suggested that this could be done through capacity building, programmatic change and organisation of farmers.
59. Ninety per cent of respondents believed that the OIE should do more to involve small farmers in animal health. Respondents felt that the highest priority action to increase the role of small farmers in animal health is additional funding, followed in order of priority by improved communication and new standards. The results suggest that a review of

international standards, definitions and guidelines with the aim of encouraging small farmer participation is appropriate. The diversity of views, often statistically significant between regions, suggests that the principle of equivalence should be applied, in certain cases, in developing methods tailored to the local context to enhance the involvement and level of service provided to small farmers.

### **Discussion on Technical Item I**

60. Dr Niang thanked Dr Mariner and congratulated him on his excellent presentation.
61. The Delegate of Swaziland congratulated Dr Mariner on his presentation. He remarked that it is an important topic that has too long been marginalised but which is very important for developing countries, especially in terms of poverty reduction. He regarded it as important to upgrade and increase the involvement of small farmers in animal health programmes. He congratulated the OIE for acknowledging the important role of small farmers in poverty reduction and income generation in poor countries.
62. The Delegate of Paraguay congratulated the Rapporteur on his excellent presentation. He reminded the International Committee of the regional differences that exist regarding the role and involvement of small farmers in animal health programmes. In South America, the small farmer is an important link and anchor in the production cycle of agricultural products. In compulsory disease culling programmes, for example, small farmers would prefer replacement of animals rather than financial compensation so that they can continue to provide themselves with food.
63. The Delegate of Italy thanked Dr Mariner for his presentation and indicated that in Italy and many other parts of Europe, small farmers play an important role in maintaining the landscape, ensuring the security of the food supply and sensitising policy makers on biosecurity issues. Their active involvement is important for the control of diseases, and, while acknowledging cultural differences, countries should seek means of facilitating more intensive involvement of small farmers in animal health programmes. He recommended that they should be included in Veterinary Services' networks to ensure the involvement and sustainability of small farmers.
64. The Delegate of Canada echoed the comments of the other Delegates in thanking the Rapporteur for his excellent presentation. He indicated that, even in developed countries, there is a trend for greater acceptance of small farmers by consumers, and that the demand for their products is continuing to rise. He indicated that in light of the financial challenges in many OIE Members' national budgets, perhaps consideration should be given to further support the activities of the Regional Representatives through allocations from the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to facilitate the role and involvement of small farmers in animal health programmes. He questioned whether the current PVS Tool gives sufficient recognition to the surveillance performed by farmers. He also suggested that the role of community animal health workers (CAHWs) and para-professionals should be acknowledged in investment and training initiatives.
65. The Delegate of Bolivia congratulated Dr Mariner on his presentation and confirmed that in Bolivia there is a noticeable degree of diversity. The question remains how to effectively integrate small farmers into the veterinary system on issues such as official health programmes because of their diversity and their relative input into the economy. He acknowledged that it is usually easier to integrate bigger commercial farmers into animal health programmes than small farmers. In the Andes region, small farmers have played an important role in the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease (FMD), but it requires financial inputs to ensure success. He thanked the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas for assisting countries in developing programmes to involve small farmers and for addressing the needs of Veterinary Services in the region.

66. The Delegate of Mauritania thanked the Rapporteur and indicated that it is important to know when and how small farmers should be more involved in animal health programmes; the finances allocated need to reflect and enhance such involvement as, for example, on issues related to food safety.
67. The Delegate of Pakistan reiterated the importance of CAHWs and asked if there are countries that have already officially recognised and integrated small farmers in their systems.
68. The Delegate of India thanked the Rapporteur and requested a more detailed study on the subject as the report included responses from official Veterinary Services only, while responses from the beneficiaries would be important to put the conclusions into their proper perspective. The definition of small farmers, as defined in the study, would not be applicable in India. He suggested that considerations should be given to categorising small farmers into subsistence and non-subsistence farmers as not all small farmers have a marketable surplus of products that could enter the export market, and cited the example of backyard poultry farmers who often are devastated by problems such as avian influenza. He emphasised the training needs of small farmers, particularly on food safety issues, and the necessity of finding resources for such training.
69. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China indicated that in China small farmers are important for agriculture, and that the Chinese Authorities are investigating means of addressing their role and contribution on issues such as biosecurity on small holdings.
70. The Delegate of Senegal, in congratulating the Rapporteur, indicated that countries should also focus on how small farmers should be involved as they are often not well organised and not well educated on important issues. There is a need to help small farmers to organise themselves to fulfil the expected role. Small farmers are often not very familiar with the important issues related to animal health and programmes should aim to raise their awareness. They should also be trained in basic veterinary animal health care, but not to the extent that they think or act as veterinarians. The role of auxiliaries should be more precisely defined by the OIE.
71. The Representative of the FAO reiterated the comments of the Delegate of Senegal and congratulated the Rapporteur on his presentation. He acknowledged the involvement and experience of the Rapporteur in disease control programmes involving small farmers. In the event of an animal health crisis, donor money can be mobilised, but in 'peace time', the involvement of CAHWs is more critical due to lack of financial support. The sustainability of the CAHW networks through private approaches (involvement in basic animal health care, drug and feed selling, trade, etc.) should be developed and their animal health activities should be under veterinary control. He reiterated that farmers' associations play an important role in communication and mobilising small farmers.
72. The Delegate of Syria congratulated Dr Mariner and mentioned a programme involving small farmers that was conducted in Jordan, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia with the help of ILRI. He urged Delegates to take special note of the fact that small farmers constitute 85% of global farmers and proposed that the OIE should establish a special programme to investigate and acknowledge the role of small farmers in animal health programmes.
73. The Delegate of Uganda thanked the Rapporteur and confirmed the observation that small farmers constitute the majority of farmers in Africa. He reflected that if they are organised in small groups within communities, it is then often more successful to communicate with small farmers and to initiate and conduct training.



74. The Delegate of Australia confirmed that Australia's recent observations with programmes related to equine influenza and also previously with Newcastle disease, confirm the involvement and importance of small farmers in animal health control programmes. This confirms previous experiences of Australia with the bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programmes. Without their involvement and engagement, eradication of diseases would most probably have been delayed. Australia has also recently engaged small farmers in its national livestock information system for tracing animal movements.
75. The Delegate of Malaysia congratulated the speaker and observed an apparent discrepancy where the Rapporteur indicated that service delivery and uptake of small farmers in programmes were good while the response at ground level indicates the contrary. He suggested a multi-sectorial approach to involve small farmers in animal health programmes, as was used for example in avian influenza control programmes.
76. The Delegate of Cuba congratulated the Rapporteur and confirmed the important role of small farmers in the control and eradication of animal diseases. Cuba has structured its services to involve small farmers and also to provide training programmes not only in animal diseases but also general animal health and production as a source of income generation. He urged that a regional approach be taken to the involvement of small farmers in such programmes.
77. The Delegate of Israel thanked the Rapporteur for an excellent presentation and stressed the importance of the topic for the OIE. He indicated that, irrespective of the number of animals a small farmer has, veterinary authorities are obliged to include them in animal health programmes and services.
78. The Rapporteur in his reply acknowledged the general support he observed in the responses from Delegates for furthering the concept of involving small farmers in animal health programmes. The 'when and how' the concept could be implemented were the burning issues, along with the acknowledgement that a multitude of approaches can be successfully applied. He noted with appreciation the mention of issues related to market access and how small farmers are linked or could be linked to marketing structures. He indicated that they are all involved to some degree and therefore by implication have an impact on international trade – even at a low level. He appreciated the suggestion of the Delegate of Canada that the OIE and other role players should consider how funding can be generated for small farmers. He welcomed the suggestion to include data on the involvement of small farmers and CAHWs in PVS evaluations as it could add valuable information for further use by the OIE. In response to the comment from the Delegate of Israel, the Rapporteur concluded that if countries are committed to involving small farmers, it will follow logically that small farmers will be regarded and accepted as stakeholders in animal health.
79. In his address, the Director General, Dr Vallat, stressed the importance of small farmers to the OIE. He reminded Delegates that specific definitions have already been developed reflecting the issue of para-professionals and Veterinary Services support personnel, and these could be reviewed and refined to reflect the role and involvement of CAHWs, who, unlike para-professionals, formed part of their own communities. However, he emphasised that these definitions should clearly distinguish between these two categories. This distinction is also important in relation to the cost of training for veterinarians compared with that of support personnel and CAHWs. Dr Vallat indicated that the suggestion to incorporate small farmers in the PVS Tool will be considered. It is important to recall that the role and responsibilities of veterinary statutory bodies in respect of the involvement of para-veterinary professionals in animal health issues is specifically provided for in PVS evaluations. This concept could be further expanded also to include farmers' organisations involved in animal health.

80. Dr Niang once again congratulated Dr Mariner on the quality of his presentation and his willingness to answer some difficult questions. Dr Niang invited all the speakers and the Delegates of Canada, the People's Republic of China, Italy, Mauritania, Paraguay, Syria and Uganda to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation to the International Committee for adoption.

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≡ TUESDAY 27 MAY 2008 ≡

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<b>SECOND PLENARY SESSION</b>
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**Presentations by International Organisations  
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE**

81. The President recalled that presentations at a Plenary Session are only made by intercontinental international organisations. These can be made every two years, except for the FAO, the WHO, the World Bank, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Trade Organization and the World Veterinary Association, which can make their presentation every year. Regional organisations make their presentation within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
82. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional intercontinental organisations.

**World Bank**

83. Dr François Le Gall, representing the World Bank, introduced briefly the World Bank Delegation to the 76th OIE General Session, and thanked the OIE for inviting the World Bank to highlight the activities undertaken, in partnership with the OIE and other international organisations involved in Animal Health. For the past 2 years, the close collaboration between the World Bank and the OIE has been strengthened at all levels, global, regional and national.
84. At the global level, in the context of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases of global importance, among which is the current HPAI<sup>14</sup> crisis, the World Bank has been one of the first donors to support and contribute to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund through a 3-year Development Grant Facility (DGF) of 3 million USD. The World Bank is happy to see that many donors have since joined this effort and that the Bank's participation, together with that of other initial donors, has had a strong financial leverage effect (to date, a 1:12 ratio).
85. In October 2007, the World Bank, together with the OIE and in collaboration with the FAO, organised an International Conference entitled "Global Animal Health Initiative: The Way Forward", at the World Bank's Headquarters in Washington DC, United States of America. The aim of this conference was to propose new directions in the face of emerging threats related to animal health, both for zoonotic diseases and diseases that have a socio-economic impact. This conference allowed international experts to validate three major economic studies that had been undertaken, namely: "Economic Analysis: Prevention Versus Outbreak Costs"; "Feasibility Study: a Global Fund for Emergency Response in Developing Countries"; and "Pre-Feasibility Study: Supporting Insurance of Disease Losses". The

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<sup>14</sup> HPAI: highly pathogenic avian influenza

conference acknowledged the importance of adequate funding to fight epizootics and zoonoses and the crucial role played by the OIE PVS Tool in evaluating and subsequently strengthening national Veterinary Services as a Global Public Good.

86. In addition to its advocacy and coordinating role, played together with UNSIC<sup>15</sup>, the World Bank has responded to the HPAI crisis with a global facility, the Global Program for Avian and Human Influenza (GPAI) for which technical and scientific support from the OIE, FAO and WHO has been critical in framing the menu of activities eligible for World Bank funding. Within this framework it is worth noting that the support of the World Bank goes beyond the control of HPAI *per se* in supporting Veterinary Services and public health systems that will address all priority animal diseases including zoonoses. These themes still need to be reinforced within the World Bank and the donor community at large, and technical support and scientific advice from lead organisations, such as the OIE and FAO, will continue to play a major role in reaching these objectives.
87. At the regional level in Africa, the Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty alleviation and sustainable growth in Africa (ALive, the Secretariat of which is hosted by the World Bank), is now considered as a model of collaboration between international and regional partners, by both the technical and donor partners, thanks to the OIE for its strong involvement in launching this platform and to the European Union and France for their financial contributions. This partnership has been mobilised in the fight against avian and human influenza in Africa, especially through (i) its support to the International Pledging Conference held in Bamako, Mali, in 2006, which was an excellent opportunity for Africa to speak with one voice and identify the financial needs and gaps in order to control HPAI at its source in the continent; and (ii) the multi-partners rapid assessments leading to high quality Integrated National Actions Programs (INAPs; 14 completed in 2007, 12 more to come to date), for which the collaboration between FAO, the OIE, WHO and AU-IBAR<sup>16</sup> has been very efficient.
88. At the national level, many World Bank funded projects (86 either approved, or in the pipeline, totalling a Bank support of approximately USD 600 million, to date), within the framework of the GPAI are – or have components – related to HPAI and animal diseases, with the current trends going beyond avian influenza. In this respect, the OIE PVS Tool has been acknowledged by the World Bank to be a key instrument for the evaluation of national Veterinary Services, in accordance with international standards on quality, which will help to define more effectively the public investments needed on animal health. The Central and Eastern Europe region and the Africa region are two regions where this instrument has recently been particularly well put to use through World Bank projects.
89. It is now important to consolidate these foundations and the new focus of the World Bank towards Agriculture – including livestock and thus animal health–, as evidenced by the last *World Development Report 2008*, represents a unique opportunity for the World Bank, its partners and its client countries to consolidate the major progress that has been achieved in the area of animal health. The collaboration between the World Bank, the OIE and other international organisations involved in animal health needs to be nurtured and reinforced in order to reach the objective of improving animal health worldwide and so reducing poverty and ensuring food security. In this endeavour, the day-to-day role played by Chief Veterinary Officers at the national level is paramount and their voices also need to be heard at the regional and international levels.

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<sup>15</sup> UNSIC: United Nations System Influenza Coordination

<sup>16</sup> AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Livestock Resources

### **Codex Alimentarius Commission**

90. Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), gave a presentation on the organisation and its activities.

91. The history and main activities of Codex were briefly presented:

- the Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental body established by FAO and WHO in 1961/1963;
- Membership now comprises 177 Members, including the European Community;
- Codex standards, guidelines and other recommendations are voluntary, not mandatory. They are, however, recognised by the WTO as benchmarks for international harmonisation or possible dispute settlements;
- Codex texts cover food safety and quality, methods of analysis and sampling, labelling and claims (including organic products), inspection and certification systems.

The OIE has been described by the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as one of the most important partners of Codex for many of these activities (notably on animal health, zoonoses; biotechnology; certification; traceability; food-borne pathogens; antimicrobial resistance; and current discussions on private standards);

- Codex coordinates food standards work with other international governmental and non-governmental organisations. There are more than 150 observer organisations representing academia, industry, consumers, etc.;
- The Commission meets annually, alternating between Geneva, Switzerland, and Rome, Italy. Its subsidiary bodies hold some twenty sessions a year.

92. It was indicated that there is an ongoing discussion on the possible establishment of a Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding.

93. There is a strong sense of ownership among Codex member countries, highlighted by: Member State-driven operations, consensus-based decision making, a high level of transparency, documentation in the public domain (open Web site), contribution of observer organisations, separation between risk management (Codex) and risk assessment (FAO/WHO), and rule-based operation procedures (eight-step elaboration procedure).

94. Three main issues for continuing good collaboration between Codex and the OIE were also highlighted:

- Information exchange (submission of information documents; attendance at meetings; OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety);
- OIE contribution to setting Codex standards and Codex contribution to setting OIE standards (use of OIE/Codex documents as reference in Codex/OIE standards; ensuring consistency between Codex and OIE standards);
- Enhanced coordination at the national level between national Codex Contact Point and national Delegate to the OIE (CVO<sup>17</sup>), and coordination between ministries.

### **World Trade Organization**

95. Ms Christiane Wolff, Counsellor, Agriculture and Commodities Division at the WTO, reported on the activities of that organisation, notably work on specific trade concerns, regionalisation (zoning and compartmentalization), transparency and review of the SPS Agreement<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> CVO: Chief Veterinary Officer

<sup>18</sup> SPS Agreement: WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

96. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) held three regular meetings in 2007: on 28 February and 1 March, on 27 and 28 June, and on 18 and 19 October. The Committee held its first meeting in 2008 on 2 and 3 April. Two additional meetings are tentatively planned in 2008, on 25 and 26 June and on 8 and 9 October.
97. As usual, WTO Members raised many specific trade concerns during the meetings in 2007, of which 52% (18 issues) related to animal health. During 2007, nine new animal health-related trade concerns were discussed. Overall, in the period from 1995 to 2007, 261 trade concerns were discussed in the Committee, 42% of which related to animal health. The OIE representative actively participated in the Committee's discussions on animal health issues.
98. Since 2003, the SPS Committee has regularly discussed regionalisation. A small group of interested Members held detailed discussions with a view to developing a common understanding on this topic. The small group presented a draft paper for the Committee's consideration at its meeting in April 2008. The SPS Committee adopted this document on an *ad referendum* basis. If no WTO Member objects by 15 May 2008, the Committee will have adopted the Guidelines to Further the Practical Implementation of Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/SPS/48); it contains five sections: General Considerations, Initial Discussions between Importing and Exporting Members, Typical Administrative Steps in the Recognition Process, Expedited Process, and Monitoring.
99. A special workshop was held in October 2007 on the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement. The SPS Committee is revising the recommended transparency procedures. One change in the recommendations is to encourage WTO Members to notify new or changed measures that are based on the relevant international standards, as this would provide important information regarding which standards are being used and which are not. At its meeting in April 2008, the SPS Committee adopted the revised recommended transparency procedures on an *ad referendum* basis, subject to no objections being received by 30 May 2008.
100. The SPS Committee adopted the Report on the Second Review of the Operation of the SPS Agreement in June 2005. At its first meeting in 2007, the SPS Committee agreed to prioritise its work in this area on two of the issues identified: use of *ad hoc* consultations to resolve trade concerns, including through the 'good offices' of the Chairperson of the SPS Committee; and on the relationship of the SPS Committee with the Codex, the OIE and the IPPC<sup>19</sup>. Issues raised by WTO Members in this context include coordination between delegates at the national level, avoiding overlap between the work of the SPS Committee and the standard-setting bodies, clarifying the organisation's respective mandates and the need to discuss the optimal process for collaboration.
101. The WTO Secretariat and the OIE continue to cooperate in providing technical assistance to developing countries, both through the OIE's active participation in WTO-organised training seminars and through projects related to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). STDF is a global programme in capacity building and technical cooperation established by the FAO, the OIE, the World Bank, WHO and WTO.

#### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

102. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the Animal Health Service of the FAO, reported on the activities of his organisation. The activities of FAO in collaboration with the OIE during the past year were presented, with a focus on the main issues.

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<sup>19</sup> IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

103. The umbrella institutional mechanism remains the FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) initiative, which was signed between the two organisations 4 years ago. Several meetings of the global and regional Steering Committees were held. An important step was taken with the adoption of a chart on complementarities and synergies between FAO and the OIE. A notice explaining the chart and the mandates, missions and expertise of each organisation was also agreed and these two documents will be widely disseminated through the FAO and OIE systems.
104. The tools established in partnership between FAO, the OIE and, regarding zoonotic diseases, WHO, such as OFFLU (OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Avian Influenza), CMC-AH (Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health) and GLEWS (Global Early Warning System), are very active. Many conferences and workshops have been co-organised on HPAI, Rift Valley fever, African swine fever or FMD during the past year and six Regional Animal Health Centres, including the four OIE/FAO centres, have been established or will be established shortly.
105. A short summary of the HPAI situation, global strategies, lessons learnt and the way forward was presented. The global situation has definitively improved, with better transparency, early detection and response. But the virus still circulates in around ten countries, and two, Indonesia and Egypt, are still heavily contaminated. Due to complex epidemiology and a lack of biosecurity and control of movements, the eradication of HPAI has to be considered a medium- to long-term objective.
106. Other collaborative programmes and activities were discussed, such as the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme and the response to Rift Valley fever in Eastern and North East Africa, as well as in Madagascar. African swine fever in Georgia and Azerbaijan gave an opportunity to mobilise joint FAO-OIE missions, together with EC-DG SANCO<sup>20</sup>. A special mention was made of FMD, and FAO and OIE have pooled their efforts to prepare an international initiative for the progressive control of the disease. Several technical meetings were held, a technical conference will take place in Sicily, Italy, in October 2008 and an International Conference will be organised in 2009, most probably in Paraguay, followed by another in China. FAO is establishing an FMD unit in the Animal Health Service with strong links with the EUFMD<sup>21</sup> secretariat hosted by FAO.
107. All these activities on the main transboundary animal diseases show that the usual FAO-OIE “credo” remains valid: need for more surveillance, detection, early response, improved biosecurity, global approach to diseases taking into account the epidemiological, socio-economic and institutional dimensions, as well as farming systems, trade and biodiversity.
108. More communication aimed at farmers and traders is also needed, as well as stronger private-public partnerships with efficient Veterinary Services and political commitment to reinforce the control strategies. A very important trend was noted, which is the switch from HPAI control to a wider approach to the main zoonotic diseases. The global changes responsible for the emergence of diseases and the food crisis show that improvements of animal health and livestock productivity in developing countries are indispensable. There is a real opportunity for investment to prevent and control animal diseases, which are a major bottleneck in animal production. The international conference to be held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, next October provides a perfect opportunity to advocate continuing support for animal health systems beyond HPAI.

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<sup>20</sup> EC-DG SANCO: European Commission Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General

<sup>21</sup> EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FAO)

### World Veterinary Association

109. Dr Leon Russell, President of the WVA<sup>22</sup>, reported on that organisation's activities.
110. The WVA is a federation of 70 national veterinary medical associations covering all aspects of veterinary medicine: private, government, industrial and academic.
111. A WVA perspective paper was selected for presentation at the FAO/WHO/OIE Stakeholders Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials, held in Rome, Italy, on 26 November 2007; it included a report from two expert groups of the AVMA<sup>23</sup> (more than 70% of the members of which are private veterinarians).
112. Emphasis was placed on endemic (neglected) zoonoses and more particularly on rabies. It was stressed that a human dies of rabies every 10 minutes, and about 10 million people are treated for suspected rabies exposure every year. The OIE and the WVA were partners for World Rabies Day, 8 September 2007, within the framework of the recently created Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC). An informal meeting of partners (including: WVA, OIE, FAO, WHO & others) was held in Italy, from 6 to 8 May 2008, was organised by the ARC. World Rabies Day, 28 September 2008, has been announced, as well as events to celebrate the anniversary of Louis Pasteur. The aim of World Rabies Day is to increase awareness of the fact that rabies is a 100% preventable disease at only 1% of the cost of treatment and to build global cooperation between organisations and individuals to prevent human and animal rabies.
113. World Veterinary Day (26 April 2008) was also mentioned among core 2007–2008 activities. Its objective was “to have each country's veterinarians show the global good that the veterinary profession does for society”. It was celebrated from Pakistan to Ghana, from India to Chinese Taipei, and from New Zealand to the United States of America.
114. The 1st OIE-WVA World Veterinary Day Award, in recognition of the national veterinary association that organised and presented the most outstanding 2008 World Veterinary Day celebration, consists of a distinctive plaque, a handsome certificate and a USD 1 000 cash prize.
115. The 1st OIE-WVA World Veterinary Day Award Winner, selected on 25 May 2008 from several outstanding finalists, was the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), represented by Dr Christopher Wanga, KVA national Chairman. The Award will be presented at the closing ceremonies of the 29th World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 30 July 2008.
116. Dr John Drake, President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, presented the 29th World Veterinary Congress, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 30 July 2008, supported by the World Veterinary Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the OIE. The overall motto will be “Celebrate our Diversity”. Registration has been open since October 2007. Overall, more than 2,500 veterinarians from around the world and 750 health technicians, hospital managers and veterinary students are expected. Around 200 exhibition booths are announced, as well as continuing education programmes.
117. The key speakers announced will be Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE, Dr Brian Evans, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Dr Lonnie King, American Center for Disease Control, and Dr Hugh Lewis, Banfield, The Pet Hospital. The continuing education activities will include Public Practice / Public Health Track: Disease Surveillance, Biosecurity and Emergency Preparedness, Production Animal Welfare and Animal Care and Judicious Use of Animal Health Products.

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<sup>22</sup> WVA: World Veterinary Association

<sup>23</sup> AVMA: American Veterinary Medical Association

### International Committee of Military Medicine

118. *Médecin Général Inspecteur* Marcel Merlin, Chairman of the Scientific Council of the ICMM<sup>24</sup>, reported on that organisation's history and activities.
119. Military Medicine is a generic term covering all health activities, including veterinary medicine, food safety and water hygiene (not only human medicine).
120. The ICMM was initially created in 1920 by a US Navy Captain and a Belgian *Commandant médecin*. It has grown from seven Member States at its first World Congress, held in Belgium in 1921, to 103 Member States at the 37th World Congress of Military Medicine, which took place in 2007. The ICMM Headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium, and, by statute, the Secretary General of the ICMM is a Belgian officer. The President of ICMM is the national representative of the Member State that hosted the previous World Congress of Military Medicine (currently from Tunisia). ICMM Delegates are Directors of national armed forces medical services of Member States.
121. The technical and scientific activities of ICMM, specified by the Member States, have one objective: facilitating the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise, between military medicine professionals, while keeping links with civilians. ICMM activities are implemented by means of congresses, technical commissions, scientific review, Web site and international courses, thanks to the support and participation of the Member States. The Scientific Council supervises the reading committee (publications and Web site) and technical commissions (international courses and guidelines).
122. The ICMM General Assembly is held every 2 years. Recommendations and resolutions are adopted, in line with the following main objectives: Forum, Training & education, Assessment of disasters, Definition of national advisers and Evolution of international health law. There are currently three operational Regional Working Groups (WGs and corresponding regional Congresses): Pan-American; Pan-African and Pan-Arab. A Pan-European WG is being constituted and an Asia-Pacific WG is under discussion.
123. The first field of scientific activities of ICMM is international (world and regional) congresses. World congresses are held, as a rule, every 2 years (on odd years). They include oral presentations, posters and five round tables, including one on veterinary medicine. In 2007 (21–27 May), the 37th World Congress was held in Tunis, Tunisia. The 38th World Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2009.
124. Regional congresses are held, as a rule, every two years (on even years), the 2008–2010 regional congresses are as follows:
  - 2nd ICMM Pan-African Regional Congress, Khartoum, Sudan, 8–12 February 2008;
  - 1st ICMM Pan-Arab Regional Congress, Algeria, 26–30 October 2008;
  - 5th ICMM Pan-American Regional Congress, San Antonio, United States of America, 10–15 November 2008;
  - 1st ICMM Pan-European Regional Congress, Moscow, Russian Federation, 2010.
125. The second field of scientific activities of ICMM covers *The international review of the armed forces medical services* (publication). The third field includes updating information on scientific events through the ICMM Web site ([www.cimm-icmm.org](http://www.cimm-icmm.org)).

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<sup>24</sup> ICMM: International Committee of Military Medicine



126. The fourth field of scientific activities of ICMM corresponds to Technical Commissions. One of the five commissions is the Commission on Veterinary Science (currently chaired by Colonel van der Merwe [Vet.], South Africa).
127. The fifth field of scientific activities of ICMM covers relations with international organisations in the field of public health, notably with WHO (agreement of 1952 updated in 2004) and the OIE (agreement of 2006). The three main clauses of the latter include (i) reciprocal representation, (ii) exchange of information and documents and (iii) mutual cooperation and consultation.
128. The sixth field of scientific activities of ICMM addresses international courses, including an existing ICMM Course for Veterinary and Paraveterinary Personnel of Armed Forces. The 3rd ICMM Course for veterinarians was held in May 2006 in Germany, Belgium and France (42 participants from 14 countries). The two previous courses were held in 2003 and 2000 in South Africa and the 4th one will be held in 2008 (9–19 November, in Tunisia). This will cover matters related to food safety and water hygiene, major sources of possible contamination for armed forces in the field.
129. ICMM is a point of convergence: “the experience of each for the benefit of all”.

### **World Society for the Protection of Animals**

130. Major General Dr Peter Davies, Director General of the WSPA<sup>25</sup>, reported on the activities of that organisation.
131. The WSPA is a global alliance of 889 member organisations from 152 countries. It was established in 1980 following a merger between the International Society for the Protection of Animals and the World Federation for the Protection of Animals. It has grown considerably since then and is now recognised as the leading international animal welfare alliance. It was a natural step forward for WSPA to enter into a formal agreement with the OIE, the latter being the globally recognised body for setting international animal welfare standards. WSPA, including its 15 Regional Officers and its new office in Beijing, People’s Republic of China, is prepared to do all it can to gain acceptance and implementation of the OIE’s animal welfare standards.
132. The OIE support for the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare agreed last year was an important step towards the international recognition of animals as sentient beings and the associated duty of care. WSPA initiates and coordinates global campaigns; the most recent highlights the major welfare problems for animals in long distance transport. WSPA also coordinates the animal relief work in man-made or natural disasters.
133. WSPA is also pleased to be a founding organisation of the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), which has a close relationship with the OIE. WSPA congratulated the OIE for organising a world conference on Animal Welfare (to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2008). WSPA confirmed its active support for the organisation of this conference and re-emphasised the important role of Veterinarians and Veterinary Services for Animal Welfare. In addition, WSPA advocated the transport of animal carcasses and trade in animal products as opposed to the transport of live animals and trade in live animals.

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<sup>25</sup> WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

### **International Association for Biologicals**

134. Dr Betty Dodet, editor of IABs<sup>26</sup> conference proceedings and a member of the IABs Editorial Board, reported on the activities of this organisation.
135. IABs, a non-profit making association with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, was founded in Lyons, France, in 1955 by a group of independent international scientists and by Dr Charles Mérieux, with the aim of improving the exchange of information on biopharmaceutical products.
136. IABs plays a unique role through its capacity to bring together control authorities, university scientists, manufacturers and international organisations in the field of human health and animal health for debates and conferences. IABs manages one of the commissions of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS).
137. The OIE and IABs became aware of the advantages of sharing their resources and combining their networks, for the organisation of conferences on topics of mutual interest. As a result, an agreement was signed between Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Dr John Petricciani, President of IABs, at the OIE Headquarters on 28 May 2004. For IABs conferences, the OIE is now represented on the Veterinary Biologicals Committee by the Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department.
138. The proceedings of conferences organised jointly by the OIE and IABs are published in the series of IABs conference proceedings entitled “Developments in Biologicals”, a series that has been well known among universities and libraries worldwide since 1960 (publisher: S. Karger A.G., Basel, Switzerland).
139. The OIE has in this way expanded its readership in university libraries in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia. The publisher, Karger, is currently observing a marked increase in sales of OIE-IABs conference proceedings in the People’s Republic of China and Arab countries. Each volume on OIE-IABs conferences is purchased by between 100 and 213 universities worldwide depending on the theme of the conference, avian influenza being the most popular topic.
140. OIE-IABs conference proceedings already published:
  - 2002: Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Control Strategies
  - 2004: Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination (Vol. 119)
  - 2005: OIE/FAO International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza (Vol. 124)
  - 2005: First International Conference on Rabies in Europe (Vol. 125)
  - 2005: New diagnostic technology: Applications in Animal Health and Biologics Controls (Vol. 126)
  - 2006: First International Conference of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (Vol. 128)
  - 2006: The OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health (Vol. 129)
  - 2007: Vaccination: A Tool for the Control of Avian Influenza (Vol. 130)
  - 2007: Towards the Elimination of Rabies in Eurasia (to be published shortly).
141. In conclusion, cooperation between the OIE and IABs has had positive results for each of the signatories as it has enabled both organisations to broaden their range of activities and their readership: OIE conference proceedings are purchased by universities that are regular clients for the series published by IABs, and for IABs this cooperation has enabled it to substantially strengthen its veterinary activities.

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<sup>26</sup> IABs: International Association for Biologicals

TECHNICAL ITEM II

**Implication of private standards in international trade  
of animals and animal products**

(Doc. 76 SG/10)

142. Dr Correa Messuti, Chairman of the Session, introduced the two Rapporteurs for this item, Ms Christiane Wolff and Mr Michael Scannell, and informed Delegates that the item would be divided into two parts, with each Rapporteur giving one presentation. Ms Wolff would address the issues related to private standards and the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee), while Mr Scannell would share his views with Delegates on private standards in the sanitary and phytosanitary area. He indicated that it would also be the first time that the International Committee had considered a topical Technical Item that was not supported by responses from Members to a questionnaire, as was the case with Technical Item I or the presentation of Technical Items during previous meetings of the International Committee.
143. Ms Wolff presented her report on Private Standards and the SPS Committee.
144. Private standards have been under discussion in the SPS Committee since June 2005. The discussions have focused on three themes:

*Market access:* Some Members of the SPS Committee have taken the view that standards set by the private sector can help suppliers improve the quality of their products and gain and maintain access to high-quality markets. Other Members have argued that private standards can be both more restrictive (e.g. requiring lower levels of pesticide residues) and more prescriptive (e.g. accepting only one way of achieving a desired food safety outcome) than official import requirements, thus acting as additional barriers to market access.

*Development:* Many Members of the Committee have expressed the concern that the costs of complying with private standards, and the additional cost of certification, sometimes for multiple sets of standards for different buyers, can be a problem, especially for small-scale producers and particularly (but not exclusively) in developing countries.

*WTO law:* While some Members are of the view that setting standards for the products they purchase is a legitimate private-sector activity in which governments should not interfere, others insist that the SPS Agreement makes governments in importing countries responsible for the standards included in the scope of this Agreement and set by their private-sector players. The latter are concerned that these standards do not meet WTO requirements such as transparency and scientific justification of sanitary and phytosanitary (mainly food safety) measures and are more trade-restrictive than necessary to protect health.

145. Following Ms Wolff's presentation, Mr Scannell gave his report on Private Standards in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary area.
146. Private Standards (PS) oblige suppliers to meet certain requirements in relation to the production of their products. These requirements usually concern quality, environmental, social and ethical issues, but may also include food safety, animal health and animal welfare issues. They reflect in particular the strategies of major retailers towards meeting consumer demands and fulfilling "due diligence" requirements, while also increasing their own profitability and market share. There are concerns, especially among developing countries, that PS represent a new barrier to international trade in food products. Official regulators, including at the multilateral level, are faced with requests to monitor PS and to handle any unjustified requirements. This includes demands to address such measures at

the multilateral level, in particular in the WTO. However, it is disputed whether official regulatory authorities, including at the multilateral level, are competent to intervene in the setting of such requirements. There may also be other mechanisms that could reduce the tensions arising from PS, notably a greater commitment to respect existing official regulatory requirements.

## **Discussion of Technical Item II**

147. The Chairman thanked both speakers and congratulated them on their excellent presentations, which were full of useful and interesting information. He then opened the discussion to Delegates.
148. Speaking on behalf of the WSPA, Dr David Bowles, representative of the RSPCA<sup>27</sup>, commented on the RSPCA's Freedom Food campaign, a food-labelling scheme in the United Kingdom for products from farms that meet that organisation's animal welfare standards. Dr Bowles commented that this scheme is intended to meet consumer requirements and not to address animal health or food safety issues. He stated that animal welfare disputes are dealt with by GATT<sup>28</sup> and not by the SPS Committee. Dr Bowles indicated that transparency is an important two-way process and mentioned the work done in many third-party countries supplying products to the European Union (EU). He would like to see WSPA contribute to dialogue on this topic.
149. The Delegate of Paraguay congratulated Ms Wolff and Mr Scannell on their presentations. He noted that this is an important and broad topic and stated that he would focus his comments on the animal health issues. Paraguay has found that private standards apply on a mandatory basis for producers and many audits each year in Paraguay address compliance with private standards. He noted that compliance with these standards also increases the costs of production. The Delegate recommended continuing the discussion on this important and very complex topic.
150. The Delegate of Australia thanked the Rapporteurs for their presentations on this important theme. Australia is not convinced that the SPS Committee should intervene on private standards. The Delegate supports ongoing discussions on this topic, including in the SPS Committee. He considered it important that private standards be clearly differentiated from official standards.
151. The Delegate of Argentina thanked the two presenters and underlined the importance of this topic. He encouraged the OIE to remain closely involved in further discussions.
152. The Delegate of Japan commented that animal welfare is an area where various private standards are easily established according to cultural, religious and other norms. To avoid the confusion created by various private standards, he stressed the importance of developing OIE standards based on science. Taking into account specific country situations and needs, he considered that OIE animal welfare guidelines should be flexible.
153. The Delegate of Uruguay agreed that this is an important and strategic topic. Uruguay has for several years complied with an increasing number of private standards and there is concern that this is becoming a potential trade barrier, contributing to increased costs in food production and a related decrease in supply.
154. The Delegate of Canada thanked the two presenters for presenting a complex topic in a concise and comprehensive manner. He emphasised the need for OIE Members to fully implement and respect the standards adopted as a critical factor for the OIE to maintain its credibility and thus reduce the potential for private standards to be substituted. Given the formal arrangements that the OIE has established with many organisations with private members including SSAFE (Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere), IDF

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<sup>27</sup> RSPCA: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

<sup>28</sup> GATT: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

(International Dairy Federation), IMS (International Meat Secretariat), IEC (International Egg Commission), etc., OIE engagement with these organisations will be critical to ensure their members fully consider OIE standards in their activities. He noted that, as this trend is consumer and/or market driven, the OIE should develop communication materials and tools to assist Members in informing and educating consumers on the standards developed to protect animal health and food safety.

155. The Delegate of Botswana thanked the OIE for scheduling discussion on this important topic and stated that private standards present serious problems to developing countries. The standards are growing in number and compliance is costly. The views of consumers are heavily influenced by their region of origin, and private standards are often inappropriate for the types of production systems in developing countries.
156. The Delegate of Denmark thanked the presenters and emphasised that it is very important that private standards should not replace official standards. He said that, in the long run, private standards alone would not ensure market access. Private standards will not replace official veterinary certification, which is science based. He said that the OIE and its sister organisations should be aware of any developing gaps between standards and consumer needs.
157. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China recommended that compliance with OIE standards is the most important priority and suggested that case/market studies be conducted to better understand the problem.
158. The Delegate of India, too, expressed his concern at the possibility of future imposition of private standards in international trade, which are likely to have an adverse effect on trade, particularly from developing countries. He stated that private standards are totally unacceptable as the OIE is mandated to lay down standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
159. The Delegate of Honduras commented that human health, animal health and animal welfare are recognised as issues of public good. The OIE should proceed to ensure that private standards are not allowed to replace the official standards of the OIE. The Delegate agreed with the Delegate of Canada that the OIE and Delegates should work more closely with consumers to ensure that there is a better understanding of animal health and welfare issues related to standards.
160. The representative of SSAFE commented that close collaboration between the OIE, Codex and organisations representing the private sector will be important for addressing the many concerns relevant to private standards. He appreciated the OIE taking the lead in this area.
161. The Delegate of Morocco thanked the speakers and agreed with other Delegates that this is an important issue. The costs associated with private standards may contribute to the rising price of food. The Delegate urged the OIE to continue working with the WTO to address this issue.
162. The Delegate of Jordan thanked the speakers. He enquired about the impact of private standards on poor farmers and poor consumers.
163. The Delegate of Mexico warned of the risk that private standards will become a bottleneck for international trade.
164. In replying to the remarks of Delegates, Ms Wolff clarified that animal welfare would not be addressed by the SPS Committee; rather, any dispute about private standards would be dealt with by other WTO Committees. The possible impact of private standards on poor farmers and consumers is the reason for which the topic has been raised within the SPS Committee. Ms Wolff agreed that more communication with consumers could be helpful.

165. Mr Scannell commented that this is a very complex issue. He recognised the need for food industries and retailers to meet consumer requirements and encouraged Delegates to bear in mind the realities of the commercial market place and existence of private standards. Mr Scannell considered that the OIE could provide important leadership in the development of standards, but expressed the view that communication with consumers is better done by countries than by intergovernmental organisations. He urged all OIE Members to implement the OIE standards as a matter of high priority.
166. Dr Vallat stated that the OIE has official agreements with organisations in the private sector; therefore, a means is already in place to discuss OIE standards with them. The risk of contradiction can thus be avoided through dialogue. He said that the OIE would continue setting standards that guarantee animal production food safety and animal health, and urged Members to implement them. He stated that the OIE would continue developing additional tools to support the Veterinary Services to communicate with consumers to persuade them of the validity of the OIE standards for the protection of animal health and welfare.
167. Dr Correa Messuti once again congratulated both speakers on their outstanding presentations and on their willingness to reply to the questions from the floor. He invited the Delegates of Argentina, Botswana, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, Honduras and Morocco to form a group along with both speakers to prepare a draft Resolution on this Technical Item.

<b>THIRD PLENARY SESSION</b>
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**Presentations by International Organisations  
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)**

**International Council for Laboratory Animal Science**

168. Dr Gilles Demers, President of ICLAS<sup>29</sup>, reported on the activities of his organisation.
169. ICLAS is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organisation. ICLAS exists to promote high standards of animal care and use in education, research, testing and diagnosis, to promote good science and foster humane practices in scientific research.
170. ICLAS was created in 1956, through an initiative of: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). It has collaborated with the WHO since 1961. ICLAS advances human and animal health by promoting the ethical care and use of animals in research worldwide. The 2007–2011 ICLAS Executive Committee comprises 11 countries.
171. According to its mission, ICLAS strives: to act as a world-wide resource for laboratory animal science knowledge; to be the acknowledged advocate for the advancement of laboratory animal science in developing countries and regions; and to serve as a premier source of laboratory animal science guidelines and standards, and as a general laboratory animal welfare information centre.
172. The worldwide impact of the ICLAS Programmes to ensure the dissemination of good science and best practices world-wide will continue through five ICLAS Meetings: ICLAS Regional Program; ICLAS Communication Program; ICLAS Initiatives and ICLAS Animal Quality Network Program.

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<sup>29</sup> ICLAS: International Council for Laboratory Animal Science

173. An international scientific meeting is held every four years in association with the general assembly: Como, Italy, June 11 to 14, 2007, and Porto Alegre, Brazil, June 2011.
174. Other regional scientific meetings and courses are organised by laboratory animal science organisations in the various regions of the world under the auspices of the six ICLAS Regional Committees to ensure the diffusion of scientific knowledge in all regions of the world. There are six ICLAS Regional Committees (Europe; Asia; Africa; Oceania; Americas; and East Mediterranean).
175. Within the framework of its harmonisation programme, ICLAS, as an international umbrella organisation, can act as a facilitator for the harmonisation of existing guidelines concerning the use of animals in research, teaching and testing, which is an emerging issue in the context of the globalisation of research. The primary objectives of this programme are the implementation of a dialogue on the harmonisation of a number of published guidelines on emerging issues, with a view to reaching a consensus on the recognition of these guidelines at international level:
  - To support developing countries that do not have a system for monitoring the use of animals in research;
  - To ensure the implementation of Good Animal Practices in all parts of the world;
  - To stimulate collaboration in animal-based research (data sharing);
  - To facilitate collaboration among scientists (reduction in the number of animals used);
  - To facilitate the movement of scientists around the world.
176. ICLAS supports the harmonisation of animal care and use policies, guidelines and other forms of regulation on a worldwide basis, as a reflection of the globalisation of research. This does not mean standardisation: ICLAS considers that each country should be able to maintain an animal welfare oversight system that reflects its cultures, traditions, religions, laws and regulations. It was stressed that the ICLAS policy regarding harmonisation *versus* standardisation will be maintained.
177. Guidelines discussed since 2004 include: Euthanasia; Endpoints; Ethical Review of Protocols; Animal User Training Programs; Care and use of genetically engineered animals and the 1985 CIOMS Guidelines for the Use of Animals in biomedical research.
178. The aim of the ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research is to create a network of laboratories involved in health monitoring and/or the genetics of laboratory animals to promote and maintain the use of high quality animal models worldwide and to promote harmonisation of guidelines, to facilitate the exchange of information, and to spread knowledge and awareness of the importance of high quality laboratory animals among the scientific community.
179. Harmonisation involves agreement between countries and organisations on fundamental principles. The ICLAS–OIE Agreement was signed on 27 May 2008 in Paris. It is based on:
  - The promotion of high standards of animal care and use in education, research, testing and diagnostic work;
  - Cooperation in the development and revision of international animal welfare standards and guidelines relevant for both organisations;
  - The role and responsibilities of the veterinary profession in the welfare of animals used in experimental work.

## Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

### Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

180. 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 2007 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS3 A), September 2007 (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS3 B), February 2008 (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS3 C) and May 2008 (Bureau meeting only). He also outlined the principal 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 (FMD), Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*; the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology; the *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks; the *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue; the *ad hoc* Group on Atypical Scrapie and BSE; the *ad hoc* Group on Climate Change and Vector-Borne Diseases; and the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Disease Surveillance; along with the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. He also informed the International Committee of the outcome of a mission to South America, which was held under the auspices of the Commission, to assess the implementation of control measures for FMD in the frontier areas of the southern Cone countries following the recommendations of a similar mission by the Commission in 2006. Prof. Caporale, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his appreciation for 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 expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group reporting to the Scientific Commission.

#### 181. Review of the annual work programme

At its May 2007 meeting (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS3 A) the Bureau of the Commission reviewed the programme of meetings scheduled for the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups for 2007 and 2008, which was based on the Commission's work plan for 2006 to 2009 prepared at the previous Bureau meeting in July 2006. The Bureau of the Commission also reviewed issues raised by the International Committee during the 75th General Session to ensure that they were reflected in its work programme. These include further discussion on the application of the concepts of containment zone and buffer zone with regard to FMD, developing a definition of herd, developing surveillance guidelines for wildlife diseases, work on the effect of climate change on vector-borne diseases, the development of guidelines for epidemiological modelling, the role of wildlife reservoirs in formulating international standards in the *Terrestrial Code*, and reviewing the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on scrapie and BSE in view of the alleged atypical cases. The Commission reviewed and re-prioritised its working programme during the September 2007 and February 2008 meetings.

#### Review of the activities for 2007/2008

#### 182. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on avian influenza, the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Newcastle disease, the *Terrestrial Code* appendix on surveillance guidelines for avian influenza and the draft *Terrestrial Code* appendix on surveillance for Newcastle disease

The Commission reviewed the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology with invited experts on avian influenza and Newcastle disease, and endorsed proposed changes to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on avian influenza, the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Newcastle disease, the *Terrestrial Code* appendix on surveillance guidelines for avian influenza, and the draft *Terrestrial Code* appendix on surveillance for Newcastle



disease. The Commission disagreed with the *ad hoc* Group on the recommendation to the Terrestrial Code Commission to define the meaning of “incubation period”, which is much longer than the actual incubation period that is indicated throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission is of the view that the introductory wording, “for the purpose of this *Terrestrial Code*,” makes it clear that the sentence is not referring to the incubation period determined solely on scientific grounds.

**183. Antigen and vaccine banks**

The Commission reviewed the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Antigen and Vaccine Banks and recalled its suggestion to terminate this *ad hoc* Group and to constitute two *ad hoc* groups on FMD – one for scientific issues and another for the evaluation of country status for FMD; this proposal has already been added to the Commission’s work plan.

**184. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on scrapie and BSE in view of the alleged atypical cases, and review of the *Terrestrial Code* appendix on BSE risk assessment and of the questionnaire on BSE risk classification with the aim of ensuring consistency with the *Terrestrial Code* chapter**

The Commission supported the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group that for atypical BSE, insufficient scientific data are available to justify changes to the current text of the *Terrestrial Code*, and that for atypical scrapie, insufficient information is available that would support the establishment of rules or guidelines specific to atypical scrapie other than in relation to the choice of diagnostic test use for surveillance.

The proposals by the Group for minor changes to Appendix 3.8.5. and the questionnaire on BSE risk classification were endorsed for further attention of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

**185. Foot and mouth disease**

**a) Fast-track procedure to regain FMD-free status following the establishment of a containment zone**

The Commission discussed the proposal by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology for the fast-track procedure to regain disease-free or infection-free status following the establishment of a containment zone: on receipt of the relevant information from the Member that establishes the containment zone, the Central Bureau will send the information to reference laboratories and/or members of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD for electronic consultation; if necessary, the Central Bureau may convene a meeting at the expense of the applicant Member; the OIE reply (positive/negative) will be sent to the Member within 2 weeks (10 working days). The Commission, however, suggested that on receipt of an application, a special meeting of the Bureau of the Commission will be convened and, if necessary, expert opinion will be sought. Due to the need to have an expedited process, the application would therefore not be referred to an *ad hoc* Group but dealt with directly by the Bureau of the Commission. The Director General is requested to advise on how the additional costs that might arise from such an expedited procedure will be covered.

**b) Changes to Chapter 2.2.10. – FMD related to the requirement for a buffer zone**

The Commission fully supported the reconfirmation of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology that buffer zones are not mandatory but an option, as long as effective animal health measures to prevent entry of the virus are applied. The Commission endorsed the changes suggested by the Group to the text in Articles 2.2.10.2. to 2.2.10.5., noting that the text now makes it clear that the implementation of effective

animal health measures is critical for the prevention of the spread of virus between animal populations of different health status, and that such health measures do not necessarily include the establishment of a buffer zone. The effect of a buffer zone is to limit the spread of the infection if introduced, but in itself is not a safeguard against the introduction of infection.

**c) Report of the OIE Mission to South America to assess progress with the control of FMD in the areas bordering Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay**

The Commission reviewed in detail the report of the mission that was conducted from 7 to 15 December 2007 by a team appointed by the Director General as well as comments made by the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD on the report and recommendations of the mission. The Commission endorsed the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the 2006 Mission for a regional approach to FMD control in the frontier areas bordering Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

It was re-iterated that the findings and recommendations of this mission should be read in the context of the recommendations of the previous mission (in December 2006) and the undertaking of the CVP (Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries) following discussion of those recommendations. The report was endorsed and adopted, and distributed for comments by the countries concerned. The comments of the countries will be evaluated during the next meeting of the Commission.

**d) Evaluation of Member status for foot and mouth disease**

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

Following the successful control of outbreaks of FMD in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, the Commission applied the mandate given to it in Resolution No. XVII of the 65th General Session and restored the status of FMD free country without vaccination to the United Kingdom on 19 February 2008 and to Cyprus on 21 February 2008 during the meeting of the Commission from 19 to 21 February 2008. During the meeting of the Bureau of the Commission on 24 May 2008, the Commission also restored the status of FMD free zone in Brazil to the States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Tocantins, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo with the exception of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Based on the recommendations of this *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the recommendations that:

1. **Belize** be recognised by the OIE as a country free from FMD without vaccination.
2. **Brunei** be recognised by the OIE as a country free from FMD without vaccination.
3. in **Colombia**, the Archipelago de San Andres y Providencia zone, as designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2008, be recognised by the OIE as a zone free from FMD without vaccination. The Commission, at its meeting on 24 May 2008, considered the additional evidence for the recognition of the east zone of Colombia as free from FMD without vaccination. The data were regarded as sufficient to grant this status but the proposal needed to be submitted to Members to allow for a 60-day period for comments before the status is allocated.

4. **Dominican Republic** be recognised by the OIE as a country free from FMD without vaccination. This recommendation was based on additional electronic information supplied to the *ad hoc* Group.

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

186. **Evaluation of Member status for rinderpest**

The Commission reviewed and adopted the two reports of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest. The recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group for the allocation of rinderpest free status for applicant Members were reviewed. The Commission insisted that any approval of an application for official disease-free status should be subject to written evidence that the applicant Member has complied with its mandate to submit 6-monthly and annual disease status reports to the OIE.

The *ad hoc* Group and the Commission reviewed the progress and setbacks for Members still subject to official recognition procedures to attain rinderpest free status, the ultimate goal being global rinderpest eradication. The meeting of the *ad hoc* Group in October 2007 was the first occasion where the Group had to apply evaluation criteria in accordance with the requirements of the revised Chapter 2.2.12. and the supporting surveillance guidelines (Appendix 3.8.2.) of the *Terrestrial Code*, which had been approved by the International Committee during the 75th General Session. Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

That Afghanistan, Belarus, the People's Republic of China, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda and Uzbekistan, be recognised by the OIE as countries free from rinderpest.

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

187. **Evaluation of Member status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)**

Since the previous General Session, the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for CBPP did not evaluate any new applications for official recognition of CBPP status. Therefore no recommendations have been submitted to Members for comment and Resolution No. XX is submitted to the International Committee for approval of the existing list of countries recognised by the OIE as free from CBPP. The *ad hoc* Group on CBPP in close collaboration with the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology developed a new draft chapter, new surveillance guidelines and a questionnaire to support Members applying for CBPP free status recognition. The chapter and the surveillance guidelines were forwarded to the Terrestrial Code Commission for review and will be circulated to the Members for comment.

188. **Evaluation of Member status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**

The Scientific Commission reviewed the reports of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for BSE in Accordance with the *Terrestrial Code*. During its January meeting, the *ad hoc* Group discussed and developed a short version of the questionnaire on the recognition of BSE status with the aim of facilitating the annual reconfirmation of BSE risk status. In line with the work on the short questionnaire, the Group also carried out minor amendments to the questionnaire on the recognition of BSE status. All Members

that were already classified according to the requirements of the 13th edition (2004) of the *Terrestrial Code* were re-assessed against the requirements of the current *Terrestrial Code*. In consequence, Resolution No. XXVII of the 74th General Session is now obsolete. The transitional measures are mentioned in Resolution No. XXI, which will be submitted for adoption.

Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations for the recognition of BSE risk status:

- a) That Finland, Iceland, Norway, Paraguay and Sweden be recognised as countries with a negligible risk for BSE.
- b) That Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom be recognised as countries with a controlled risk for BSE.

These recommendations have been submitted to Members for comment and are submitted to the International Committee for approval in Draft Resolution No. XXI.

#### 189. **Climate change and vector-borne diseases**

The Commission reviewed the report and recommendations of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Climate Change and Vector-Borne Diseases and accepted the proposed Appendix on Guidelines for Arthropod Vectors of Animal Diseases for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

The Commission concluded that climate change is likely to be one factor in determining the spread of some diseases, such as vector-borne diseases. However, it was considered important to carefully look at additional significant factors, other than climate change, including their options for control and risk mitigation. The Commission recommended that the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology should consider all these factors in view of changing disease patterns in general as they might comprise effects of climatic change.

The Commission did not agree that the Group should be tasked with reviewing all the *Terrestrial Code* chapters related to vector-borne diseases, but should any relevant chapter be identified for revision, an expert on vector surveillance could be invited to assist the experts on that disease within an *ad hoc* Group.

#### 190. **Review of the general guidelines for animal health surveillance**

The Commission reviewed the report and recommendations of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Disease Surveillance. The changes proposed by the Group to Appendix 3.8.1. (General guidelines for animal health surveillance) were noted, but the Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, which was responsible for drafting the original text for Appendix 3.8.1., review the proposed changes in detail at its next meeting as well as the new definitions proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Disease Surveillance.

#### 191. **Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter, surveillance guidelines and country disease status evaluation questionnaire for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)**

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to finalise revised texts on the chapter, surveillance guidelines and country evaluation questionnaire for CBPP and submitted the new texts to the Terrestrial Code Commission for further processing.

**192. Review of the surveillance guidelines for rinderpest**

The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest for minor changes to Appendix 3.8.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* on the surveillance guidelines for rinderpest as well as minor changes to the country questionnaire to assist applications for rinderpest freedom, and submitted the *Terrestrial Code* text to the Terrestrial Code Commission.

**193. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on zoning and compartmentalisation and draft appendix on general guidelines on application of compartmentalisation**

The Commission endorsed comments made by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology concerning comments from Members on Chapter 1.3.5. and the draft Appendix on general guidelines for compartmentalisation. These were referred to the Terrestrial Code Commission for further consideration.

Regarding the concept of compartmentalisation, the Commission supported the view of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on the application of compartmentalisation to vector-borne diseases. The Commission re-iterated that there is no scientific reason to doubt the possibility of vector-proof establishments being regarded as compartments.

**194. Discussion on the role of wildlife reservoirs in respect of disease-free status**

The Commission discussed the two possible pathways for disease-free certification – not only in respect of classical swine fever (CSF), but also other OIE-listed diseases where wild animals play a role in the epidemiology of the disease, i.e. to focus on declaring a country, zone or compartment free of disease in domestic animals even if the disease is in wildlife (such as for avian influenza), or to require freedom in wildlife before a country, zone or compartment could be certified disease free. The situation would also differ depending on whether a disease is endemic in wildlife or whether it occurs only incidentally in wildlife. The Commission agreed that this concept needs to be further discussed as it has political implications over and above scientific justification. It was suggested that the concept of disease freedom in domestic animals but not in wildlife should be further discussed.

**195. Epidemiological modelling**

The Commission supported the proposal to proceed with the programme to develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling as mandated in Resolution No. XXXII of the 75th General Session of May 2007. The Director General was requested to approve the formation of an *ad hoc* Group to draft the proposed guidelines with the assistance of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal disease surveillance systems and risk analysis at Fort Collins, United States of America.

**196. Revision/development of definitions**

The Commission endorsed revised definitions of ‘surveillance’ and ‘monitoring’ and a new definition of ‘herd’ proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology. In relation to ‘surveillance’, the Commission endorsed the view of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology that it was not possible to prescribe specific timeframes to maintain active surveillance as this may change depending on the epidemiology of a disease, while recognising that intensive surveillance should not be maintained indefinitely. These definitions were referred to the Terrestrial Code Commission.

**197. Review of comments from Members on various *Terrestrial Code* chapters**

The Commission reviewed comments from Members on various *Terrestrial Code* texts in response to a request for scientific opinions by the Terrestrial Code Commission. These include comments on Chapter 2.3.3. on bovine tuberculosis, Chapter 2.6.7. on classical swine fever and on draft Appendix 3.8.8. on surveillance for classical swine fever. The views of the Commission were referred to the Terrestrial Code Commission for its consideration.

**198. Networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases**

At the September 2007 meeting, the President of the Commission informed the members of the discussions on the FMD Reference Laboratory network he had had during his visits to the laboratories in Botswana and South Africa, as well as discussions with PANAFTOSA. At the February 2008 meeting, the Commission discussed the interim report submitted by the President. The President indicated that, following the response of the Director General of the OIE to the interim report, further visits and discussions were underway.

The President also reported on progress in the development of a network for bluetongue, and expressed his view that this bluetongue network could be used as a template for future disease-specific networks. The Commission considered that the secretariat of a network should not be fixed to any single laboratory and, where not rotating among member laboratories, should be the OIE Central Bureau. The Commission also agreed that an information system for the networks should be developed within the OIE information system, and proposed that national laboratories wishing to join should not be excluded from the networks.

**199. Handbook for passive and active animal disease surveillance**

The Commission reconfirmed its commitment to developing a handbook on passive and active animal disease surveillance. It acknowledged the need for a driver or focal point for the process, but concluded that it would not be in favour of appointing an external consultant to conduct the task that was recommended by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology. It was decided that a meeting of representatives of the relevant Collaborating Centres should be convened to discuss the way forward and to appoint a manager to drive the process. Aspects related to wildlife disease and vector surveillance should be incorporated into the handbook as recommended by the *ad hoc* Group on Wildlife Disease Surveillance and the *ad hoc* Group on Vector-Borne Diseases.

**200. Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

The Commission reviewed the report and recommendations of the meeting of the Working Group and endorsed the proposal for an *ad hoc* Group to develop guidelines for the integration of wildlife disease data within the OIE WAHIS system. The Commission took note of the review conducted by the Group on the current list of OIE diseases and acknowledged that adding a mention of the possible wildlife involvement where appropriate to the current list could serve as a baseline for further discussions or revision of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Following discussions with the Director General on the way forward for the Working Group given the increased importance of the pathogen interface between wildlife and domestic species, the Commission reviewed the Terms of Reference and working plan proposed by the Group. The Commission reiterated that there should be much closer integration between the activities of the Group and those of the Commission. However, the Commission also indicated that, as the OIE sets or revises standards on a disease-by-disease approach, it is very difficult to define specific tasks or priorities for the Group under a broader concept such as ‘wildlife diseases’. It was therefore concluded that the members of the Working Group who will be appointed during the 76th General Session of the OIE should review the proposed Terms of Reference and working plan taking these points into consideration.

**201. Consolidation of previous resolutions by the International Committee on the procedures and financial commitments of Members related to the official recognition of disease free status**

The Commission agreed on the need to consolidate previous resolutions adopted by the International Committee on the procedures and financial commitments applicable to Members for the official recognition of disease free status or risk category for these diseases (FMD, CBPP, BSE and rinderpest) into two resolutions explaining on the one hand the procedures and on the other hand Members' financial commitments in a simplified manner. It was also agreed that Members should once again be made aware of the obligation for the annual reconfirmation of disease free status and the possible consequences for a Member should the annual status not be confirmed. The consolidated resolutions, replacing all previous related resolutions, are submitted to the International Committee for approval in Draft Resolutions Nos XXII and XXIII.

**202. Future working programme of the Scientific Commission**

The Commission, with the assistance of *ad hoc* Groups, will in addition to ongoing activities also address the following newly identified priorities during 2008/2009:

- Consider a holistic approach to raise awareness at the OIE of epidemiological factors that favour the global spread of animal diseases;
- Develop a manual for animal health surveillance;
- Define criteria to further the establishment of networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases;
- Develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling for animal diseases;
- Identify priority chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* to be updated in light of new scientific knowledge;
- Plan and participate in the scientific organisation of a global conference on FMD;
- Develop a working procedure to integrate more closely the human/animal/wildlife disease pathogen interface in a scientific approach to the development of standards;
- Follow-up the South American missions;
- Consider the use of GIS<sup>30</sup> in disease reporting and the performance of nonstructural protein tests in mass screening;
- Establish a procedure for the evaluation of dossiers for the recognition of disease status.

203. After the presentation of the report, the President thanked Prof. Caporale and the Commission for all their hard work. Before he invited comments from Delegates, he informed the International Committee that the resolution for allocating rinderpest freedom will be revised following failure of some countries to confirm the maintenance of their status. A revised resolution will be presented for adoption during the final session of the International Committee. The President then opened discussions on the various issues raised.

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<sup>30</sup> GIS: Geographical information systems

204. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked the Scientific Commission for its hard work and asked the OIE to give more consideration to the situation in developing countries regarding BSE risk status recognition, noting that such countries do not use meat and bone meal (MBM) feed for ruminants as it would be too expensive for farmers.
205. The Delegate of Japan expressed his appreciation for the work of the Scientific Commission. He said that the rationale that the Commission used to determine whether or not an applicant met the criteria set out in the *Terrestrial Code* for BSE risk status is not always clearly described in the report and requested improvement to facilitate better understanding of the proposal among Members. He noted that, for example, the required surveillance points and the appropriate level of control and audit for the feed ban are not clear. Therefore, it is difficult to understand whether or not some applicants met the criteria. He pointed out that, according to the report of the Scientific Commission, Mexico does not remove SRM<sup>31</sup> and thus there would be a risk of recycling and amplification of the BSE agent if it were present. Therefore, Japan wishes to encourage the Scientific Commission to advise Mexico to consider removing SRM from animal feed to further decrease the BSE risk. He supported the Scientific Commission in its request that Members whose status has already been assigned to submit the supplementary information required by the *ad hoc* Group.
206. The Delegate of Honduras congratulated Prof. Caporale for the excellent presentation. He reminded the International Committee that last year it had been proposed that two other diseases be included on the list of diseases for which the OIE could recognise Members' official disease status (Newcastle disease and classical swine fever), and requested progress on a decision on this matter.
207. The Delegate of Panama supported the request by the Delegate of Honduras to extend official disease status recognition to include Newcastle disease and classical swine fever.
208. The Delegate of Norway appreciated the work done by the Scientific Commission and stated that Norway would encourage Members to respect the definitions outlined in the standards, including the recommendations that apply to the field of aquatic animal health. The Delegate expressed the need to discuss the goals and objectives of including wildlife diseases in the notification system, so as to identify which diseases to include, before one decides on the technical solution in WAHID.
209. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation. He enquired why Prof. Caporale had emphasised the fact that a buffer zone is optional as this was already indicated in the 2007 *Terrestrial Code*, which provides the alternative options of a physical/geographic boundary. The Delegate also needed clarification as to why the high surveillance zone referred to in the report of the MERCOSUR countries could not be classified as a buffer zone. The OIE Director General responded that the concept of a high surveillance zone is not yet defined in the *Terrestrial Code*. The application of this concept is a specific agreement between the OIE and the MERCOSUR countries for the control of FMD in that region.
210. The Delegate of Zimbabwe congratulated the President of the Commission on his presentation and asked if the Commission has considered whether compartmentalisation could also be applied to FMD.
211. The Delegate of Pakistan inquired about the conditions that would apply to historical freedom for BSE. Prof. Caporale indicated that, in terms of the *Terrestrial Code*, BSE is excluded from recognition of freedom from disease on historical grounds.

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<sup>31</sup> SRM: specified risk material



212. In his response to the questions, Prof. Caporale acknowledged the difficulties experienced by some countries in their evaluations, but emphasised that the OIE experts have to comply with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. Regarding the remark by the Delegate of Japan that in the report the rationale for recognition is not always clearly explained, the President explained the difficulty of applying BSE surveillance guidelines to countries with very small cattle populations, noting that there is a problem in the current BSE surveillance model, as a country with a small cattle population would not have enough cattle to achieve the surveillance points. Prof. Caporale stated that the *ad hoc* Group inferred the lowest number of surveillance points required for such small cattle populations. Regarding Mexico, it had removed all SRM from products for export, but not for the domestic market, as it is marketed in a more profitable way exclusively for human consumption. Therefore, the risk of recycling and release of the BSE agent is considered negligible. Regarding the remark by the Delegate of Norway to integrate information on wildlife diseases that is currently collected and treated differently, Prof. Caporale shared her view that these data should be consolidated in WAHIS under the responsibility of the Veterinary Services. In response to the question raised by the Delegate of Zimbabwe on compartmentalisation, Prof. Caporale explained that the concept of compartmentalisation could be applied to any disease, including FMD. It is, however, important how it is applied, as the biosecurity measures to separate animals with different animal health status would need to be carefully considered. Regarding increasing the number of diseases with official status recognition by the OIE, he acknowledged that recognition of freedom from disease is to the advantage of all countries, but before extending the list it should be determined whether the OIE Central Bureau has the capacity to cope with the increased demand.
213. In response to the intervention by the Delegate of South Africa, Prof. Caporale referred to the intention of a buffer zone being part of the animal health measures to be applied, but that the Commission is of the opinion that a buffer zone need not be obligatory. Up until last year it was a concept that was used only in relation to zoning for freedom from disease when the zone bordered another country. A zone can be established within a country without a buffer zone, provided that the animal health measures in place are sufficient to prevent the entry of the virus.
214. The President informed Delegates that the request to expand the current list of diseases for which the OIE could recognise Members' official disease status had been discussed by the Administrative Commission, which resolved not to recommend the expansion of the current list because of the cost involved and several other considerations, such as issues related directly to the diseases under consideration and provisions that need to be made in the *Terrestrial Code* for official recognition for a particular disease. He further noted that most of the cost of the procedure is met by the OIE, the payment by Members covering only a part of the total costs. The regular annual contribution by Members would most probably have to be increased considerably to cover administrative and technical costs should the list of diseases for official recognition be expanded.
215. The President also reminded Delegates that the recommendations of the Scientific Commission for the recognition of disease status, which are circulated to Members for comment, are confidential until they have been officially adopted by the International Committee. The President requested Members to respect this confidentiality and therefore refrain from publicly announcing these recommendations before the International Committee has adopted them.
216. Dr Vallat informed Delegates of cooperation between the OIE and FAO to definitively eradicate rinderpest worldwide. Following the recommendation by the *ad hoc* Group that was endorsed by the Scientific Commission, Dr Vallat explained the new procedures for applications for rinderpest status recognition that will come into effect in the near future. There will be three categories of application: recognition based on the submission of a letter by the Delegate, historical freedom according to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter, and submission of conventional dossiers for those countries for which the first two categories do not apply. The Delegates will receive a letter from the Director General explaining to each of them the procedures to be followed, depending on the case. The OIE needs to have

information on all the territories under the Members' jurisdiction and applications from Members for disease status recognition should include the disease status of all the territories that are not geographically attached to the mainland.

217. Dr Vallat informed Delegates on cooperation between the OIE and FAO for the preparation of a global FMD initiative and the organisation of International Conferences in 2009.
218. Dr Vallat also commented on the question of expanding the official list for disease status recognition and indicated that for diseases such as Newcastle disease, classical swine fever and avian influenza, difficult technical, disease-specific issues also needed to be considered before they could be included in the list. Members should also appreciate that, due to these technical considerations and the presence of very active reservoirs in wildlife for these diseases, the concept of compartmentalisation was introduced as a priority for these diseases to assist Members in establishing disease free populations even though they are not included in the current official list for status recognition. Should they be added, it is expected that many Members would apply, in which case the OIE would not currently have the human resources required to satisfy the demand.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII  
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members**

219. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XVIII for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously after the Delegate of Colombia clarified the interpretation of the combination of two zones in Colombia, as outlined in a previous submission by the Delegate of Colombia sent in 2003. The text appears under Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI  
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Members**

220. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXI for adoption. After clarification following an intervention by the Delegate of Japan, the resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXI at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX  
Recognition of the Rinderpest Status of Members**

221. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XIX for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously after the names of three Members had been removed from the Resolution due to failure to confirm the maintenance of their official disease status for rinderpest to the OIE. The text appears under Resolution No. XIX at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX  
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members**

222. 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. XXII  
Update on procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of  
status of certain animal diseases**

223. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXII for adoption. The Delegate of Japan commented that the paras 6 and 7 of the "the Commission resolves" part were new proposal and the vote of proposal should be postponed to next year. However, he did not oppose the adoption of this resolution on the understanding that official recognition is not a substitute for measures which must be determined by importing countries. He also requested, in order to secure transparency, the Scientific Commission to present the report of the evaluation to all members so that they could send comments. Clarification was provided following

intervention by the Delegate of Zimbabwe. Delegates were also reminded by the President that the concepts contained in the draft resolution are not new but reflect a consolidation of several previous resolutions adopted by the International Committee. He also pointed out that the concept of a *containment zone* for FMD had been adopted at the 75th General Session and now needed to be incorporated into the resolution for practical and procedural implementation. Members were also reminded that the proposed resolution also reflects the decision to demand specific information for the annual confirmation of disease status in accordance with the relevant disease chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

224. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXII at the end of this report.

#### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIII**

**Update on the cost to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

225. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIII for adoption. After clarification had been provided and the text amended following interventions by the Delegates of Norway, India, Senegal, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China, the amended resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIII at the end of this report.
226. The Committee noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

#### **Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd) Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

##### **227. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

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

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) was established in 2002, at the request of the Director General and the International Committee, with a view to strengthening the OIE's activities in the food safety area and further developing collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the seventh time at the OIE Headquarters from 6 to 8 November 2007. The following is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting; the full report is included in the March 2008 Terrestrial Code Commission report, which has been distributed to all OIE Delegates and has been published on the OIE Web site ([www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)). The Working Group received an update on OIE, Codex, FAO and WHO activities relevant to its work and then addressed the following main topics:

##### **228. Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety**

The Working Group reviewed a draft document on the Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety, which is to be included in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*), to provide guidance to OIE Members. The text had been reviewed and endorsed by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its meeting in September 2007. Some members of the Working Group considered the expression 'uniquely equipped' in the background section of the paper too exclusive in relation to the role of other professionals in food safety. Concerns were raised that the paper may send a message that only veterinarians are qualified to work in food safety. Several Members made comments in support of the original text in relation to the uniqueness of the

veterinary qualification. The Members agreed to modify this section to clarify the role of other professionals and to make some minor changes to improve the clarity of the text. The text has been placed on the OIE Web site.

**229. Guide to Good Farming Practices (GGFP)**

The Working Group reviewed the document prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on the Guide to Good Farming Practices. The Working Group agreed that the Guide should address the issue of cost-effectiveness, and consideration of the socioeconomic and cultural contexts of the farming systems in developing countries and of the particular health situation in the section on Implementation. The Working Group agreed to amend the section on Hazards to recognise that some of the listed hazards had impacts on food safety only indirectly. It also recommended that radionuclides be grouped together with chemical hazards. It agreed that there was some redundancy and duplication in the document and recommended how it be restructured. The Working Group noted that risks associated with animal manure and other wastes had not been adequately addressed and proposed an additional text for consideration: *“The Working Group recommended that the OIE and FAO support developing countries in their efforts to raise awareness, and that these organisations provide training to farmers and other stakeholders to assist them in complying with the Guide. In particular, resources should be made available through international projects directed at developing countries with the goal of improving the infrastructure of the food production sectors and the performance of the Veterinary Services”*. The Working Group also proposed a number of other changes and recommended that the OIE/FAO *ad hoc* Group revisit this document electronically, taking into account the Working Group’s recommendations. The Working Group noted that the GGFP will serve as a generic guide for Members and as such it does not contain detailed technical recommendations. More specific guidelines will be developed, in particular for developing countries. These will be prepared with the collaboration of technical agencies such as FAO with the objective of making applicable the implementation of good farming practices in these socioeconomic and cultural contexts.

**230. Animal Identification and Traceability**

The Working Group noted the work completed by the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Identification and Traceability and did not propose any additional amendments to the proposed text. Bearing in mind potential future standard-setting work of the Codex on product traceability, the Working Group recommended that OIE and the Codex maintain close collaboration on this topic. The Working Group was informed about the OIE’s intention to hold an International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability in early 2009, in technical collaboration with the Codex, as a mechanism to provide countries with technical information on systems for identification and traceability.

**231. Terrestrial Animal Feed**

The Working Group reviewed the revised draft document entitled “Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed”, which contained the comments of OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission meeting held in September 2007. The Working Group addressed the revised Guidelines from a food safety perspective, bearing in mind the need to maintain consistency with the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. The Working Group noted the Terrestrial Code Commission’s proposed modification to the scope and suggested that the scope be clarified as the new text could generate some confusion as to whether terrestrial animals other than livestock (e.g. companion animals) were covered. In addition, the reference to ‘food’ in the sentence “These guidelines deal with food or feed for terrestrial animals (i.e. livestock and poultry)” was felt to be confusing and the Working Group recommended deleting the reference to food. The Working Group proposed a number of modifications to the Definitions section. Under the section on General Principles, the Working Group recommended

changing the placement of the text on contingency plans and the addition of text to clarify the intent. The Working Group reviewed the revised text on labelling, in light of Codex recommendations on this point. In relation to contamination, the Working Group recommended that attention should be focused on contamination in general with reference to cross contamination only where necessary. The Working Group also made some other minor amendments to the text.

#### 232. **Aquatic Animal Feed**

The Working Group discussed this item in light of its discussion on terrestrial animal feed. Members considered that the food safety issues associated with feeding aquatic animals should be addressed and agreed that it would review any further text covering food safety that might be produced through the OIE standard-setting procedure. The Working Group recommended that the guidelines on terrestrial and aquatic animal feed should be as closely aligned as possible. The Working Group recommended that OIE expert(s) further review the Guidelines on Feeding Terrestrial Animals, in addition to Codex guidance on animal feeding and FAO publications on aquaculture, with a view to developing text on the food safety implications of aquatic animal feed. In addition to the Codex and FAO publications referenced in the draft Guidelines for the Control of Aquatic Animal Health Hazards in Aquatic Animal Feed, the expert(s) should examine recommendations relevant to feed in texts recently developed by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (section on aquaculture feed). The Working Group recommended that the OIE should continue to closely monitor developments on aquatic animal feed in the Codex.

#### 233. **Revision of OIE Model Veterinary Certificates**

The Working Group discussed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificates, the comments of OIE Members and the text modifications proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its meeting held in September 2007. The Working Group recommended that the amendment to Article 1.2.1.1. proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission be modified to read: 'Safe *international trade*...', which seemed to be the normal OIE usage. The Working Group recommended that the OIE ensure that its (the Group's) recommendations on international veterinary certification are as closely aligned as possible with relevant recommendations of the Codex (specifically those developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems). The Working Group also recommended that the OIE take steps to encourage the use of electronic certification, where possible, and other systems helpful in preventing fraud, which is a key consideration for safe international trade. With this in mind, the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificates should, at its February 2008 meeting, review the Codex Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001), as revised in 2007. The Working Group noted the good collaboration between the OIE and the Codex on matters relating to international health certification and encouraged both organisations to continue their efforts to harmonise approaches.

#### 234. **Salmonellosis**

The Working Group discussed the draft Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption, which had been prepared by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, and the comments of OIE Members on this draft document. The Working Group noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis had met again in February 2008 and recommended that the Group should review Codex recommendations on this topic, as revised in 2007. It also noted that the OIE recommendations provided specific advice on measures to be taken on-farm, which complement the Codex recommendations that address the entire food chain including the measures to be taken post-farm. Therefore, the Working Group urged the OIE and Codex to ensure that recommendations are consistent wherever possible and that any unnecessary duplication is eliminated. The Working Group recommended that the *ad hoc* Group clarify what is meant by environmental sampling in Article 3.10.2.7. and review

Article 3.10.2.8. to make the recommendations more operational and clearly differentiate between what is common practice and what are clear recommendations, in particular the section on vaccination. The Working Group recommended that the OIE develop a definition for ‘pest’ – either for use in this Appendix or for use generally in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Working Group provided comments on some of the general food safety related issues raised by Members and made a number of recommendations to modify the text, including the addition of certain definitions from the Codex Code of Practice. The Working Group reviewed the terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group that will be convened to develop recommendations on *Salmonella* detection, prevention and control in broiler chickens and made several recommendations.

#### 235. **Tuberculosis and Brucellosis**

The Working Group discussed the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission on tuberculosis and noted the amendments proposed by the Commission, most of which were not directly relevant to food safety. The Working Group also noted the status report on brucellosis.

#### 236. **Antimicrobial Resistance**

The Working Group was informed about progress in the area of antimicrobial resistance over the past year and that the OIE has finalised its list of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance, which is now available on the OIE Web site. The fourth joint FAO/WHO/OIE Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials, held on 26 November 2007, was an important forum to discuss the appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health concerns about the use of antimicrobial products. There was also an associated stakeholders meeting. The Working Group noted that, in addition to the work being undertaken by FAO/WHO/OIE and to FAO/OIE meetings, the Codex Task Force has started work in three areas: risk assessment policy, risk management measures and risk profiling. The new Codex work would have due regard to the existing work by the OIE/FAO/WHO.

#### 237. **Biotechnology**

The Working Group noted the status of the work in the Codex regarding biotechnology. As mentioned in the report of the 7th Session of the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (ALINORM 08/31/34), the Codex Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals is at Step 5/8 of the Codex procedure. This guideline identifies the health status of the recombinant animal as one of the factors that is relevant to the safety assessment of recombinant-DNA animals. It was understood that the assessment of animal health status fell within the OIE mandate and was not covered by the Codex guideline. The Working Group noted the report of the 12–14 June 2007 meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology and noted that this Group would next meet on 26–29 November 2007. In response to the recommendations of an FAO/WHO expert group, the status of food derived from animals treated with recombinant DNA (r-DNA) vaccines will be addressed. The Working Group accepted the invitation for its Chair to be present at this meeting and he will report back at the next Working Group meeting.

238. **Revised version of the WHO publication ‘*Terrorist Threats to Food*’**

Dr Schlundt (WHO) briefly summarised the amendments made to the publication *Terrorist Threats to Food* and indicated that WHO’s intention is to publish the revised version as soon as possible.

239. **Work Programme for 2008 and next meeting**

The Working Group reviewed the work programme for 2007 and updated it, based on the progression of relevant texts during the previous 12 months and the discussion at this meeting. Priorities for 2008 include: a) identification and tracing of animals and animal products that have resulted from biotechnological intervention; b) food safety implications of the use in food-producing animals of vaccines derived from recombinant biotechnology; c) food safety implications of feed for aquatic animals; d) OIE International Conference on the Identification and Traceability of Animals and Animal Products to be held in technical collaboration with Codex in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in early 2009; e) Salmonellosis in broilers; f) Campylobacteriosis in broilers (on work programme for 2009 pending progress in the Codex) and, g) Cysticercosis. The Working Group plans to hold its next meeting in November 2008.

240. The President of the OIE, Dr O’Neil, complimented Prof. Slorach on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the achievements of the Working Group, and he opened the discussion.

241. The Delegate of Senegal asked Prof. Slorach for clarification regarding the future work of the OIE on the food safety implications of the use of r-DNA vaccines in animals. The Delegate of Senegal also requested advice on the human health implications of bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis.

242. Dr Vallat confirmed that the OIE will convene an *ad hoc* Group to draft advice on any possible food safety implications of the use of r-DNA vaccines in animals.

243. Dr Thiermann clarified that bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis are already recognised as zoonotic diseases. The purpose of the work currently being undertaken by the relevant *ad hoc* Groups is to update these disease chapters and harmonise them, where appropriate, with other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

244. The Director General thanked Prof. Slorach on behalf of the OIE for his work as chairman and acknowledged the achievements under his chairmanship of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

245. Dr Thiermann thanked Prof. Slorach for his presentation and proposed Resolution No. XXV for adoption by the International Committee.

246. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV  
Animal Production Food Safety**

247. 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.

## 248. Working Group on Animal Welfare

Dr David Bayvel, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, presented the report on the Group's activities.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare held its sixth meeting at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 5 to 7 September 2007.

It had been agreed that one of the industry observers would have full representation as a Working Group member on a rotational basis. In 2007, the International Dairy Federation (IDF) member took this role and the representatives of the other two industry organisations (the International Meat Secretariat [IMS] and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers [IFAP]) participated as observers and attended the second day of the meeting only. Dr Ed Pajor, of Purdue University (United States of America), also participated at the meeting. He will develop an Animal Welfare Educational and Research Database for the OIE.

At its September 2007 meeting, the Working Group agreed that work programme priorities would include the following:

- Revision of guidelines adopted in 2005 for land transport, sea transport, slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes.
- Further work on draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines after consideration by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.
- Further work on three of the new areas of strategic priority agreed at the 2005 OIE General Session. In the companion animal area, an *ad hoc* Group on Dog Population Control has met on two occasions and prepared a first draft report. In the production animal and laboratory animal areas, it was decided to convene *ad hoc* Groups to establish draft basic OIE guidelines on these areas. Discussion papers were prepared and adopted to assist these *ad hoc* Groups with defining the strategic approach and scope of the work.
- Planning for a second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare 'Putting the OIE Standards to Work': Towards the Implementation of the OIE's International Animal Welfare Standards', to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2008.

The Chairman of the Working Group participates in bi-monthly teleconferences with OIE Central Bureau staff to discuss work programme progress and other issues of operational and strategic significance, as they arise.

The Working Group continues to see the active involvement of all OIE Members as being critical to further developing the progress made to date with particular emphasis on the adoption of OIE-approved guidelines. This involvement requires close liaison and collaboration with non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Communication and consultation with interested parties are also seen as critical commitments, with the OIE Web site, the OIE *Bulletin* and the special issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* entitled "Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges" all providing important sources of information and emphasising the OIE's international animal welfare leadership role.



249. The President of the OIE, Dr O’Neil, complimented Dr Bayvel on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the achievements of the Working Group, and he opened the discussion.
250. The Delegate of Paraguay expressed his appreciation for Dr Bayvel’s overview of the work completed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare and sought clarification on the Spanish language translation of paragraph 3 of the Resolution. Dr O’Neil clarified that the word ‘immediately’ was not appropriate and that this and the corresponding French word would be removed from the English and French texts (it was not present in the Spanish text).
251. The Delegate of Canada thanked Dr Bayvel for his presentation. The Delegate confirmed that Canada would not oppose the adoption of the Resolution. He recognised that competing priorities and resource limitations require that priorities be set. Given the economic, cultural and ecological importance of harvesting by ‘First Nations’ or aboriginal or other communities of terrestrial wildlife and marine mammals, Canada requested that the Working Group progress the scoping document for the harvesting and culling of wildlife. Canada would provide comments on the draft and would continue to support the Working Group.
252. The Delegate of Colombia also sought clarification concerning paragraph 3 of the Resolution. He explained that developing countries could have particular difficulties in complying with this part of the Resolution and asked if the OIE had taken this into account. Dr Bayvel replied that the OIE 2nd International Conference would provide valuable advice to Members in this regard.
253. The Delegate of Senegal noted that the French language version of the Resolution makes reference to ‘*bien-etre animal*’ and asked for an explanation as to why this term had been used, given the discussion at the General Session 2007. Dr O’Neil replied that the definition of animal welfare would be discussed during subsequent presentations on the work of the Terrestrial Code Commission.
254. Dr Thiermann thanked Dr Bayvel for his presentation and proposed Resolution No. XXIV for adoption by the International Committee.
255. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV  
Animal Welfare**

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

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≡ WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2008 ≡

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<b>FOURTH PLENARY SESSION</b>
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**Presentations by International Organisations  
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE (contd)**

**Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere**

257. Mike C. Robach, President of the SSAFE Initiative<sup>32</sup>, reported on the activities of his organisation.

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<sup>32</sup> SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere

258. Incorporated in 2006, Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere, Inc. (SSAFE), in US Law terms, is “a 501(c)(3) non-profit”, public-private partnership (PPP) among global food system companies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), intergovernmental organisations, and academia, which aspires to be a global catalyst to protect the world’s food supply chain.
259. The SSAFE initiative stemmed from a growing recognition of the vulnerabilities and fragility of the global food system. In 2005, a small group of global food system company executives and academics visiting the Paris headquarters of the OIE discussed their mutual desire for scientifically sound international standards for safe trade in animals and animal products; adequate official government capacity to deliver core functions of surveillance, risk analysis, emergency preparedness and response; and active participation in global standard-setting activities. Together, the group realised that no individual organisation or governmental agency acting alone could manage risks to human, animal, and environmental health on a global scale. Further discussions cemented the commitment of a core group of global food system companies, international NGOs and academia to form a public-private partnership that became incorporated as SSAFE in 2006.
260. The Vision: to improve human, domestic animal, and wildlife health through global implementation of science-based, international standards for food and feed safety, and animal disease prevention and control.
- Ensure consistent and affordable sources of safe food products for everyone, everywhere in the world;
  - Promote an uninterrupted global supply chain for food products to and from all countries; and foster sustainable agriculture, fisheries and the protection of the environment, including wildlife conservation;
  - Respond to needs expressed by developing and in-transition countries to increase local capacity in their food system infrastructure to feed their population, increase stability, promote human health and well-being, support economic growth, and stimulate awareness, education and environmental sustainability.
261. Mission: To champion programmes and activities that address the association of animal health with food safety, human health and environmental sustainability. To foster the safe and sustainable free trade in animals and animal products throughout the global food supply chain through harmonised animal health and welfare measures and a sound global infrastructure for veterinary services.
262. Members include: McDonald’s, Cargill, Keystone Foods, Nestlé, ConAgra Foods, Ecolab, Pfizer, Novus International, Cobb-Vantress, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Collaborators are the OIE, the University of Minnesota, the International Federation of Animal Health, the Centre for Science in the Public Interest, CARE, and the FAO.
263. Recent SSAFE projects include: a first project related to avian influenza education in Vietnam (awareness material to protect the population prepared in cooperation with the NGO CARE). A second project is the partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on the concept “One World – One Health”. SSAFE sponsored two conferences, one in Beijing, People’s Republic of China, in 2005, and one in Brazil in 2007. Regarding the latter, a programme to support compartmentalisation was encouraged through the establishment of a small grants research programme funded by SSAFE members. The third project is in Mozambique, where the private sector (Cargill and small local poultry

operators) is working with the government within the framework of PVS to identify gaps and prepare investments in animal health capacity building to support the development of an emerging integrated poultry industry.

264. SSAFE recognises the central role of good animal health in all societies, whether it is for fighting malnutrition, reducing poverty, capturing economic development opportunities, enhancing food safety, preventing the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases or minimising impacts on society. SSAFE commends the OIE and its intergovernmental partners (World Bank, FAO) for their focus on the global public good and for their willingness to reach out and engage with the private sector on areas of mutual interest. These areas include:
- Capacity building in animal health services;
  - Development of science-based trade standards;
  - Development of animal health leaders;
  - Support of the “One World-One Health” mindset.
265. The three SSAFE strategic intents are as follows:
- Continued development and implementation of harmonised international standards around the world (through OIE and Codex). Science-based standards in place allowing the supply of safe and affordable animals and animal products;
  - Implementation of the “One Health” concept, through continued improvement of Animal Health and Food Safety infrastructure (e.g. ongoing SSAFE project on animal health capacity building in Mozambique working with government and the private sector);
  - Integrated Animal Health and Public Health surveillance systems. (Need to decrease the risks coming from zoonotic diseases; need to improve coordination between existing global surveillance systems).
266. By working together, the private and public sectors can leverage resources and seamlessly link environmental health, animal health, food safety and security, and public health for the global public good.

### **International Egg Commission**

267. Mr Julian Madeley, Director General of the IEC<sup>33</sup>, reported on the activities of his organisation.
268. The IEC is an international trade association, established in 1962 with members from 55 countries, representing 80% of world egg production. The Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and IEC was signed in 2006. Regular communication with the OIE is well established, notably on avian influenza and animal welfare matters.
269. The IEC will support the OIE International Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2008 and a presentation will be made during this conference.
270. The IEC is active in standard-setting and research activities. The IEC has recently adopted International Guidelines for Animal Welfare.

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<sup>33</sup> IEC: International Egg Commission

### **International Poultry Council**

271. Mr Tade Lysgaard, First Vice-President of the IPC<sup>34</sup>, briefly introduced his organisation, which signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE during the 76th General Session of the OIE.
272. The IPC was initially conceived in 1976, and now represents 85% of world poultry meat production and more than 95% of world trade in poultry meat products.
273. IPC fully supports the principle of compartmentalisation developed by the OIE to ensure biosecurity and separation between wild birds, backyard production and larger production units. The IPC confirmed its willingness to share the expertise of its members and to work in close cooperation with the OIE to assist in the practical implementation of OIE guidelines on compartmentalisation.

### **International Livestock Research Institute**

274. Dr Jeffrey C. Mariner, Animal Health and International Trade Team Leader of ILRI, reported on the activities of his organisation.
275. The main activity of ILRI is livestock research for poverty reduction: securing assets of the poor to reduce vulnerability; increasing productivity to improve livelihoods and market opportunities to increase incomes of the poor as producers, employees and market agents. This includes:
- Emerging diseases – risks and tradeoffs;
  - Livestock–environment issues: sustainability of extensive systems and negative impacts in intensive systems;
  - Market access (SPS, institutional links, local access);
  - Platforms and approaches for vaccine and diagnostic development;
  - Animal genetic resources;
  - Feed scarcity – animal feed from dual purpose crops;
  - Evolution of livestock systems;
  - Innovation system approaches for livestock and market systems;
  - Surveillance and operational research.
276. Current projects in the field of vaccines and diagnostics were briefly presented, including partnership arrangements and contributions to new platforms, including ALive, Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa, and Global Alliance of Livestock Vaccines.
277. Concerning animal health and markets, several topics were addressed: (i) examples of projects and outputs; and (ii) importance and opportunities. The increasing demand for livestock products in developing countries, linked to increasing urban incomes, greater quality and safety needs and more complex market chains, will be met by someone, but can the poor benefit?

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<sup>34</sup> IPC: International Poultry Council

278. It was highlighted that ILRI is an international public research organisation operating in the field of international animal health, focusing on livestock for poverty reduction in developing countries, which provides research evidence to inform international, regional and national actions. ILRI activities were presented as being complementary to intergovernmental bodies such as the OIE and the FAO.

### **Animal Health Status in Member Countries**

(Doc. 76 SG/14)

279. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, gave a comprehensive update on the reports submitted by Members in 2007, for the six-monthly reports and the annual report. He reiterated the importance of the use of WAHIS in notifying diseases to the OIE and of doing so on time, so that the reports can be validated by the Animal Health Information Department in due time. He stressed the importance of submitting the six-monthly reports no later than one month after the end of the semester; for the annual reports a maximum delay of 45 days after the end of the year should be respected. To date, 142 Members have submitted their first six-monthly report for 2007, 125 their second six-monthly report and 100 their annual report. Twenty-four countries have not submitted any reports. Eighty-seven percent of countries having submitted information have used WAHIS. He also presented the list of training workshops that have taken place in the last few years.

While these results are very encouraging, only three years after the official launching of the new OIE's notification system, and demonstrate that the transition period is now over, he highlighted how important it is that all Members completely stop using paper forms and use WAHIS and submit information quickly.

### **Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2007 and the Beginning of 2008**

280. Dr Karim Ben Jebara reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2007 and in the first months of 2008 (Doc. 76 SG/2).
281. **For OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases:** The major events affecting terrestrial animals in 2007 or early 2008 were: the introduction of African swine fever in Central Europe, the continuation in some countries of the highly pathogenic avian influenza epizootic due to virus subtype H5N1, the expansion and implantation of bluetongue virus serotype 8 and the first signs of the emergence of serotype 1 in Europe, and the reoccurrence of foot and mouth disease in certain areas. In addition to a description of these events, the development of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy situation over the past two decades was outlined, showing a trend towards the eradication of this emerging disease in the future.

#### **282. African swine fever**

African swine fever (ASF) is endemic in many countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. During the period covered by the present report, **Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia** reported its reoccurrence. **Mauritius** reported the first occurrence of ASF in the country; the outbreaks started in September 2007.

African swine fever was eradicated from affected European countries in the 1980s or 1990s. In Western Europe, **Italy** is the only country currently notifying this disease, which affects wild boar in Sardinia. To date, no country in the Americas has notified the OIE of the presence of the disease in 2007.

In **Georgia**, Central Europe, clinical signs were observed in pigs in April 2007. These were initially attributed to postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) and the disease was not finally confirmed as ASF until June 2007, two months after the first observation of clinical signs. This was the first occurrence of ASF in Georgia. It appears

that the virus was introduced via contaminated products of animal origin arriving in the port of Poti on the Black Sea.

As feared, the virus spread beyond the national borders of Georgia. In August 2007, neighbouring **Armenia** reported the first occurrence of this disease, with 13 outbreaks, one of which was close to the border with **Azerbaijan**. The disease spread to Azerbaijan in January 2008, constituting the first occurrence of the disease in the country; domestic pigs were affected. The source of infection was attributed to wild boar. The affected village covers an area 10 km long and 9 km wide. It includes 1336 houses with more than 600 traditional farms containing 4832 pigs. Azerbaijan informed the OIE that the last dead animal was registered on 7 February 2008 and that sero-surveillance of all pigs had been carried out throughout the country, with negative results.

**Russia** reported the reoccurrence of ASF in November 2007, in wild boar along the Argoun and Shatoy-Argoun rivers, in the Chechen Republic. This was the first occurrence of the disease in Russia since 1977. In the affected region, wild boar are known to move freely across the sub-alpine grassland along the aforementioned rivers. These rivers are about 30 to 40 km from the border with Georgia. Biosecurity measures were applied in pig farms and Russia has not notified the OIE of any cases of ASF in domestic pigs.

There is a risk of ASF becoming endemic in this region and even spreading to other countries, given the presence of a wild boar population and ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*, which could act as a reservoir for the virus. While three affected countries, namely Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, have indicated that there have been no new outbreaks of the disease, it is important for early warning systems and sero-surveillance to be put in place in these countries to confirm the absence of virus circulation.

### 283. **Highly pathogenic avian influenza**

Between 2003 and early 2008, a total of 61 countries/territories reported the occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus subtype H5N1. Some historical background information on this disease: in late 2003 and in 2004 the disease was restricted to South-East Asia but in 2005 it spread to Central Asia, Russia and Eastern Europe. In 2006, it reached the African continent and the Middle East for the first time and spread to Western Europe, where mainly wild birds were infected. In 2006, a total of 47 countries/territories notified the OIE of the presence of the disease.

In 2008 (up to the end of May), 12 countries/territories had notified the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 following its previous eradication, thus indicating that the virus is continuing to circulate. These are the **Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SARPRC<sup>35</sup>), India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Laos, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine** and the **United Kingdom** (wild birds).

In 2007, 29 countries (4 in Africa, 14 in Asia, 3 in the Middle East and 8 in Europe) reported HPAI subtype H5N1 in poultry, in wild birds, or in both poultry and wild birds. For **Bangladesh, Benin, Ghana, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia** and **Togo**, these were the first ever reports of the disease.

In 2007, the number of countries that reported outbreaks was smaller (29 countries) than in 2006, when 47 countries were affected. Starting in 2007, the trend has been for a decline in both the number of affected countries and the number of notified outbreaks.

**Benin, Germany, Israel, Myanmar, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Togo** and the **United Kingdom** submitted a final report indicating the resolution of the outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 and the absence of any new outbreaks. **Germany, Israel, Myanmar, Poland, Romania** and **Saudi Arabia** declared themselves free from HPAI in poultry.

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<sup>35</sup> SARPRC: Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

**Table 1. Countries that notified HPAI subtype H5N1 in domestic poultry and/or wild birds in 2007**

Afghanistan	Korea (Republic of)
Bangladesh <sup>(1)</sup>	Kuwait <sup>(1)</sup>
Benin <sup>(1)</sup>	Laos
Cambodia	Malaysia
China (People's Rep. of)	Myanmar
Czech Republic	Pakistan
Egypt	Poland
France (wild birds)	Romania
Germany	Russia
Ghana <sup>(1)</sup>	Saudi Arabia <sup>(1)</sup>
Hong Kong (SARPRC) (wild birds)	Thailand
Hungary	Togo <sup>(1)</sup>
India	Turkey
Japan	United Kingdom (poultry)
	Vietnam

<sup>(1)</sup> Countries that notified their first ever occurrence of the disease

In March 2008, **Vietnam** notified the presence of this disease in a new host species. The affected animals were six Owston's palm civets (*Chrotagale owstoni*) in the Cuc Phuong National Park. The disease had been identified in civets in 2005, but the OIE was not notified at that time.

Regarding the evolution of the disease, 18 affected countries succeeded in eradicating the disease in 2007 and 11 countries did so early in 2008. However, 4 of the 18 countries where HPAI had been eradicated in 2007 notified the reoccurrence of the disease at the beginning of 2008 (see Table 2). In other countries, such as **Indonesia**, **Egypt**, and possibly certain parts of **Vietnam**, **Bangladesh** and the **People's Republic of China**, the disease is not under control, despite the vaccination strategy (excluding **Bangladesh**) put in place. Nine out of 18 countries that submitted a final report in 2007 declared themselves free from HPAI H5N1.

**Table 2. Countries/Territories that submitted final reports on HPAI H5N1 in 2007 or early 2008**

<b>In 2007</b>	<b>In 2008</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	Benin
Czech Republic	Germany
Djibouti	Israel
France	Myanmar
Ghana	Nigeria
Hong Kong (SARPRC)*	Poland
Hungary	Romania
India*	Saudi Arabia
Japan*	Togo
Korea (Rep. of)*	Turkey
Kuwait	United Kingdom
Malaysia	
Romania*	
Slovenia	
Sudan	
Thailand	
Turkey*	
Ukraine*	

\*Countries/Territories that subsequently notified the reoccurrence of HPAI

This epizootic of HPAI subtype H5N1 is unprecedented since there are no records of an epizootic having lasted so long and having covered such a wide geographical area in such a short period of time. While it is important to combat the disease at source, additional efforts are needed in order to monitor on a more regular basis the efficiency of the vaccines currently in use, to increase vaccination coverage and to decrease the interval between vaccinations in countries where the disease is endemic. It will not be possible to attain these objectives without a very real international and national commitment to apply effective vaccination, so as to achieve better control of the disease and ultimately its eradication once vaccination is no longer used.

**Canada** reported HPAI virus subtype H7N3 in Regina Beach, Province of Saskatchewan, in September 2007. The event was resolved in January 2008. The previous occurrence was in British Columbia in 2004. In April 2008, Canada made a final report indicating that it was free from notifiable HPAI according to the recommendations of the avian influenza Chapter in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

#### 284. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

In Europe, **Cyprus** and the **United Kingdom** reported the reoccurrence of FMD in 2007.

**Cyprus** reported two outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O in sheep in the village of Dromolaxia, Larnaca. These were the first outbreaks in the country since 1964. The outbreaks were resolved in November 2007. Some questions have been raised about the reliability of the diagnosis of the disease.

Foot and mouth disease reoccurred in the **United Kingdom**, with 8 outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O being reported in Surrey and Berkshire, England, in August and September 2007. Cattle and sheep were affected. This event was resolved in January 2008. The source of the infection was most likely the escape of live virus from the drainage system of the Pirbright site, which is shared by two facilities, the Institute for Animal Health and Merial Animal Health. Movement of the virus off site was most likely due to the movement of fomites created from soil, water or other material contaminated by effluent, and deposited on the road that led to the first infected premises. In its final report, the United Kingdom informed the OIE that it had eradicated FMD.

This reoccurrence of FMD occurred after the FMD epizootic that began in the **United Kingdom** in February 2001 and took 8 months to eliminate (the disease was eradicated in September 2001), after a total of 2030 registered outbreaks.

In Africa, the main epidemiological event relating to FMD was the reoccurrence of the disease due to virus serotype SAT2 in **Botswana**, where one outbreak was reported in cattle, sheep and goats in the region of Maun in October 2007. The affected cattle had been vaccinated twice with a trivalent SAT1, SAT2 and SAT3 FMD vaccine. Between November 2007 and the beginning of January 2008, **Namibia** reported 8 outbreaks of FMD due to serotype SAT2 in cattle in the Caprivi region. The affected cattle shared communal grazing. The most likely source of infection was the illegal movement of animals. There was probably a link between these outbreaks close to the borders of **Botswana**, **Namibia** and **Zambia**. Extensive flooding of the Delta destroyed some of the disease control fences in this area, thereby enabling contacts between susceptible domestic species and infected wild species.

In early February 2008, an outbreak of FMD was reported in **Zambia**; the affected cattle were located in Mazabuka, Southern Province. The serotype has not yet been identified. The previous occurrence of FMD was in 2006. The affected animals are believed to have been in contact with wild animals as a result of flooding caused by heavy rains in the area.



**Egypt** reported two outbreaks of FMD serotype O in cattle between September 2007 and January 2008 in the Governorates of Al Buhayrah and Al Iskandariyah. The previous occurrence of this disease was in June 2006. The source of the virus was attributed to the introduction of live animals through legal movement.

At the end of March 2008, **Mozambique** reported an outbreak of FMD in cattle in Gaza province. The initial diagnosis was clinical and was later confirmed at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute in South Africa. The animals involved in the outbreak were 45 cattle moved from Tete province, in the central part of the country. The previous occurrence of FMD was in August 2003. The virus serotype has not yet been identified. The affected animals were destroyed and cattle in the immediate surroundings were vaccinated.

**Nigeria** reported two outbreaks of FMD in January and February 2008 in cattle in the State of Niger; a commercial farm and local cattle were affected. The source of infection was thought to be contact with infected animals at grazing/watering. Control measures, including quarantine and vaccination, were applied in response to the outbreaks.

In the Middle East, the FMD serotypes that are known to be circulating in this region are O, A and, to a lesser extent, Asia 1.

Between January and April 2007, **Israel** reported several outbreaks of FMD due to serotype O in cattle and small ruminants and even in gazelles. These were the first reported outbreaks of the disease since December 2005. The event was resolved in July 2007. However, on 5 February 2008, **Israel** reported a further reoccurrence of the disease, in cattle in the administrative division of Hazafon. The event was resolved on 17 February 2008.

**Lebanon** reported two outbreaks of FMD in 2007, but the serotype was not determined. Cattle, sheep and goats were affected. The origin of the infection was the illegal movement of animals. These were the first outbreaks of the disease since 2003. A final report was sent in July 2007. In February 2008, Lebanon notified the reoccurrence of FMD, with an outbreak being reported in Jabal Lubnan.

In 2007, the **Palestinian Autonomous Territories** reported the occurrence of FMD serotype O; several outbreaks were reported in small ruminants in the West Bank. The previous occurrence was in June 2006.

In **Turkey**, FMD is endemic in Anatolia. Serotypes O and A have been identified. In early January 2007, **Turkey** reported the reoccurrence of FMD in Thrace. The incriminated virus was type A22 Iran 2005. This was the first occurrence of FMD due to this serotype in Thrace. In February and September 2007, two outbreaks of FMD due to serotype O were reported, in Kırklareli, in Thrace region.

In Asia, the **People's Republic of China** reported outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 in the provinces of Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang between January and November 2007. In March 2008, the country reported an outbreak in Ningxia province and another in Xinjiang province, also due to serotype Asia 1.

In April 2007, **Kazakhstan** reported the reoccurrence of FMD due to serotype O, the first occurrence since June 2001. Three outbreaks were notified, in cattle and sheep.

In 2007, the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** reported an outbreak of FMD serotype O that started in January 2007 near the capital. This was the first reported outbreak since 1960. A field mission was conducted in the **People's Republic of China** to investigate this FMD outbreak. The conclusion of the mission was that the infected animals were previously quarantined and vaccinated prior to entering the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**. This outbreak has been terminated.

In July 2007, **Kyrgyzstan** notified an outbreak of FMD due to virus serotype O in cattle in Chuy province.

In **Vietnam**, several outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 were reported in the province of Quang Tri in June 2007. In February 2008, the country sent a final report, stating that this newly introduced strain virus had become endemic.

In the Americas, **Bolivia** reported FMD outbreaks due to virus serotype O in cattle in the province of Santa Cruz in January and February 2007. These were the first outbreaks in the country since September 2003. The outbreaks were resolved in March 2007.

In February 2007, **Ecuador** reported the reoccurrence of FMD due to virus serotype O, in Azuay province. The previous occurrence of FMD in the country was in May 2006. In March 2007, Ecuador reported two outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O in the province of Imbabura, in the north of the country. These were the first outbreaks of the disease in this zone since February 2004. In May 2007, the country reported two outbreaks in Manabi province, the first outbreaks in this zone since August 2005. In October 2007, an outbreak was reported in Guayas province.

## 285. **Bluetongue**

To date, 24 bluetongue virus (BTV) serotypes have been identified worldwide. Bluetongue virus infection occurs throughout vast areas of the world, both in tropical and temperate zones. There are major differences in the geographical distribution of the virus serotypes and of the main species of *Culicoides* involved in virus transmission in the various regions.

The disease is present in all five continents and in recent years it has appeared in previously free temperate areas, such as in Europe, due to climate change and global warming. In Europe, there are currently two ongoing epizootics of bluetongue, due to two different virus serotypes. One, due to BTV-8, has already spread widely; the other, due to BTV-1, is currently starting to spread northwards.

In the case of serotype BTV-8, following its first occurrence in August 2006 in the **Netherlands**, in Kerkrade, province of Limburg, the first epizootic wave also affected the following European countries: **Belgium**, **Germany**, **France** (only in the north) and **Luxembourg**. This was the first occurrence of bluetongue in Northern Europe and the first occurrence of this serotype in the whole of the continent.

It was thought that the arrival of the cold winter might kill the vectors, and that the epizootic would stop. Although periods with no vector activity were observed in the affected countries, thereby enabling these countries to resume exports of live animals, new outbreaks occurred when the vectors became active again both in 2007 and 2008, thus suggesting that the disease is now endemic in several of the countries that were affected during the first wave in 2006. While the overwintering ability of BTV is now beyond discussion, what remains unclear is the mechanism by which the virus persists between seasons of disease activity. Many hypotheses have been put forward to try to explain the persistence of the virus. These include persistence within surviving adult vectors themselves and/or transovarial transmission through the vector, or a persistent infection in vertebrate hosts and/or transplacental transmission from infected cows to their calves.

In southern Europe, the serotypes that are or have been circulating are: BTV-1, BTV-2, BTV-4, BTV-8, BTV-9 and BTV-16.

In 2007, BTV-8 reappeared in the countries that were affected in 2006 and the epizootic continued to spread to other countries. To the north, the virus crossed the English Channel and outbreaks appeared in England, **United Kingdom**, in September 2007. In October 2007, an outbreak was reported in **Denmark** in the region of Storstrøms. Denmark has not notified any outbreak in 2008 up to the date of this report. In **France**, the disease, which had been restricted to the north of the country in 2006, started to spread southwards. In

October 2007, **Switzerland** reported its first ever occurrence of the disease (starting in the Basel region). BTV-8 continued to spread further south and affected **Italy** (in the Veneto region) in March 2008. In January 2008, an outbreak was reported in **Spain** in the Cantabria region. In **Germany**, the disease spread eastwards, and in November 2007 it reached the **Czech Republic**, where the first outbreak was detected in the Karlovarský region. Overall, more than 28 000 outbreaks of bluetongue due to BTV-8 were reported to the OIE for the period from January 2007 to May 2008.

The other bluetongue epizootic in Europe that appears to be spreading northwards is due to BTV-1. It started with a series of outbreaks in the Andalusia region of **Spain** in July 2007. This epizootic in the southern part of the country crossed the border into **Portugal** in September 2007. In October 2007, an outbreak was reported in northern **Spain** in the Pais Vasco region. This region shares a border with the Pyrénées-Atlantiques region of **France**, where an outbreak due to BTV-1 was reported in November 2007. From there the epizootic moved northwards into the south-eastern departments of **France**.

Outbreaks of bluetongue due to BTV-1 were reported in Sardinia, **Italy**, in January 2007, and in **Tunisia**, in the region of Sidi-Bouzyd, in August 2007.

Overall, around 8000 outbreaks of bluetongue involving BTV-1 were reported to the OIE for the period from January 2007 to the end of May 2008.

*Culicoides imicola*, the main bluetongue vector in Africa and the Mediterranean Basin, has never been detected in the areas affected by BTV-8 in Northern Europe and those affected by BTV-1 in northern Spain and mainland France. Entomological surveillance activities are in place in the areas affected by these two bluetongue virus serotypes and *Culicoides* species belonging to the *C. obsoletus* complex, including *C. dewulfi* and *C. chiopterus*, two species breeding exclusively in cattle and horse dung, are strongly suspected of being the vectors of infection. It is important to identify the main vectors and study their biology and behaviour in order to be able to devise effective control measures and define standards relating to the movement of animals, especially concerning the possibility of determining a seasonally vector-free period.

**Australia** reported the first occurrence of bluetongue due to serotype 7 without clinical signs in bovines in Humpty Doo, in the Northern Territory. The same serotype, serotype 7, has been reported in countries to the north of Australia. Monsoon winds are suspected of periodically bringing the vectors of infection. Serotypes 1, 3, 9, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 23 have previously been isolated in bovines in the north of Australia.

## 286. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was first identified in 1986 in the **United Kingdom**, where the disease emerged. Thereafter, the number of detected BSE cases increased, not only in the United Kingdom but also in other European countries, before the disease also began to emerge in some other regions of the world. Nevertheless, the vast majority of reported cases have occurred in Europe. In 2006, the number of BSE cases reported in Europe represented 95% of the total number of BSE cases reported worldwide.

Outside Europe, **Canada**, **Israel**, **Japan** and the **United States of America** reported some BSE cases. The **Falkland Islands/Malvinas** and **Oman** reported only imported cases.

It is worth mentioning that the implementation of surveillance in countries has helped in identifying and reporting BSE cases. Some cases may well have gone unreported in countries that have not implemented active surveillance.

In Europe, there is a considerable difference between the number of cases reported by the **United Kingdom** and those reported by other European countries in the early stage of the emergence of this disease. In fact, up to 1995, almost all the identified cases of BSE were in the **United Kingdom**. From 1995, however, the number of cases reported by the **United Kingdom** began to decrease while at the same time the number of BSE cases observed in other European countries began to increase. In 2007, BSE cases reported by the **United Kingdom** still represented 50% of all reported European cases. This change in the proportion (**United Kingdom** cases represented 99% of all European cases in 1995 and only 50% in 2007) is related to a marked decrease in the number of **United Kingdom** cases coupled with a minor increase in the number of cases in the rest of Europe, which can be explained by the peak of the epizootic occurring later in these countries than in the **United Kingdom**.

The number of identified cases in the **United Kingdom** peaked in 1992 with 37 280 cases, whereas the total number of cases identified in the rest of the world peaked in 2002, with a total of only 1035 cases identified worldwide, mainly in other European countries.

Now, two decades after the first identification of this newly emerging disease, we can see a regular decline in the number of reported cases of BSE worldwide. With the continuation of active surveillance and the ban on feeding cattle with meat-and-bone meal that has been implemented, coupled with the natural elimination of potentially infected cattle that were exposed to this contaminated feed, we are approaching the eradication of this disease.

**Table 3. Worldwide BSE cases reported to the OIE in 2007**

Austria	1
Belgium	0
Canada	3
Czech Republic	2
Denmark	0
Finland	0
France	...
Germany	4
Greece	0
Ireland	25
Israel	0
Italy	2
Japan	3
Liechtenstein	0
Luxembourg	0
Netherlands	...
Poland	7
Portugal	...
Slovakia	...
Slovenia	1
Spain	36
Sweden	...
Switzerland	0
United Kingdom	67
United States of America	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>

... No information available yet.

287. **For OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases:** during the period covered by this report, two major disease events occurred in aquatic animals. The first was the introduction of epizootic ulcerative syndrome into some countries in Southern Africa and the second was the occurrence of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia in several countries in various parts of the world.

288. **Epizootic ulcerative syndrome**

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) is caused by the oomycete fungus *Aphanomyces invadans*.

In **Botswana**, fish with clinical signs similar to those of epizootic ulcerative syndrome were found in various locations within the Chobe-Zambezi river system in December 2006. The fish showed haemorrhagic dermatitis and the lesions were covered with fungal-like mycelia. This outbreak was originally reported to the OIE on 7 March 2007 as haemorrhagic septicaemia. Samples of various fish species were tested at Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) and *Aeromonas hydrophila* was isolated. Further investigations were conducted by FAO experts, the Inland Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (AAHRI, Bangkok, Thailand) and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) during May 2007. The Chobe-Zambezi river system is shared between many countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. Only Botswana has notified this disease to the OIE. **Namibia**, which has officially recognised the presence of the disease, has not notified it to the OIE.

This is the first time that the presence of this disease has been confirmed in Africa.

289. **Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia**

Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) is a viral disease that has been reported in farmed rainbow trout, farmed turbot, farmed Japanese flounder and several wild marine species.

During the period covered by the present report, **Belgium, Bulgaria, Norway, the United Kingdom** and the **United States of America** reported the reoccurrence of the disease.

In Belgium, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the affected fish were in fresh water, whereas in Norway they were in salt water. In Norway the outbreak was caused by VHS genotype 3 in farmed rainbow trout (previously reported only in wild marine fish, without clinical symptoms).

290. The President commended Dr Ben Jebara and his staff for the excellent work carried out during this year. He then gave the floor to Dr Peter Fernandez to present the project on an atlas of animal diseases.
291. Dr Fernandez indicated that this atlas was intended to be used for educational purposes. The work would be done in collaboration with the OIE and the United States of America through the USDA animal diagnostic laboratory at Plum Island and OIE Collaborating Centres in the United States of America. He informed the Delegates that they would shortly receive a letter requesting photographic material illustrating animal diseases present in the field. This work could also be used for photo illustrations for the OIE disease cards. The source of the photos will always be mentioned.
292. The President opened the floor for discussions on Dr Ben Jebara's presentation and encouraged Delegates to provide updates on the evolution of the epidemiological situation in their countries.
293. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation. He presented some information on equine influenza in Australia. The first case was in August 2007 and no new cases have been reported since December 2007. Surveillance is ongoing and he said that Australia planned to recover its free status for equine influenza at the end of the year. He stated that bluetongue serotype 7 (subclinical infection only) was detected thanks to the national surveillance programme.

294. The Delegate of Jordan commended Dr Ben Jebara on his report. He sought some clarification on the source of the outbreaks of FMD in Lebanon.
295. Dr Ben Jebara clarified this point by indicating that Jordan was not the source of infection and that he was talking about Jabal Lubnan.
296. The Delegate of Canada requested a correction in the written report 76 SG/14. Canada had only one outbreak of avian influenza H5N3 in September 2007. It was resolved in January 2008 and in April 2008 Canada made a final report indicating that it was free from notifiable avian influenza (NAI) according to the recommendations of the OIE *Code*.
297. Canada supported the WAHIS/WAHID system and the notification of diseases concerning wild species. He commended OIE Members for the positive trend in adopting regionalisation approaches when dealing with animal diseases, since this limits their economic impact and facilitates transparent reporting.
298. The Delegate of Botswana updated the information about FMD. Serotype SAT1 was initially suspected, but serotype SAT2 was later confirmed. He added that FMD concerned only cattle.
299. The Delegate of Denmark thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his comprehensive speech. He clarified that Denmark gave information (after the production of the report) that no cases of BSE were notified in 2007 and asked the OIE to add this to document 76 SG/14.
300. The Delegate of Israel commended Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation. He asked the OIE to take action against OIE Members that did not notify changes in their animal health situation. He proposed that solutions be found in order to improve the transparency of the world animal health situation.
301. The President reminded all Members that the requirements for animal health reporting are already an obligation included in the OIE standards and he encouraged Members to submit timely reports. He emphasised that the situation had improved in recent years.
302. Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that the annual report of the Director General included the results of tracking activities for non-official information and that thanks to these the official information received by the OIE had increased.
303. Dr Ben Jebara stated that FMD is endemic in the Middle East and that the lack of active surveillance could prevent the detection of new serotypes. He clarified that this was an infrastructure problem of the Veterinary Services.
304. The Delegate of Norway updated the information on VHS. The reported outbreak could be considered an emerging situation as Norway had reported that the outbreak was caused by VHS genotype 3 in farmed rainbow trout. This is a genotype reported previously only in wild marine fish, without clinical symptoms.
305. The Delegate of the Republic of Korea thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. He stated that 33 outbreaks of HPAI had been reported since April 2008 and eight million poultry had been destroyed. No new outbreaks had been reported during the past two weeks.
306. The Delegate of Senegal detailed the situation in his country concerning African horse sickness. Serotype 9 is endemic, but in 2007 two serotype 2 events were reported (in March and in August, related to the proliferation of the vector during the rainy season). High mortality was noted and 1137 horses died. The outbreaks were resolved and vaccination was undertaken. The vaccination programme has been ongoing for 3 years. He thanked the National Laboratory for Livestock and Veterinary Research, Dakar, and the two OIE Reference Laboratories of the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, for their help in confirmation of the serotype. The

- disease has now been eradicated. He underlined the need to reinforce the National Laboratory for Livestock and Veterinary Research, Dakar, especially at the level of molecular diagnostics.
307. The Delegate of Afghanistan thanked the speaker for his detailed presentation. He stated that the HPAI outbreaks of 2007 had been controlled and that no further outbreaks had been reported in the last two months. He stated that FMD is still endemic in Afghanistan.
308. Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the need for Delegates to submit a final report when no new outbreaks occurred in order to close the event. He clarified that any unresolved events were considered as ongoing.
309. The Delegate of Japan stated that HPAI affected only wild swans in 2008 and that poultry were not involved and the case in 2007 was cleared up.
310. Dr Ben Jebara acknowledged the point raised by Japan and stated that he would check the information and correct it if necessary.
311. The Delegate of Sudan thanked Dr Ben Jebara for the excellent work done in reporting on the world animal health situation. He indicated that FMD was continuing to spread because there was a lack of reporting and effective control measures. He underlined the importance of efforts to minimise these problems. He also requested clarification on the situation for Rift Valley fever (RVF), CBPP and brucellosis.
312. Dr Ben Jebara recognised the importance of RVF and stated that many outbreaks were ongoing in the Horn of Africa and that the disease was under-reported. He emphasised the need for strengthening surveillance in the region in order to obtain reliable information on the disease epidemiology and to receive reports from OIE Members on where the outbreaks were taking place.
313. The Director General stated that among the 172 OIE Members there were more than 100 for which surveillance networks needed to be strengthened in order to improve detection capabilities for OIE-listed diseases, and therefore disease notifications. He indicated that the PVS Tool would assist in this. He also indicated that not all countries recognised the importance of FMD. He informed the Delegates that the OIE is working, jointly with the FAO on the design of a long-term FMD global control and eradication programme.
314. The Delegate of Zambia provided additional information on the EUS outbreak in her country: this was a very active outbreak and epidemiological investigations were ongoing to identify the index case. She stated that more information would be provided in the upcoming OIE workshop on aquatic animal health to be held in Mozambique.
315. The Delegate of Vietnam presented an update on the HPAI and PRRS situation. Regarding HPAI he indicated that there were still ongoing sporadic outbreaks; for example, between January and May 2008, outbreaks were detected in 73 farms. He indicated that the national vaccination strategy would be modified in order to ensure its sustainability. Regarding PRRS, he indicated that a new strain had emerged (in the period from March 2007 until now) and that more than 300 000 pigs were affected; the surveillance programme is ongoing. He thanked the OIE for the recent field mission to assess the disease situation and for the 20 million avian influenza vaccine doses provided. He also expressed his gratitude to the People's Republic of China, the European Union, Ireland, Japan, the United States of America, the OIE, FAO and the World Bank for their financial support.

316. The representative of the WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) underlined the important economic consequences of the infestation of cattle with liver fluke and sought guidance on this.
317. The President clarified that this was not an OIE-listed disease. Dr Ben Jebara acknowledged the economic importance of this disease but clarified that the disease had been examined as a candidate for listing and it was felt that it did not meet the OIE listing criteria; he indicated that other tools were available to control this disease.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I**  
**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE**  
**in 2007 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide**  
**in 2007 and the Beginning of 2008**

318. 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 2007 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2007 and the Beginning of 2008. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. I at the end of this report.

**Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)**

**Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

319. Dr Marc Artois presented the work carried out by the Working Group at its meeting held from 28 to 31 January 2008 under the chairmanship of Dr Roy Bengis (Doc. 76 SG/13/GT).
320. Dr Artois reminded Delegates of the importance of wildlife diseases, especially within the context of emerging diseases. He also noted that the Working Group had met 16 times since 1993 and had provided the OIE with a detailed annual report on the worldwide disease situation in wildlife. Foot and mouth disease (FMD), anthrax and bovine tuberculosis in wild animals were reported in each of these annual reports as being of major significance in the global disease situation in wildlife. Twenty other diseases were each mentioned at least nine times in these reports; among these 20 diseases, only three were not OIE-listed diseases.
321. **Worldwide situation in 2007**

A total of 48 questionnaire returns out of a possible 172 (28%) were received before the meeting of the Working Group. Many countries that had submitted a report in previous years refrained from doing so this year. Nonetheless, 1100 cases of disease were reported.

**The Working Group expressed the wish that incorporating the reports on wildlife diseases within WAHIS would improve reporting of the occurrence of wildlife diseases of worldwide importance (see paragraph 325).**

A complete tabulation of the diseases reported is given in Appendix IV of the Report of the Working Group (Doc. 76 SG/13/GT). The most significant points during the year were as follows:

Tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) was reported in Africa, America, Asia and Europe in animals such as ruminants, carnivores and swine. Human tuberculosis was also reported in baboons in Southern Africa.

Bat lyssaviruses

Various isolates from both Micro- and Megachiroptera were reported in Europe and Australia.



### Various zoonoses

Ebola haemorrhagic fever, Marburg haemorrhagic fever, and monkey pox were reported in Africa and claimed the lives of a number of humans exposed to infected primates or bats, notably through the consumption of bush meat. A novel *Leishmania* species was isolated from kangaroos in Australia. Lions infested with *Trichinella nelsoni* and other *Trichinella* spp. were found in the Kruger National Park. A large epidemic of Rift Valley fever was reported in Africa but, apart from a number of seroconversions in buffalo, there were no mentions of any cases in wildlife.

## **322. Emerging or persistent outbreaks of disease of special concern in 2007**

### Highly pathogenic avian influenza

In 2007, new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 were reported, mainly in Asia and Europe. These continents remained apparently free of clinical infection in wild birds until the spring. Several outbreaks were then observed in June: in Germany, the Czech Republic and then in France. Later in the year, new outbreaks appeared in Germany, Poland and lastly the United Kingdom. The distribution of outbreaks suggests that the virus may silently propagate (as shown by the recent case detected through surveillance in Switzerland in March 2008). The Working Group emphasised that the most recent outbreaks in wild birds in areas previously free from the disease in domestic poultry were apparently unrelated to new outbreaks in poultry.

### African swine fever

African swine fever (ASF) is endemic in several countries in Africa while outbreaks were first reported in Europe during the late 1950s and early 1960s. In June 2007, the disease occurred and spread in the Caucasus. If surveillance were to demonstrate that the infection has indeed been transmitted to the region's wild boar population, the disease would become difficult to eradicate. Unfortunately, as feared, the disease was also reported in wild boar in the region, in November.

### Bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease

Many orbivirus serotypes can affect ruminants and may cause one or other of these diseases: bluetongue (BT virus) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer (EHD virus). The latter disease is regularly reported in North America. In 2007, for example, the main species affected were white-tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn. EHD virus serotype 2 was the serotype most frequently identified in these wild ungulates, though EHD serotypes 1 and 6 and BT virus serotypes 10, 11 and 17 were also mentioned. During the past 4 years, some orbivirus serotypes not considered to be endemic have been observed in wild ruminants in North America, thus emphasising the importance of epidemiological surveillance. In Europe, bluetongue is considered to be an emerging disease in cattle. In view of the situation observed in America, the epidemiological role of wild ruminants needs to be studied; as yet few data exist, but cases of infection have been reported in deer in Europe.

## **323. Wildlife and the strategic objectives of the OIE**

At the request of the Director General and the Scientific Commission, the Working Group devoted a large part of its meeting to an in-depth discussion on wildlife-related OIE-listed diseases. The Working Group pointed out that many of the pathogens that cause disease in humans or in domestic animals do not necessarily induce clinical signs in wild animals, and that the expression 'wildlife diseases' is therefore often misleading.

The Group drew up a list of diseases using two levels of priority: HPAI, bovine tuberculosis, ASF and classical swine fever (CSF), FMD, Newcastle disease and lastly rabies were considered to be of primary importance<sup>36</sup>; the second level of priority included, *inter alia*: bluetongue/EHD of deer, chronic wasting disease (a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy [TSE], not yet listed by the OIE), Rift Valley fever, tularaemia, West Nile fever and peste des petits ruminants (principally due to the emerging nature of these diseases in wild animals).

The Working Group prepared a work plan for the following three years to address a list of priority issues relating to these pathogens in wildlife (Appendix V of the report).

#### 324. Discussion of related *ad hoc* Group reports

The Working Group had previously recommended that it should collaborate more closely with OIE *ad hoc* Groups. During 2007, members of the Working Group were thus invited to participate in *ad hoc* Groups relevant to wildlife.

##### Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology, incorporating experts on Newcastle disease and avian influenza

The Working Group took note of the report and indicated that a difference in perception between experts on the role of 'epidemiological surveillance' exists and is due to slight differences in interpretation of the concept of surveillance, although there is agreement on the usefulness of knowledge of the epidemiological situation. In its report, the Working Group uses the term 'vigilance' which seems appropriate for the aim of early detection of the spread of virus strains and the early introduction of preventive measures. The underlying difficulty with this difference of opinion lies in the regulatory implications of detecting a potentially pathogenic strain in wild birds.

The Working Group requested that it be given the opportunity to discuss the OIE guidelines on surveillance for these two diseases so as to improve the way wild birds are taken into account.

##### Ad hoc Group on Wildlife Disease Surveillance

The Working Group welcomed the inclusion of wildlife in the surveillance of notifiable diseases. It took note of the proposal to integrate specific guidelines on wildlife in disease surveillance methods, as recommended by the Scientific Commission.

#### 325. Reporting of wildlife disease through WAHIS

The Working Group agreed that the reporting of pathogens in wildlife needed to be done in harmony with the development of the WAHIS system. In 2008, it should already be possible to use both WAHIS and the paper version of the questionnaire. It was agreed that an *ad hoc* Group should be set up to assist the OIE Animal Health Information Department with implementing a WAHIS application specifically for the reporting of wildlife pathogens. Progress on this project should be evaluated with the help of the Working Group.

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<sup>36</sup> As an illustration, Dr Artois indicated the percentage of the Working Group's 16 reports containing references to each of these pathogens: HPAI (63%), bovine tuberculosis (100%), ASF (38%), CSF (88%), FMD (100%), Newcastle disease (81%) and rabies (bat rabies: 81%, 'terrestrial' rabies: 94%).

**326. Collaboration between the Working Group and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Disease, Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management**

An OIE Collaborating Centre specifically devoted to wildlife diseases was launched in 2007 following the approval of the project presented by Canada during the General Session of the International Committee in May 2007. Dr F.A. Leighton represented the Collaborating Centre at the meeting of the Working Group, where he presented the Centre's activity programme. The proposals for regional seminars and for an International Wildlife Disease Incident Network were very favourably received by the Working Group. The aim is to initiate a worldwide management of wildlife health expertise, to which the Working Group will lend its support. The Working Group thus fully supports the Collaborating Centre's three-year programme proposal.

The Working Group reiterated its encouragement to OIE Members to put forward candidatures for Collaborating Centres for wildlife diseases.

**327. Proposed Terms of Reference and work plan for the Working Group (2008 to 2011)**

At the request of the Director General, the Working Group devoted a large part of its meeting to propose a work plan for the following three years for consideration by the Scientific Commission. Detailed proposals are given in Appendix V of the Report of the Working Group.

This Appendix presents the Working Group's conception of the rationale for its existence, notably that the OIE must anticipate the appearance of health and disease problems associated with wildlife. To this end, the Working Group needs to be able to take into account a wide range of pathogens.

The Working Group suggested criteria to bring together the best expertise while ensuring that the different regions of the world are represented. It drew up a list of ten points defining the terms of reference for the future Working Group and suggested a mode of operation and priority actions to enable it to carry on its work in the interval between meetings.

328. The President thanked Dr Artois for his excellent presentation and invited questions from Delegates.

329. The Delegate of Ireland reflected on the low level of reporting of wildlife diseases. He expressed the opinion that a reason for the low level of reporting by Members could be related to the fears of countries that reporting wildlife diseases might have a negative impact on trade negotiations for the export of animals and animal products.

330. In his response to the intervention by the Delegate of Ireland, Dr Artois reminded Delegates that this issue had been raised several times during previous General Sessions, where it was clearly indicated that the *Terrestrial Code* did not discriminate against Members reporting diseases in wildlife, and that it should therefore not have a negative impact on trade negotiations.

331. Dr Vallat once again reminded Members to appoint national focal points for wildlife diseases and to utilise them fully to assist Delegates in reporting on the occurrence of wildlife diseases. He also reflected on previous discussions to confirm that an *ad hoc* Group will advise and assist the OIE Animal Health and Information Department to incorporate information and reporting on wildlife diseases within WAHIS.

332. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

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

**World Health Organization**

333. Dr Jorgen Schlundt, Director of the Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Disease of WHO, reported on that organisation's activities.
334. Dr Schlundt emphasised the importance of zoonoses. He cited the dramatic human disease burden and economic burden that they cause and stated that 50–70% of new human diseases are estimated to come from animal sources. WHO sees with gratitude a change in the OIE's position, towards also considering the human health aspects of animal diseases, or at least zoonotic diseases. WHO recognises that this is a joint responsibility, and is working to re-establish a strategic view towards lowering the human disease burden for zoonotic diseases.
335. WHO also realises that the real human disease burden from foodborne diseases is not well defined – anywhere in the world. WHO has therefore initiated a long-term initiative (5 years) to estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases.
336. WHO reminded everyone that there are a number of zoonotic diseases linked to modern production systems; for example, salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis. For these diseases it is known that prevention can be achieved effectively by consumers in the kitchen. However, WHO also considers that prevention can be achieved much more easily at farm level – it is known that several countries now have very good experience in lowering *Salmonella* prevalence dramatically in chicken production. It is also known that such action will dramatically reduce the human disease burden attributable to this type of food. WHO considers that it is time for other countries to follow these examples. WHO is in favour of a joint OIE-FAO-WHO agenda aimed at foodborne disease risk reduction.
337. WHO is very pleased to be able to participate actively in the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, and hopes to be able to move the risk reduction agenda forward significantly over the coming years.
338. WHO would also like to issue a reminder that a number of zoonotic diseases of major human health importance still seem to be neglected in many parts of the world. These diseases affect traditional production systems and are often directly related to the human–animal interface. WHO wishes to underline the need to work together to better define the best ways to prevent this disease transmission.
339. The human–animal interface is of course also very important in the joint fight to control avian influenza – WHO is pleased to note the improved exchange of information on this disease between the OIE, FAO and WHO, notably using the new GLEWS system for early warning purposes. WHO notes that human cases are sometimes reported before animal cases – humans serving as sentinels for animals. It is hoped that this trend can be changed. It should be remembered that the disease sometimes occurs in animals before it moves to humans and not the reverse.
340. WHO reminded the participants of the very successful collaborative effort between the OIE, FAO and WHO to tackle the rising problem of antimicrobial resistance from non-human use of such antimicrobials. The three organisations have been very successful in initiating a new paradigm for joint provision of scientific advice in this area. Using a transparent and open process for the selection of independent experts the three organisations, with external participation, successfully initiated a process that has now led to the production of a list of

critically important antimicrobials (for humans and for animals) and to renewed activity in the Codex Alimentarius Commission; with a new Task Force on antimicrobial resistance. It is hoped that the final outcome will again contribute reducing the risks to human health.

341. WHO hopes that it will be possible to copy this good example of providing the best scientific advice in areas of joint responsibility and also apply it in the area of human health safety assessment of the use of genetically modified vaccines in animals. WHO is aware that a number of countries, especially in Africa, are concerned over whether both human health and animal health are taken into account when this assessment is carried out.
342. Finally, the WHO representative conveyed greetings to the assembly from the new Director General of WHO, Dr Margaret Chan. Dr Chan places great emphasis on good collaboration with other international organisations, both within and outside the United Nations family. The OIE is one of the key partners of WHO in promoting an international risk reduction agenda for zoonotic diseases.

### FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

#### Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

##### Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

343. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter referred to as the Aquatic Animals Commission), commenced her presentation by stating that the past 12 months had, once again, been extremely busy. She sincerely thanked members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, the Commission's *ad hoc* Groups and other participants at its meetings, as well as the many experts providing out-of-session assistance, for their continued support.
344. 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 of the OIE. She noted that the Commission continues to meet with representatives from most of the OIE's Departments during its meetings in Paris. She also expressed appreciation for the readily available assistance of the President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code Commission), Dr Alejandro Thiermann.
345. During the past 12 months, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice, from 1 to 5 October 2007 (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 A) and from 3 to 7 March 2008 (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B). The draft text that is being proposed for adoption at this General Session has not changed from the versions that were circulated as appendices to the Commission's March 2008 meeting report (Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).
346. The Aquatic Animals Commission now enjoys the assistance of seven currently active *ad hoc* Groups, four of which met during the last 12 months:
- Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance: 18–20 July 2007, 29 January – 1 February 2008 and 14–16 April 2008
  - Aquatic Animal Feeds: 29–31 August 2007
  - List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Amphibian Diseases Subgroup: 5–7 September 2007
  - List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Mollusc Diseases Subgroup: 25–27 January 2008.

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that many of the Commission's decisions on draft texts are based on these *ad hoc* Groups' recommendations. She encouraged Delegates to ensure that those reports are read in conjunction with the Commission's reports and the resulting draft texts, as the reports frequently contain the answers to Members' questions.

347. Dr Bernoth noted while comments received were generally very constructive and helpful, the number of Members providing comments on the Commission's meeting reports had further decreased from last year. Sadly, there had been no comments at all from African or Middle Eastern countries, and only a few countries in Asia, the Far East and Oceania and in the Americas consistently provided comments. Dr Bernoth made a very strong point of saying that, while the Commission tried its best to ensure global applicability of standards, its work was hampered significantly by the demonstrated lack of engagement from Members in providing comments on draft text.
348. During the past 12 months, Aquatic Animals Commission members have put a lot of effort into updating Delegates world-wide on aquatic animal health issues in general, and specifically on developments in the continued refinement of the OIE aquatic standards. Members of the Commission made presentations at the following conferences and workshops:
- Second meeting of the OIE Inter-American Aquatic Animal Health Committee: 18–21 June 2007, Vancouver, Canada.
  - Ninth Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East: 29 October – 1 November 2007, Damascus, Syria.
  - Twenty-fifth Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania: 26–30 November 2007, Queenstown, New Zealand.
  - Sixth Meeting of the NACA<sup>37</sup> Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health Management (AGM-6): 12–14 December 2007, Bangkok, Thailand.
  - First OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health, 25–28 March 2008, Bangkok, Thailand.

With the support of the OIE Director General, the Commission will continue to provide updates at forthcoming conferences of each of the OIE's Regional Commissions and other suitable venues on the importance of engaging with the OIE on aquatic animal health issues.

349. Dr Bernoth pointed out that she and Dr Thiermann had noticed that some Members provide comments only on proposed changes to the horizontal chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) and others only on those of the *Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) when both Commissions have circulated proposed changes to the matching chapters, for example the Chapter on General obligations. This makes harmonisation of the two *Codes* even more difficult. Dr Bernoth encouraged Delegates to bear both *Codes* in mind when sending comments on horizontal chapters.
350. Dr Bernoth was pleased to report that by April 2008, nearly one hundred Members had followed Dr Vallat's invitation to nominate a specific official as the OIE contact person for aquatic animal diseases with responsibility for sending, under the authority of the

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<sup>37</sup> NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

Delegate, comments on the Commission's proposals for new standards, and also discharging their country's aquatic animal disease reporting obligations. This is an increase from last year of 100% (48 in 2007).

Dr Bernoth suggested that some national aquatic focal points may be uncertain about their specific roles. She explained that the Terms of Reference for national aquatic focal points included:

- a) To establish a network of aquatic animal health experts within their country;
- b) To establish and maintain a dialogue with the competent authority for aquatic animal health in their country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;
- c) On behalf of the OIE Delegate of their country, to provide aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS (immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly reports, and annual questionnaires);
- d) To receive from the OIE Central Bureau the Aquatic Animals Commission meeting reports and conduct the in-country consultation process with aquatic animal health experts on draft text proposed in those reports;
- e) To prepare for, and submit to, the OIE Delegate of their country comments on each of the Aquatic Animals Commission's meeting reports, for the Delegate to submit to the OIE Central Bureau.

She requested that Delegates convey these Terms of Reference to their national aquatic focal points.

351. Dr Bernoth presented a brief outline of her presentation. She stressed that due to the limited time available, she would focus in detail on only some of the suggested changes to the *Aquatic Code*. She thanked Delegates for providing comments and suggestions on the changes proposed to the Chapters on General obligations and on Recommendations for transport; these suggestions had been incorporated and further improved the revised versions that are now proposed for adoption. The revised Guidelines for Import risk analysis had not changed since the Commission's October 2007 report. Dr Bernoth said that she would not dwell on these three chapters and informed Delegates that the text now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annexes V, VI and VII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

352. **Definitions for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

Dr Bernoth noted that the Commission had received several comments regarding individual definitions as well as general comments on whether some highly specialised terms should be added to Chapter 1.1.1. of the *Aquatic Code* or be retained in the relevant specific chapters or appendices. She informed Delegates that these comments had sparked a more general discussion within the Aquatic Animals Commission. In consultation with the Central Bureau, the agreed way forward was to reduce the number of definitions to those that were really needed. This could be the case where there are several widely used and very different interpretations of the term (for example, "aquatic animals", "disease", "discharge"), or because the required definition differs from the common interpretation of the term (for example, "free country"), or because a contextual definition needs to be made (for example, "OIE-listed diseases"). Over time, a number of definitions have found their way into the *Aquatic Code* that are now obsolete, for example, because they are not referred to in any text in the *Aquatic Code*, or are used only once in the text and could be explained

there, or are referred to only in other obsolete definitions, or should not need to be defined because they are not used in any other than the common sense of the term. The Commission had identified some of these obsolete definitions and proposes their deletion; a more thorough review will be conducted in time for the October 2008 meeting.

Dr Bernoth also noted that while the general policy was to include all definitions in Chapter 1.1.1., there may well be occasions where a specific definition is required for a particular chapter or appendix, in which case that definition would be provided there. An example is a specific definition for “hazard” in the proposed new Chapter on Guidelines for the control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed; the term is used in a different (i.e. more specialised) sense in that chapter than that conveyed in the definition of the term in Chapter 1.1.1.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that an excellent example of a contextual definition, that is a definition that differs from an academically correct textbook definition, is the term “infestation”. Last year, the International Committee had adopted a definition for “infestation” in addition to the existing definition for “infection” to provide more scientific accuracy to the *Aquatic Code* where diseases caused by parasites (for example, Gyrodactylosis) are referenced. However, fine-tuning this definition – as foreshadowed at last year’s General Session – has caused controversy among OIE Members, largely based on academic arguments. Dr Bernoth pointed out that “infestation” was currently cross-referenced only in other definitions. Also, with the exception of Abalone viral mortality (AVM), all the listed diseases of molluscs are caused by parasites, yet to date are referred to as “infection with” without problems. She therefore strongly recommended that Delegates agree to delete the specific definition for “infestation” and to modify the definition for “infection” to encompass the concept of infestation where applicable.

All definitions now proposed for adoption were appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annex III to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

### 353. Revision of the list of diseases in the *Aquatic Code*

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the Amphibian Diseases Subgroup had concluded that two diseases of amphibians met the OIE listing criteria: Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus. The assessment had been provided in the report of the *ad hoc* Group (see Annex XIX to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 A). Following the Aquatic Animals Commission’s proposal in its October 2007 report to list those diseases, only supportive comments had been received.

A re-assessment of the three crustacean diseases still under study, necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP), hepatopancreatic parvovirus disease (HPVD) and Mourilyan virus disease (MoVD), has been referred to the *ad hoc* Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Crustacean Diseases Subgroup, together with Members’ comments on NHP, HPVD and MoVD. The *ad hoc* Group will meet in June 2008 and also review the currently listed diseases Spherical baculovirus and Tetrahedral baculovirus, to ascertain whether they still meet the criteria for listing, as this had previously been questioned by Thailand. Following the recent outbreak in Vietnam of Milky disease of spiny lobsters, the *ad hoc* Group will discuss this disease – thought to be caused by rickettsial-like bacteria – and consider it against the listing criteria.

As indicated at last year’s General Session and in the Commission’s subsequent meeting reports, the *ad hoc* Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Mollusc Diseases Subgroup, had met from 25 to 27 January 2008 and addressed two issues: the evaluation of the sabellid worm (*Terebrasabella heterouncinata*) for listing, and a review of the currently



listed AVM complex. Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that comments on the proposal to add the sabellid worm to the list of diseases should be made by 12 September 2008 (for a detailed justification see Annex XVII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

Regarding the AVM complex, Dr Bernoth appreciated the thorough and authoritative review undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group. She pointed out that the Commission had endorsed the *ad hoc* Group's advice that Abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) meets the criteria for listing of an emerging aquatic animal disease, that the lack of comparable data currently precludes drawing conclusions on the relationships between AVG and AVM, that a single viral aetiology for this complex cannot be excluded, and that AVG should therefore be understood to be part of the AVM complex (for a detailed justification see Annex XVII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B). She clarified that within the AVM complex, two syndromes can be recognised:

- a) abalone herpes-like virus disease (including ganglioneuritis diseases seen in Chinese Taipei and Australia, and the acute disease seen in southern China);
- b) crack-shell-amyotrophica-virus disease (including amyotrophica seen in Japan, and cracked-shell disease seen in northern China).

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that comments on the proposed case definition for AVM complex (see Annex XVII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B) are invited. The *ad hoc* Group will consider Member comments and draft a disease chapter for the AVM complex for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*) at its next meeting.

Dr Bernoth summarised that the only change proposed to the list of aquatic animal diseases at this year's General Session – unchanged from the Commission's October 2007 meeting report – is the addition of two amphibian diseases. The revised list now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annex IV to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

#### 354. **Disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code***

At last year's General Session, the International Committee had adopted revised versions of six mollusc and six crustacean disease chapters and a new chapter on Koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD). These contained a number of generic and mostly editorial changes that were subsequently also suggested for other revised and/or new chapters, and marked as such in the relevant annexes to the Aquatic Animals Commission's October 2007 report (Annexes VIII, IX, X, XI, XIV and XV to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 A); in that report, the Commission pointed out that those changes would also be made to other relevant disease chapters for the 2008 edition of the *Aquatic Code*. At its March 2008 meeting, the Commission suggested further editorial improvements as well as clarifications, many of them based on Member comments. According to the usual process, these were highlighted in green in the relevant annexes to the March 2008 report (Annexes VIII–XIII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B). If adopted, the strictly editorial improvements will progressively be made to all current disease chapters.

Dr Bernoth then explained the changes proposed to the contents of all chapters:

- Article 3 (Commodities)

The Aquatic Animals Commission had received a number of conflicting views on the listing of “chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.)” as safe commodities. The Aquatic Animals Commission decided not to include these commodities at this time in any newly proposed text and to remove this category from the disease chapters where it currently occurs. The Aquatic Animals Commission agreed that there is a need for further consideration of safe commodities based on the scientific evidence. Dr Bernoth said she was very pleased that the Director General had agreed to convene a new *ad hoc* Group on Safe Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals. This *ad hoc* Group would take into account any relevant work undertaken by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Terrestrial Animal Products (‘commodities’) and address the safety of commodities such as ‘chemically preserved products’.

The new *ad hoc* Group would also look at whether mollusc larvae – which can be handled only with water – should be considered ‘safe’ for some diseases or be regarded as mechanical vectors of those diseases. Dr Bernoth explained that although this particular life stage may be unlikely to be infected (the parasitic disease agents being bigger than the host), current practices in hatcheries may not prevent contamination of a consignment. The Commission had therefore agreed to remove larvae from this Article in all mollusc chapters at this time.

The European Union (EU) had requested a definition for the term “vector” that is used in Article 3 of all the disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code*. Dr Bernoth clarified that the defined term of “susceptible species” already included the concept of a biological vector but that the Commission proposes to insert the term “mechanical” before the term “vector” in all disease chapters, to differentiate it from the concept of a biological vector.

- Article 8 (Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free)

In response to EU comments on Article 8 of each chapter, the Aquatic Animals Commission deleted the words “international standards such as” to make it clear that the reference is only to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms. In the same Article, a Web link is provided to the full text of the current version of the ICES Code.

In response to the Commission’s October 2007 report, a number of comments had been received on the draft revised chapter for Gyrodactylosis (*Gyrodactylus salaris*). The designated OIE expert for gyrodactylosis had also been consulted. Changes made to the revised draft were explained and highlighted in the Commission’s March 2008 meeting report. Likewise, further changes proposed specifically to the draft new chapters on Infectious myonecrosis (IMN) and White tail disease (WTD) (two crustacean diseases adopted for listing last year), the mollusc disease Infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*, and the two amphibian diseases Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus, had all been explained in the Commission’s March 2008 meeting report.

Dr Bernoth drew Delegates’ attention to pending considerations on the chapter for Crayfish plague. A revised version had been received from an OIE expert. The Aquatic Animals Commission will review this version at its October 2008 meeting.

She also noted that the preparation of text regarding regaining disease free status of a compartment was a particularly difficult issue. She acknowledged the EU's suggestions to date on how to tackle regaining freedom for a single-establishment compartment but noted that this concept requires a biosecure water source, and that this would not be applicable to many diseases (for example, where the host is farmed in the open environment). She informed Delegates that the Commission was of the view that more detailed consideration was required; the Commission will give this item priority and take into account the outcomes of two projects on the practical application of compartmentalisation (for terrestrial animal diseases), as indicated in the Commission's March meeting report.

Dr Bernoth summarised that the six revised or new chapters for IMN, WTD, Infection with *M. mackini*, Gyrodactylosis, Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Infection with ranavirus, now proposed for adoption, were appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annexes VIII to XIII to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B). Adoption of the amphibian disease chapters is dependent on the adoption to list these two diseases in the first place.

**355. Introduction to the Guidelines for the *Aquatic Code* for the welfare of farmed fish**

Dr Bernoth explained that a number of comments had been received that reflected conflicting views among Members regarding the fundamental principles and scope of guidelines on welfare. She noted that some of the comments raised questions about sentience and pain in aquatic animals and showed views that were diametrically opposed to those of other Members. Dr Bernoth pointed out that while questions about sentience and pain in aquatic animals continued to be addressed by scientific research, this should not be used as a means to unnecessarily delay the developing of OIE standards; besides, animal welfare was not all about prevention of cruelty and pain, but was also about ensuring animal health through good husbandry practices. The OIE was committed to developing appropriate aquatic animal welfare standards including biosecurity guidelines, and would do so over time, with the assistance of Members and international experts, and taking into account the latest scientific information available.

At this General Session, a short, conceptual introduction was proposed for adoption. While the first one-page draft of this introduction – circulated with the Commission's October 2007 report – had been prepared in close accordance with the terrestrial equivalent, the revised version is even shorter, amounting to just half a page. Taking into account Members' comments, the guidelines now related only to farmed fish (excluding ornamental species), and the title had been amended accordingly. Dr Bernoth sincerely hoped that Delegates could agree on this short text and so allow the Commission to move forward with the preparation of draft guidelines for welfare of farmed fish during transport, slaughter, and destruction for disease control purposes.

The version now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annex XIV to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

**356. Guidelines for the *Aquatic Code* for the control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed**

Dr Bernoth noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had received numerous comments on the draft chapter and made a number of changes, largely to clarify its scope, which is generally wider than OIE-listed diseases, except where specific reference is made to OIE-listed diseases, for example, in the context of certification.

Dr Bernoth also pointed out that these guidelines contain a list of general categories of safe commodities (for example, fish oil). For OIE-listed diseases, the list of disease-specific safe commodities can be found in the corresponding disease chapter of the *Aquatic Code*.

The version now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annex XV to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

**357. Guidelines for the *Aquatic Code* for aquatic animal health surveillance**

Dr Bernoth commended the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance, which had met three times since the last General Session and would meet again before the end of the calendar year. She expressed her satisfaction that, as a result of the *ad hoc* Group's efforts, the new Appendix on Guidelines for aquatic animal health surveillance was ready for adoption. This would ensure much better alignment with the *Terrestrial Code* and would also mean that Chapter 1.1.4. on Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection could be removed from the *Aquatic Manual*. She noted that replacing Chapter 1.1.4. had been a high priority for the Commission for some time now, but that the issues relevant to aquatic animal health surveillance were perhaps even more complex than parallel issues for terrestrial animal health, and that it had therefore taken several meetings of the *ad hoc* Group to address the large number of Member comments received on consecutive draft versions.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that the new Appendix on Guidelines for aquatic animal health surveillance that is now proposed for adoption and inclusion in the *Aquatic Code* contains a lot of technical information. Much of this information will be included in the *OIE Handbook on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance* that is currently in preparation. Once the handbook is published (proposed for early 2009), the Aquatic Animals Commission will revise the surveillance chapter for the *Aquatic Code* to reduce the amount of technical information, thereby rendering the chapter more consistent with other chapters and appendices in the *Aquatic Code*. In the interim period, Dr Bernoth felt that it was important to provide this information to Delegates via inclusion in the *Aquatic Code*.

The version now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2008 meeting report (Annex XVI to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B).

The *ad hoc* Group had also been tasked with drafting disease-specific surveillance chapters but had identified the need for guidance from the Aquatic Animals Commission on a) a template for such chapters, and b) on a prioritised list of diseases for which specific surveillance chapters should be developed. Dr Bernoth informed Delegates that the Commission would discuss a draft template for disease-specific surveillance chapters at its October meeting. Regarding the second query, she asked Delegates for their views on how to prioritise diseases for preparation of the specific surveillance chapters.

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

Dr Bernoth updated Delegates on progress with the 6th edition of the *Aquatic Manual*, which is due for publication in the third quarter of 2009. The OIE Central Bureau will circulate the chapters for comment to Members and reviewers in June this year. Dr Bernoth encouraged Delegates to ensure thorough consultation on the drafts. The new chapters are not merely updated versions of the 2006 text; rather, the chapters have been prepared using a new template and therefore appear in a different format. She encouraged Delegates to provide feedback on the usefulness of this new format.

### 359. **Reference Laboratories**

Annual reports had been received from all but three of the Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases, and from the Collaborating Centre for Information on Aquatic Animal Diseases. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bernoth acknowledged the valuable participation of these laboratories and the Centre and the support they provide to Members and the Commission. She drew Delegates' attention to two specific missions conducted over the past 12 months, where OIE Experts had provided assistance to Members. One was to assist in the outbreak of Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) in freshwater fish species in the Zambezi River system in Africa, and the other to investigate successfully an economically significant disease outbreak in spiny lobsters in Vietnam. She expressed her thanks to Dr Somkiat Kanchanakhan from Thailand and Prof. Donald Lightner from the United States of America, respectively, for their roles in combating these outbreaks.

The Aquatic Animals Commission had received two applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status: from the University of Arizona, United States of America, for its designation as an OIE Reference Laboratory for IMN, with Prof. Donald Lightner as the designated expert; and from C. Abdul Hakeem College (affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Tamil Nadu), India, for its designation as an OIE Reference Laboratory for WTD, with Dr A. Sait Sahul Hameed as the designated expert. The Commission reviewed the nominations and recommends their acceptance.

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that, after last year's General Session, an application for OIE Reference Laboratory status for AVM had been received, but that the Aquatic Animals Commission had decided to await the outcomes of its *ad hoc* Group meeting because of the complexity of this disease. Given the progress made by the *ad hoc* Group, and pending Member comments on the proposed case definition for the AVM complex, the Commission plans to assess the application at its October meeting. Dr Bernoth stated that any further nominations for any listed disease would be welcome.

### 360. **Procedure for validation and certification of diagnostic assays**

Dr Bernoth informed Delegates that the OIE had received an application for a test kit for White spot disease (WSD) in crustaceans in April 2006. Following the procedure for validation and certification of diagnostic assays, the application was reviewed by experts. In January 2008, the expert panel recommended that the kit "IQ2000 WSSV PCR Detection and Prevention System" be placed on the OIE Register as fit for the three listed specified purposes in crustaceans, i.e.:

- certifying freedom from infection (<10 virions/sample) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;
- confirmatory diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a histopathological or clinical sign diagnosis);
- estimating prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control).

The Aquatic Animals Commission found that the reviewers had done a thorough job of evaluating the dossier; it agreed with the conclusion that the kit should be registered for the three purposes listed, and recommended its adoption.

### 361. **Publications**

Dr Bernoth drew Delegates' attention to the publication in December 2007 of the proceedings of the OIE *Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health*, held in Norway in October 2006. The booklet, which also contains the recommendations made by Conference participants, has been organised and published by the International Association for

Biologicals, co-edited by the OIE Scientific & Technical Department, and released as Volume 129 in Karger's *Developments in Biologicals* series.

Dr Bernoth announced that issue 27(1) of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review Series* with the title "Changing Trends in Managing Aquatic Animal Disease Emergencies" has just been published. She explained that with the increase in the culture of new aquatic animal species, new and emerging diseases are constantly being discovered. This special issue provides a state-of-the-art compilation and assessment of strategies, ranging from international and national policy frameworks to on-farm contingency planning, along with updates on the use of biotechnology in vaccines and novel diagnostics. She highly recommended this publication to Delegates as an extremely valuable resource that provides a contemporary and truly global perspective on this topic.

Dr Bernoth also informed Delegates of another specifically aquatic publication, i.e. a "*Handbook on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance*". As foreshadowed in the Aquatic Animals Commission March 2008 meeting report, the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance met in April and will meet again in July this year. The *ad hoc* Group had indicated that it hoped to complete work on the manuscript by August 2008. Dr Bernoth advised Delegates that the OIE Publications Department will manage the publication of the *Handbook* and envisage publication by early 2009. She reminded Delegates that once the *Handbook* is published, the Aquatic Animals Commission will review the *Aquatic Code* Appendix on Guidelines for aquatic animal health surveillance, with a view to making it more concise.

### 362. International cooperation

Dr Bernoth expressed her satisfaction with the on-going cooperation with FAO on aquatic animal health issues. A Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework Project for Africa commenced last month, in the wake of the EUS outbreak in the Zambezi River system (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe). It will increase the capacity of the key national government staff (decision-makers and technicians) to undertake surveillance and to confirm diseases, and it will provide the necessary information and extension material to better inform the stakeholders of the risks and of the methods for preventing spread and particularly on how to avoid the introduction of the disease into fish farms. The project will also facilitate the elaboration of a regional emergency preparedness and response strategy related to aquatic health management. Dr Bernoth informed Delegates that Prof. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya represented the Aquatic Animals Commission in this project.

Dr Bernoth then provided details of an exciting new initiative in the Asia-Pacific region. The Directors General of the OIE and NACA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between these two organisations on aquatic animal health issues. A specific area is the establishment of a WAHIS OIE/NACA Regional Core for Aquatic Animal Health. This Regional Core will accommodate OIE-listed diseases as well as other aquatic animal diseases of regional concern. Developed jointly by the OIE Central Bureau, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, and NACA, it will allow full integration of the quarterly aquatic animal disease reporting system currently operating in the region into the WAHIS six-monthly system, thereby avoiding the compilation of two data sets by Members. Information on OIE-listed diseases will be entered into WAHIS and be searchable in WAHID. The creation of this Regional Core will also allow information on non-OIE-listed diseases to be accessible. Such information will not be displayed or searchable in WAHID globally, but will appear on the Web sites of NACA and the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. Dr Bernoth stressed that this initiative was a huge step forward in assisting Members in the region with providing accurate, timely and transparent aquatic animal disease information, thereby discharging their obligations

as OIE Members. She also pointed out that this Regional Core was an excellent example of cooperation between animal health and fisheries organisations at the international and national levels. It is hoped that the Regional Core will be functional within a year.

Dr Bernoth also informed Delegates that the OIE signed an Agreement with ICES on 15 December 2007. This was approved by the Administrative Commission and will be presented to the International Committee for adoption at this General Session.

363. **On-going and new activities**

Dr Bernoth summarised the status of some of the Commission's activities:

- The need to **harmonise OIE approaches to aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases** continues to be one of the main drivers for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. Good progress has been made with the new Chapter on Zoning and compartmentalisation and the Appendix on Guidelines for aquatic animal health surveillance, and the Guidelines on handling and disposal of carcasses and wastes of aquatic animals are in preparation. However, there are further areas of on-going work, including animal welfare – as referred to above – and model certificates. Regarding the latter, Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission will await the adoption of the terrestrial model certificates before revising the aquatic ones. Dr Bernoth also pointed out that the horizontal Sections on Obligations and ethics in international trade, Risk analysis, and Import/export procedures will be revised in line with the revision of the corresponding chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Dr Bernoth informed Delegates that good progress was being made with ensuring that the OIE PVS Tool for the **Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services** was also applicable to the evaluation of aquatic animal health services. The introduction to the OIE PVS Tool now makes reference to aquatic applications. Dr Bernoth thanked Dr Keren Bar-Yaacov, Chief Veterinary Officer of Norway, for her on-going work on a draft annex to the tool that would point out the modifications of the approach required for the evaluation of the performance of Competent Authorities responsible for aquatic animal health.
- Dr Bernoth informed Delegates that while the focus of the fourth joint FAO/WHO/OIE Meeting on **Critically Important Antimicrobials**, held in November 2007 in Rome, Italy, was to discuss the appropriate balance between terrestrial animal health needs and public health concerns in the use of antimicrobial products, the aquatic animal health sector had been represented at that meeting. One of the eleven recommendations from the meeting specifically asked for a risk analysis of the release of human and animal effluents into aquatic environments. These environments are the growing grounds of fisheries and aquaculture products. Such risk analysis would determine appropriate management options where improved effluent management measures should be implemented, particularly with respect to the antimicrobials identified as critically important by WHO and the OIE. Dr Bernoth assured Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission is committed to staying involved in any future revisions of the list of critically important antimicrobials to ensure relevant antimicrobials in the aquatic sector are considered.
- Dr Bernoth provided details on the new **ad hoc Group on Safe Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals**. The Aquatic Animals Commission asked for this new Group to be convened because of the need to provide sufficiently detailed information on the innocuousness of certain products that have undergone processes to render them harmless, regardless of the animal health status of the exporting country. The new *ad hoc* Group would also look at the constantly evolving industrial and food technologies and the advances they offer in inactivating pathogens potentially present in products derived from aquatic animals. Dr Bernoth said she suspected that there would not be a lot of information published in peer-reviewed journals, and that the *ad hoc* Group would therefore need to examine 'grey literature' and other information.

Dr Bernoth strongly encouraged Delegates to make available any information that may facilitate the work of the *ad hoc* Group, but also to encourage their industries and research institutions to address such issues. She acknowledged that from an academic viewpoint, research into inactivation of aquatic animal pathogens during commercial food-processing procedures was probably not ‘cutting edge’; however, looking at it from a trade perspective, such research could deliver data that enable the preparation of standards that do not represent unjustified sanitary barriers yet will not pose a threat to the safety of international trade. Thus, national investment in such research could be immensely cost-beneficial.

Dr Bernoth closed her presentation by informing the OIE International Committee that more details on the Aquatic Animals Commission’s work plan for the second half of the year 2008 and for the year 2009 were provided in the March 2008 meeting report (Annex XX to Doc. 76 SG/12/CS4 B). A new item added was to develop text on trade in aquatic animals vaccinated against listed diseases, for example, Infectious salmon anaemia and KHVD.

364. Following Dr Bernoth’s presentation, the President of the OIE thanked her and opened the discussion on the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission. The President invited comments on three aspects of Dr Bernoth’s report, i.e. on the proposed *Aquatic Code* text for adoption; the newly recommended diagnostic test kit and on the two proposed new Reference Laboratories.
365. The Delegate of Norway congratulated Dr Bernoth for her extensive and important work. Norway would provide more comments, in detail, for the October 2008 meeting. She noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission intends to keep a multitude of definitions in the surveillance chapter and wished the Commission to note that, while she understood its position, she disagreed with this approach. The Delegate also urged that more substantial texts on aquatic animal welfare be presented for discussion ahead of the next General Session to enable progress to be made on this topic. Norway will continue to work on the modification of the PVS Tool to address the evaluation of aquatic animal health services but hopes that some PVS Evaluations of such services would be performed in the future to provide more information on appropriate indicators.
366. The Delegate of Japan thanked Dr Bernoth for her excellent presentation. Japan supports the proposed aquatic animal welfare guidelines provided they are based on science and that the scope is limited to farmed fish. Regarding Article 1.3.1. paragraph 2, while Japan recognises the appropriateness of the proposed modifications, Japan considers that it is important that certification requirements be based on scientific information and that all relevant information should be shared between the exporting and importing countries. Regarding paragraph 3 of the same article, the Delegate noted the reference to OIE-listed diseases and requested that provision for certification of additional diseases (i.e. delisted by the OIE, but where trade chapters were retained) be included.
367. The Delegate of Finland, speaking on behalf of the EU, thanked Dr Bernoth for her excellent presentation. The EU appreciates the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission, including the explanations provided in the Commission’s reports on the comments provided by OIE Members. The EU can accept the proposed texts; however, it wished that it be noted that several comments had been sent to the OIE and no explanation had been given as to why they had not been accepted. Regarding surveillance, particularly in regard to wild aquatic animals, the EU considers that general guiding principles should be stated. Free status in farms should not be affected by the health status of wildlife.



The European Commission recommends that the following diseases be prioritised for the preparation of disease-specific surveillance guidelines. For fish: Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia, Infectious haematopoietic necrosis, Koi herpesvirus disease, Infectious salmon anaemia, Epizootic ulcerative syndrome and Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis; for molluscs: *Marteilia refringens*, *Bonamia ostreae*, *Bonamia exitiosa*, *Perkinsus marinus*, *Mikrocytos mackini*; and for crustaceans: White spot disease, Taura syndrome and Yellowhead disease.

The EU also supports the comments of the Delegate of Norway regarding aquatic animal welfare.

368. The Delegate of India congratulated Dr Bernoth on her presentation. With regard to Article 1.3.1.3. Responsibilities of the exporting country, the Delegate asked for an explanation for the proposed deletion of clause 1.f.
369. The Delegate of Haiti sincerely congratulated Dr Bernoth on her presentation. In connection with Dr Bernoth's remark on the lack of comments from many Members in some regions on proposed *Aquatic Code* texts, he requested that the OIE establish training programmes to help developing countries to increase their expertise and capability in the aquatic area, which would also assist them to submit comments and to fulfil their reporting obligations.
370. The Delegate of Libya thanked Dr Bernoth and asked whether the performance of the proposed test kit for WSD (<10 virions/sample) was based on an established standard.
371. A representative of the Canadian Delegation thanked Dr Bernoth for her excellent presentation. In connection with the inclusion of amphibian diseases in the *Aquatic Code*, he asked whether the Aquatic Animals Commission would be taking steps to approve Reference Laboratories to assist countries that do not have such expertise. In regard to strains of pathogens, he asked whether the Aquatic Animals Commission intends to develop a consistent approach, attributing strains of infection to specific susceptible species in order to support surveillance activities described under the revised surveillance chapter. The representative indicated that Canada supports the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group on commodities and indicated that, through the activities of a research group, Canada would be prepared to provide expertise to the OIE on this topic if needed.
372. The Delegate of Panama supported the comments made by the Delegate of Haiti regarding the lack of veterinarians trained in the aquatic area.
373. The Delegate of Saudi Arabia thanked Dr Bernoth for her presentation and made a number of comments. The Delegate was surprised that Dr Bernoth felt that Middle Eastern countries were not providing comments, as he understood that this had been occurring. Regarding the list of diseases to be reported to the OIE, the Delegate commented that the list appears to be continually expanding. He noted that most of the listed diseases specifically affect cold water fish and asked about the criteria for inclusion of diseases on the OIE list. With respect to animal welfare, the Delegate recommended that some consideration be given to how a state of well-being should be determined.
374. Before replying to these comments, Dr Bernoth pointed out that a Spanish version of the *Aquatic Manual* was now available.

In her reply to Norway and the EU regarding animal welfare guidelines, Dr Bernoth stated that it was the intention of the Aquatic Animals Commission to further develop aquatic animal welfare guidelines in time for the Aquatic Animals Commission's October meeting. These guidelines will build on text drafted previously by two *ad hoc* Groups that were convened under the auspices of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

Dr Bernoth indicated that she agreed with the Japanese comments on Article 1.3.1.2., that certification requirements be based on scientific information, but felt that this was already implicit in the text. Dr Bernoth did not agree with the proposal to include non-listed diseases in certification requirements as she considered that it is important to maintain the difference in the treatment of OIE-listed and non-listed diseases because the latter are not notifiable. She noted that any country can request certification for non-listed diseases so long as they conduct a risk analysis to justify this requirement.

Dr Bernoth replied to the EU that the Aquatic Animals Commission does consider all Member comments and tries to provide a rationale in its reports for the majority of decisions taken. She noted that if the Aquatic Animals Commission were to provide a rationale for all comments, this would be very time consuming and result in larger reports. She indicated that the Aquatic Animals Commission would review this approach. Dr Bernoth stated that the complex issue of surveillance and wildlife was addressed in the *ad hoc* Group report. She added that the *Aquatic Code* is a 'work in progress' and that the Aquatic Animals Commission is dedicated to addressing such issues.

In reply to the comment of the Delegate of India, Dr Bernoth clarified that Article 1.3.1.3. point 1.f was no longer proposed for deletion.

In reply to the Delegate of Libya, Dr Bernoth clarified that the specifications are those provided by the test kit manufacturer.

In reply to the representative of the Canadian Delegation, Dr Bernoth confirmed that the Aquatic Animals Commission would actively seek Reference Laboratories for newly listed diseases. She reminded Members that at the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres held in 2006, the Aquatic Animals Commission put forward a position paper on strain differentiation. It was recommended that aquatic and terrestrial laboratories continue to work on this issue together. This topic will be placed on the agenda of the Second OIE Conference, which will be held in 2010. In the meantime, the Aquatic Animals Commission will keep this issue under review.

In reply to the Delegate of Saudi Arabia, Dr Bernoth confirmed that the Aquatic Animals Commission had not received any comments on draft texts for the *Aquatic Code* from a Middle Eastern Member since October 2004, but there may have been comments on draft texts for the *Aquatic Manual*. Dr Bernoth commented that the list of OIE-listed diseases was much longer prior to 2005, when it was halved following an assessment of all listed diseases against the disease listing criteria that had been newly adopted. She outlined the OIE criteria for listing diseases and clarified that no distinction is made between diseases of fish in hot countries and in other countries.

375. Dr Vallat commented on the issue of training veterinarians to work in the management of aquatic animal health services. Through the PVS evaluation process, the gaps in veterinary training are being identified and Members are getting the opportunity to seek funding for programmes to address these gaps. The highly specialised training required for aquatic animal health management calls for long programmes. The OIE Regional Representations are prepared to assist with short training courses but this does not replace the need for longer term investment in the training of specialised veterinarians. With respect to Reference Laboratories for aquatic diseases, including diseases of amphibians, Dr Vallat appealed to Members to propose candidates.

376. In closing, Dr O'Neil thanked Dr Bernoth and all associated experts for their work on the Animal Animals Commission's work programme. He reminded Delegates that they should take steps to identify national focal points for aquatic animal diseases, if this has not already been done, and to work towards closer engagement of Members with the work of the Animal Animals Commission.
377. The Committee noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

### **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

378. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE Headquarters from 17 to 28 September 2007. The Commission had met again from 10 to 14 March 2008 to examine Member comments on the report of its September meeting, to identify issues that could be presented during the General Session. The remaining items and comments would be discussed at the next meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission in September 2008, together with new comments on the report of the March meeting.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Commission (Drs W. A. Valder, S. K. Hargreaves and J. Caetano and Profs S.C. MacDiarmid and A. M. Hassan) for their dedication and expertise. He also thanked Dr Kahn and her staff at the OIE Headquarters for their hard work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

In general, he believed that it had been another productive year, with 48 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption and nine others in preparation. He referred Delegates to the reports of the meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission for additional details.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide electronically a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' Web site as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. He also noted the policy of the OIE of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, 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 advised Delegates that they would find in their Delegate bags electronic copies (on CD-ROM) of the complete report of the September 2007 and March 2008 meetings of the Terrestrial Code Commission. The folder distributed at the General Session contains only the Introductory Part and Part A of the March 2008 report of the Terrestrial Code Commission, because of the volume of this printed material. The OIE was also distributing in the Delegate bags copies of the OIE PVS Tool and an associated new document 'Guidelines for Members requesting or considering a PVS Evaluation' in the three official languages of the OIE. In addition, a Russian language copy of the OIE PVS Tool would be available.

Dr Thiermann appreciated the recent increased participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and noted that several Members had provided comments for the first time. However, the Terrestrial Code Commission continued to express concern about the lack of participation by developing countries, particularly on issues of interest to them, such as the control of stray dog populations, animal identification, compartmentalisation, BSE and the safety of animal products.

Dr Thiermann also appreciated the format of the comments from certain Members, i.e. suggested modifications following the established convention shown as double underline and ~~strike~~ through with a scientific justification to support their claims. He issued a reminder that if comments are resubmitted without modification or new justification, the Terrestrial Code Commission will not, as a rule, repeat a previous opinion, and he encouraged Members to refer to previous reports.

Dr Thiermann recalled that he and Dr Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, had noted that some Members providing comments on proposed changes to horizontal chapters of the respective *Codes* (i.e. the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*) did not seem to be aware that the two Commissions had proposed equivalent changes to matching chapters (e.g. the Chapter on General obligations). Members are encouraged therefore to bear equivalent chapters in the two *Codes* in mind when sending comments on horizontal chapters.

He reiterated that submission of detailed comments should be made prior to the Commission's September meeting (by mid-August each year), and further comments on the Commission's September meeting report should be made prior to the Commission's March meeting (by mid-February), rather than just before or during the General Session. He reminded Members that the Terrestrial Code Commission would not examine any submission received after the Commission's March meeting, prior to the General Session. Any additional comment from Members received after the March meeting and those made during the discussion and adoption process at the General Session would be considered during the September 2008 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

Due to the increased volume of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*), Dr Thiermann advised that the *Terrestrial Code* will be restructured into two volumes as provided in the report of March meeting. He noted that the change is a matter of presentation and no substantial change will be introduced other than those resolved by the International Committee. He also proposed to keep using the previous numbering of chapters and appendices during this General Session.

379. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the OIE International Committee that any insertion or amendment to the *Terrestrial Code* would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Committee for adoption during the course of the week.
380. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the OIE International Committee for adoption:
381. **Chapter 1.1.1. – General definitions**

At its September meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission reviewed proposed definitions in the *Terrestrial Code* for 'animal welfare'. Considering Member comments and in consultation with the members of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed a new definition for animal welfare at its March meeting. Dr Thiermann proposed to discuss this in association with the other items of animal welfare.

Dr O'Neil commented that the Administrative Commission had reviewed the proposed definition for animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code* on the basis of comments received from OIE Regional Commissions. He explained that some of the elements of the proposed definition were not considered to be relevant to some Members, for example, the elements relating to housing and social contact with other animals of the same species. As a result of this discussion, the Administrative Commission had worked with the International Trade Department to develop a revised proposal, which is being distributed to Delegates at this time. Dr O'Neil advised that the changes to the definition had been made at a late stage

and accepted that Members may wish to defer the adoption of the modified definition. He asked Members to review the changes proposed with a view to considering if they could be adopted during the discussion that would take place on Thursday morning.

At its September meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission discussed definitions for 'infection', 'monitoring' and 'surveillance' with the Scientific Commission and proposed slightly modified definitions at its March meeting based on Member comments.

At its March meeting, after discussions with the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed a slightly modified definition for 'buffer zone' to clarify that a buffer zone is part of, and lies within, a free country/zone. The Terrestrial Code Commission also proposed a slight modification to 'compartment', accepting a Member comment to put the emphasis on the subpopulation in the establishment(s), rather than just the establishments.

The Delegate of Japan commented in regard to the definition of 'buffer zone'. He felt that this could cause inconsistency with the latter half of the same sentence, which states that the buffer zone is meant to prevent the spread of an agent into a free country or zone. It could also cause conflict with other texts in the *Terrestrial Code*, e.g. Article 2.2.10.9. – FMD, which describes a buffer zone as a zone between two zones of different health status. Also, he pointed out there was a difference in interpretation of buffer zone between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission. The Delegate proposed to put this amendment under study.

The Delegate of South Africa supported the comments of Japan on the definition of 'buffer zone'. The Delegate felt that the proposed amendment would cause confusion, particularly in regard to the trading of commodities from the buffer zone. In addition, the new definition had not been circulated for comment of Delegates and therefore the Delegate felt that the amendment should not be adopted. In response, Dr Thiermann clarified that the definition had in fact been circulated with the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission's March 2008 meeting.

The Delegate of Slovenia spoke on behalf of the 27 European Union Member States. She indicated that some of the proposals required amendment. In the case of the definition of 'buffer zone', if adopted as proposed, changes would need to be made to the FMD Chapter. The EU could not support the proposed amendment to the definition nor the adoption of the Chapter on FMD. The buffer zone should have more flexibility and should be seen as a single element in a comprehensive package of animal health measures.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the proposed change to the definition of 'buffer zone' had not been requested by Members. The term is only used, at present, in the *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on FMD. Dr Thiermann concluded that, in view of the opinions expressed by Delegates, the definition of 'buffer zone' should remain unchanged.

The Delegate of the United States supported Dr Thiermann's conclusion on this point.

The Delegate of Spain requested clarification in regard to the Spanish translation of 'buffer zone' ('zona tampon', rather than 'zona tapon'). Dr Thiermann agreed with the Spanish Delegate's comment and indicated that a number of modifications to the Spanish language text would be made in the 2008 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* for linguistic reasons.

Dr Thiermann also began a discussion on a draft definition for "surveillance zone".

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

The Delegate of Australia congratulated the Terrestrial Code Commission for its good work and made a suggestion to improve the process in future. The Delegate recommended that Part A of the Terrestrial Code Commission report be provided to Delegates as quickly as possible in the three official languages and circulated immediately after the March meeting, to give Members as much time as possible to review the text changes proposed for adoption at the General Session.

382. **Section 4 – Model veterinary certificates, Notes for guidance on veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin, Chapter 1.2.1. – General obligations and Chapter 1.2.2. – Certification procedures**

Dr Thiermann reported that an *ad hoc* Group had prepared new, simplified model veterinary certificates and had modified Chapter 1.2.1. and 1.2.2. based on good cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). He noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission had addressed Member comments additional to those that had already been addressed by the *ad hoc* Group.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of New Zealand commended the *ad hoc* Group and the Terrestrial Code Commission for the good work completed on this topic. He recommended that the OIE provide clarification on the formatting of paper as opposed to electronic certificates. He recommended that Article 1.2.2.4. paragraph 2 be modified to read ‘electronic certificates may be in a different format but should carry the same information as conventional paper certificates’. In addition, Appendix X.X.X. should be modified by adding ‘on paper’ in the first sentence.

The Delegate of Slovenia commented on behalf of the EU. She advised that the Community would support the proposed changes but requested consideration of written comments provided on Articles 1.2.1.2. and 1.2.1.3., during the October 2008 Terrestrial Code Commission meeting, to avoid unnecessary work by certifying agencies and to improve traceability of the certificates.

The Delegate of Australia thanked the *ad hoc* Group for its work on model certificates and noted that the certificates were moving in the right direction but emphasised that the content of the certificates was more important than the format of the certificates. Under the principle of equivalence agreed in the *Terrestrial Code*, Members can agree on certification format and content requirements bilaterally.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Terrestrial Code Commission would review the European Commission comments, and any other comments submitted, at its next meeting.

The chapters and appendices amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

383. **Chapter 1.3.2. – Guidelines on import risk analysis, Chapter 1.4.1. – Animal health measures applicable before and at departure and Chapter 1.4.3. – Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country**

Dr Thiermann explained the editorial nature of the proposed changes, such as the removal of definitions that are used only once in the *Terrestrial Code*. He also reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission will continue to work on the harmonisation, where appropriate, of horizontal chapters in the two *Codes* with the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

**384. Chapter 1.3.3. – Evaluation of Veterinary Services and Chapter 1.3.4. – Guidelines for the evaluation of Veterinary Services**

Dr Thiermann explained the editorial nature of the proposed changes, reflecting the new title of the OIE PVS Tool.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

**385. Chapter 1.3.5 – Zoning and compartmentalisation and Chapter X.X.X. – General guidelines on the application of compartmentalisation**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission included the general concept of ‘containment zone’ in Chapter 1.3.5. The concept was adopted last year in Chapter 2.2.10. on FMD. He added that this general concept should be subject to the implementation of measures consistent with disease chapters. He referred to a difference between the proposed general text in Chapter 1.3.5. and the specific text on FMD in Chapter 2.2.10.

Dr Thiermann emphasised the importance of this concept and the need for general guidelines. He explained that the OIE is working to develop practical examples based on the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of the United States requested clarification on the use of the terms ‘containment zone’ and ‘cases’, and in particular on whether the establishment of the containment zone implies that all cases have been found. Dr Thiermann confirmed that this is the case.

The Delegate of Japan proposed to add ‘if appropriate’ after ‘a stamping out policy’ in paragraph 2., considering, while in the case of FMD only stamping out should be applied, alternative measures can be considered on disease by disease basis. Dr Thiermann replied to the Delegate of Japan, noting that, with respect to FMD, alternatives to stamping out are not considered to be appropriate.

Regarding Article 3.X.X.1, describing the objectives of compartmentalisation, the Delegate of Japan proposed to make it clearer that the establishment of disease-free status throughout the country should remain the final objective of the Veterinary Services so that small size farmers would not be left behind in eradicating the disease. Dr Thiermann indicated that the Terrestrial Code Commission would develop appropriate text to address this point.

Regarding Article 3.X.X.8. Japan requested that the importance of involvement of the Veterinary Authority and the Veterinary Services to ensure compliance with the requirements for compartmentalisation should be described.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, commenting on behalf of the EU, supported the proposed changes but reiterated a comment provided previously regarding traceability as an essential factor in the establishment of a compartment. Moreover, this Chapter should reflect the work being undertaken by the OIE in regard to the establishment of compartments of domestic livestock, separating them from wildlife. In respect to the Guidelines, Article 3.X.X.3. should contain a reference to the HACCP concept. In the case of a breach in the biosecurity system of a compartment, it should be clarified that the status of the compartment and certification of exports should be suspended. It is not necessary to

suspend all trade – rather the special status of the compartment should be suspended. In the case of an outbreak in close vicinity to the compartment, the Competent Authority should conduct an evaluation to confirm that biosecurity is adequate and to confirm the continued ability to certify products from the compartment.

The European Community agreed to support the proposed changes and requested that these comments be addressed by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

The President of the OIE confirmed that the comments of Japan and the EU would be addressed by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its September 2008 meeting.

The chapter and appendix were adopted unanimously.

**386. Chapter 2.2.5. – Rabies**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had modified the text on bat lyssavirus, based on advice from the Biological Standards Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of South Africa recognised the fact that the Terrestrial Code Commission had referred this matter to the Scientific Commission and noted the work undertaken by the Wildlife Working Group. The Delegate proposed that the detection of any bat rabies virus should not affect the status of the country. Dr Thiermann replied that this is a complex matter that warrants detailed scientific consideration. This matter is under review in the relevant *ad hoc* and Working Groups, as well as the Biological Standards Commission, and new text will be brought forward in due course.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**387. Chapter 2.2.10. – Foot and mouth disease, Appendix 3.8.7. – Guidelines on surveillance for FMD and Appendix 3.6.2. – FMD virus inactivation procedures**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had reviewed comments and advice from the Scientific Commission on the requirements for a containment zone and decided to introduce into Chapter 2.2.10. some text that differs from that in Chapter 1.3.5. He explained that the requirements for an FMD containment zone should be no less stringent than those applied to the recovery of free status and emphasised the importance of rapid containment.

The Delegate of Japan commented in support of deleting the reference to control strategies. He also reiterated Japan's recommendation that, in Article 2.2.10.7., it should be a requirement that the containment zone is sufficiently large, and can contain both a protection zone and a larger surveillance zone. Dr Thiermann requested that the Delegate provide a text for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its September 2008 meeting.

The Delegate of Slovenia commented on behalf of the EU. Considering that the definition of 'buffer zone' has been postponed, the Community could accept the proposed changes. However, the Delegate recommended modification of the text to read: 'Susceptible animals in the FMD free zone should be separated from neighbouring countries with a different health status by animal health measures that effectively prevent the entry of the virus which may include a buffer zone, taking into consideration physical or geographical barriers'.



The Delegate of Argentina requested clarification of the Japanese Delegate's recommendation. Dr Thiermann explained that Japan's recommendation is to ensure that the containment zone is large enough to contain the disease and comprise both a protection zone and a surveillance zone.

The Delegate of Japan proposed the addition of a paragraph 6 under Article 2.2.10.7., stating: 'the containment zone should be large enough to contain the disease and comprise both a protection zone and a larger surveillance zone'. Dr Thiermann confirmed that this would be acceptable.

The Delegate of Uruguay commented on Articles 2.2.10.2. and 2.2.10.3. to the effect that the change is significant although it may seem to be minor. For many years Uruguay was free with vaccination and although its neighbours had a different health status there was no buffer zone. In the experience of Uruguay, free zones with and without vaccination can co-exist without a buffer zone. The Delegate opposed the proposed modification. Dr Thiermann agreed that the modification should not be adopted, i.e. the original text referring to 'infected countries' rather than 'with a different health status' would be maintained in Articles 2.2.10.2. and 2.2.10.3.

The Delegate of South Africa pointed out that the same approach would need to be taken to Article 2.2.10.4. However, Dr Thiermann indicated that this text has not been proposed for modification and should remain unchanged.

The Delegate of Paraguay commented, on behalf of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries, on the proposal to adopt the buffer zone, as discussed earlier in the week, stating that there is a problem with the lack of specified time periods within which this provision would be applied. In reply, Dr Thiermann clarified that the concept of the buffer zone has been included in the *Code* for several years and this has not changed. The President of the OIE agreed with Dr Thiermann's explanation and restated that it had been decided that the Director General should call a meeting between the Presidents of the Terrestrial Code Commission and the Scientific Commission to prepare a revised text addressing this topic.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the President's comments.

Prof. Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission, commented that it would be necessary to review the list of FMD free countries if the current text on buffer zone in the FMD Chapter is retained, as it is not clear from the existing text if a buffer zone is compulsory or not. The view of the Scientific Commission is that a buffer zone should not be obligatory, otherwise many countries would lose their free status.

Dr Thiermann and Dr O'Neil disagreed with this assessment. The OIE President closed the discussion, stating that he would discuss the matter with the Director General and report back to OIE Members later in the week.

The Director General clarified that the lists covering the FMD status of countries and zones could not be changed now as they had already been adopted during this General Session.

The President of the OIE then reported to the International Committee on the outcome of the meeting of the Presidents of the Terrestrial Code and Scientific Commissions regarding the reference to buffer zone in the FMD chapter. He requested the Presidents of the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission to work with to find more sustainable solution on this issue over the coming 12 months and proposed that the word "should" be replaced by "may" in the English language version, and appropriate changes made to the French and Spanish texts, in Articles 2.2.10.2., 2.2.10.3., 2.2.10.4. and 2.2.10.5 where there is a reference to buffer zone.

The Delegate of Singapore was opposed to this change as he considered that the meaning of the two words is different.

In response, the President of the OIE proposed a second option, that the English text be considered the correct legal version for interpretation of this issue until next year.

The Delegate of Japan supported the Delegate of Singapore's position and stated the second proposal would be preferable although he had no intention to oppose the country status which had been already adopted.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the first proposal of the OIE President.

The Delegate of Botswana opposed both proposals made by the OIE President.

The OIE President made a third proposal, i.e. that the word "should" be replaced by the word "can" in all three languages in Articles 2.2.10.2., 2.2.10.3., 2.2.10.4. and 2.2.10.5.

The Delegate of Japan reiterated his support for the second proposal.

The OIE President noted that part of the difficulty relates to translation between English ("should") and Spanish / French.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the third proposal.

The OIE President presented the third proposal for approval by the International Committee. Japan and Singapore abstained. The Chapter amended as described above was adopted.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe urged that work continue to be done to identify safe commodities for trade, such as deboned, matured, pH tested beef. Dr Thiermann confirmed that this matter is on the OIE's work programme.

He also noted that a new article on inactivation of virus in casings of small ruminants and pigs had been added, based on expert advice endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

In response to the request from African Countries, Dr Thiermann advised that an *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products ('commodities') would be convened after the General Session.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter and appendices amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

The President of the OIE urged the Terrestrial Code Commission to work with the Scientific Commission and with the International Trade Department and the Scientific Department to review the definition for buffer zone and appropriate modifications to the FMD Chapter, for consideration by the International Committee in future.

#### 388. **Chapter 2.2.12. – Rinderpest**

Dr Thiermann reported that, based on a request from the Scientific Commission, the Terrestrial Code Commission had introduced into Chapter 2.2.12. text similar to that found in Chapter 2.2.10. regarding the annual provision of information. This text was slightly modified in the light of Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**389. Chapter 2.4.6. – Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia**

Dr Thiermann reported that two articles on embryos/oocytes had been added to Chapter 2.4.6., based on the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**390. Appendix 3.8.10. – Guidelines on surveillance for bluetongue**

Dr Thiermann reported that a minor amendment regarding the prevention of exposure of animals to bluetongue virus vectors had been added to Appendix 3.8.10. He also noted that Member comments, including on the use of ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) and inactivated vaccines should be further examined by experts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Portugal commented on behalf of the EU. The Community supports the proposed changes but strongly recommends that the Scientific Commission provide advice on the use of inactivated vaccines and the implications for bluetongue surveillance. The OIE President asked the Terrestrial Code Commission to work with the Scientific Commission to develop appropriate text for consideration by the International Committee in 2009.

The appendix was adopted unanimously.

**391. Chapter 2.3.3. – Bovine tuberculosis and Appendix 3.1.1. – Prescribed and alternative tests for OIE listed diseases**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had examined Member comments and decided to refer all the issues raised by Members regarding the draft text on farmed deer and goats to the Scientific Commission for further advice. He also reported that surveillance requirements had been modified, based on the advice of the Scientific Commission. He noted that 'herd free from tuberculosis' is a good example of compartmentalisation and texts were amended as appropriate.

Dr Thiermann also reported that, based on the advice of the Biological Standards Commission, Appendix 3.1.1. had been modified, with regard to bovine tuberculosis. It has also been updated for several other diseases for consistency with the new edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Australia commented that Australia opposed adoption of the Chapter due to concerns about the content. The Chapter has several inconsistencies and ambiguities, and lacks clarity as to how a free country regains its free status after having a case. Australia believed that the chapter needs to follow an epidemiologically sound approach, including reference to the role of wildlife as reservoir hosts. Australia will submit comments supported by reference material to the Terrestrial Code Commission in August.

The Delegate of New Zealand commented that it could accept the text but had concerns with Article 2.3.3.2. bis. as some elements of this requirement were not practical.

The Delegate of the United States commented on the inclusion of compartmentalisation in this Chapter, requesting that Article 2.3.3.2. bis not be adopted, in order to provide the opportunity for review and comment.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, raised concerns about two articles and requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission take into account the written comments provided. However, the Community could support adoption providing its comments were considered.

The OIE President summarised this discussion, stating that only one Delegate had opposed the adoption of the revised Chapter, while the Delegates of New Zealand and the United States and the spokesperson for the EU had supported adoption provided that additional comments would be taken into account during the October 2008 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission. Dr O'Neil proposed to put Article 2.3.3.2. bis under study and to adopt the remaining text.

The chapter and appendix amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

392. **Chapter 2.3.13. – Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Appendix 3.8.4. – Guidelines on surveillance for BSE and Appendix 3.8.5. – Factors to consider in conducting the BSE risk assessment recommended in Chapter 2.3.13.**

Dr Thiermann recalled the discussion of previous General Sessions on the safety of gelatine and dicalcium phosphate. The Terrestrial Code Commission reiterated its position that the safety of the gelatine manufacturing process had been well established by scientific peer-reviewed studies and risk assessments on the production of gelatine from bones regardless of their origin. Recognising the fact that skulls are not used in the commercial manufacture of gelatine, the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed the exclusion of skulls, thus removing a major point of contention raised by Members.

Dr Thiermann expressed his concern that Members continued to resubmit comments about texts discussed and adopted at previous meetings without providing any new justification. For example, some Members raised questions about the safety of deboned muscle meat and proposed that this be removed from Article 1, while other Members questioned the safety provided by the recommendations that animals be less than 30 months of age. The Terrestrial Code Commission reminded Members that the measures relating to the safety of deboned muscle meat were formulated several years ago, when the magnitude of risk to human health was unknown. These precautionary measures were appropriate at that time. Since that time, scientific understanding regarding the BSE risk classification of countries and the risk to human health associated with BSE in bovine products has progressed. The Terrestrial Code Commission considered that it would be timely to reconsider whether there is any need to maintain the current requirement in Chapter 2.3.13. for cattle to be 30 months of age or less for deboned muscle meat to be considered a safe commodity at the next General Session.

He reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission introduced similar text to Chapter 2.2.10. on the annual provision of information, based on a request from the Scientific Commission, with modification based on Member comments.

Dr Thiermann also reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission introduced editorial changes to the table in Appendix 3.8.4. (Surveillance points) and modified Appendix 3.8.5. to remove reference to TSEs and to provide additional explanation on risk analysis, based on the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Atypical BSE, as endorsed by the Scientific Commission. Appendix 3.8.5. would be retained in the *Terrestrial Code* separate from the questionnaire on BSE status recognition.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Singapore commented with regard to gelatine production, that the Terrestrial Code Commission was relying on a single scientific reference and considered that additional references were needed. He also recommended the exclusion of the vertebral column, which is considered to be an SRM, (along with the skull) from the materials used to make gelatine.

The Delegate of Japan supported the comment made by the Delegate of Singapore. He also opposed the comment of Dr Thiermann that the removal of the ‘30-month rule’ from the *Terrestrial Code* should be considered in the future noting that there is not enough reference to support the risk of deboned meat from more than 30 months is low.

The Delegate of the United States commented in support of the scientific basis for the proposed amendment on gelatine and supported adoption of the revised text.

The Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of African countries, encouraged Delegates to give favourable consideration to Dr Thiermann’s comments about removal of the ‘30-month rule’ in regard to deboned skeletal muscle meat. The Delegate urged Members that if there is no scientific evidence for this age restriction, it should be deleted at the next General Session.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the EU, thanked the members of the Terrestrial Code Commission for the work they have done on these important texts. However, according to the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) study on gelatine, the risk factors could not be identified in an ‘undetermined risk’ country. The Delegate therefore requested that the words ‘under study’ be added after ‘undetermined BSE risk country’. The Community could not accept adoption of the revision to the Article on gelatine.

The EU commended the work of the OIE on determining the BSE risk status of Members and recommended that the OIE provide the necessary follow up in regard to remarks made in the reports on the BSE risk status of countries.

The Delegate of India supported the comment by the Delegate of the United States of America on the issue of gelatine production.

The OIE President summarised the situation, stating that the Delegates of Singapore, Japan and the EU were opposed to adoption of the modified text on gelatine while India and the United States supported its adoption. In regard to the EFSA study, Dr Thiermann commented that this study does not identify what additional risks may be presented by utilising the skull and vertebral column in the production of gelatine as these materials are not utilised in the EU, and were not considered in the EFSA study.

The Delegate of Japan sought and received clarification from Dr Thiermann on the proposed change to the text for adoption.

The OIE President concluded that there were many Members opposed to adoption of the proposed text on gelatine. He proposed to amend Article 2.3.13.15. 2 a) along the lines proposed by Singapore and Japan (“skulls and vertebral column have been excluded”) and this proposal was accepted by the International Committee.

An additional proposal by the OIE President not to extend this additional exclusion to countries of controlled risk was opposed by the Delegates of India and Singapore and supported by the Delegate of the United States of America. Dr O’Neil withdrew this suggestion.

On the subject of surveillance points, the Delegate of Singapore raised the issue of countries with a very small cattle population and enquired whether Type A or B surveillance was required for the maintenance or establishment of BSE status if their cattle population was less than 50 000. Dr Thiermann asked the Delegate to submit written comments to the OIE and said that they would be examined and advice provided by BSE surveillance experts.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea, commenting on Appendix 3.8.5., requested that the term ‘TSE’ should be maintained and not replaced by ‘BSE’ as proposed. Dr Thiermann explained that this proposed amendment had been recommended by the BSE expert group and noted that the reference had been similarly modified elsewhere in the Appendix as it deals with BSE and not TSEs.

Dr Thiermann proposed the deletion of the text between square brackets in the last paragraph of Article 3.8.5.1. taking in to account the possible confusion caused by this text.

The chapter and appendices amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

### 393. **Chapter 2.5.5. Equine influenza**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had modified text on surveillance in Article 2.5.5.3., relating to Appendix 3.8.1., and removed “under study” in Article 2.5.5.4., based on expert advice as endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, stated that the Community would support the proposed amendments. However, the EU would like to receive an explanation for the period of 21 days proposed for vaccination and the Delegate of Slovenia also requested that written comments previously provided by the EU be considered.

Dr Thiermann replied that the 21-day period was established on the basis of expert advice. This would be further discussed at the October meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission and further detailed advice provided.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

### 394. **Chapter 2.5.7. Equine rhinopneumonitis and Chapter 2.5.10. Equine viral arteritis**

Dr Thiermann reported that the title of Chapter 2.5.7. had been modified, based on discussion with the Biological Standards Commission, and that Chapter 2.5.10. had been modified to address requirements for the isolation of live horses, based on Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, stated that the Community would support the proposed amendments. However, the EU requested that written comments previously provided by the EU be considered, particularly those addressing the deletion of Article 2.5.10.2. b and Article 2.5.10.3. Dr Thiermann agreed that this would be done.

The Delegate of South Africa expressed satisfaction that this Chapter has been referred to the Scientific Commission and did not agree with adoption, preferring to await advice from the Scientific Commission. The Delegate explained that his country saw a conflict between certain articles. Dr Thiermann provided a clarification on this point.

The representative of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI<sup>38</sup>) thanked the Terrestrial Code Commission for its work on the equine disease chapters and expressed concerns about Chapter 2.5.10., in particular Articles 2.5.10.2. and 2.5.10.3. The FEI is concerned about the periods specified for pre-import preparation. The modification means that the pre-export periods apply equally to competition and other horses, a situation that would cause significant barriers to trade.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

**395. Chapter 2.5.14. African horse sickness and Guidelines on surveillance for African horse sickness**

Dr Thiermann stated that the draft revision of this chapter was prepared by an *ad hoc* Group and provided to the Terrestrial Code Commission in March 2007. He reported that the chapter and appendix were modified, based on the Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, stated that the Community would support the proposed amendments to Chapter 2.5.14. However, the EU requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission consider adding to the text the principle of using approved African horse sickness vaccines. Dr Thiermann agreed that this would be done.

The chapter and appendix were adopted unanimously.

**396. Chapter 2.6.6. African swine fever**

Dr Thiermann stated that the draft revision of this chapter was prepared by an *ad hoc* Group and provided to the Terrestrial Code Commission in March 2007. He reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission amended several articles to make the format of this chapter consistent with Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**397. Chapter 2.6.7. – Classical swine fever and Appendix 3.8.8. – Guidelines on surveillance for classical swine fever**

Dr Thiermann recalled the discussion on the proposed text that had been endorsed by the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission at the last General Session and noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission addressed Member comments at its two most recent meetings. Regarding disease free status, the Terrestrial Code Commission decided to take into account the disease situation in wild pigs in determining the status of a country or zone, and to maintain compartmentalisation as the mechanism for ensuring disease freedom in domestic pigs when classical swine fever (CSF) is present in wild pigs.

He reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission amended several articles to make the format of Chapter 2.6.7. consistent with that of Chapter 2.6.6. African swine fever.

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<sup>38</sup> FEI: *Fédération Equestre Internationale*

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, stated that the Community could not support the proposed amendments to Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever cannot be equated with AFS in terms of risk management, as there are epidemiological differences between the two diseases. The Terrestrial Code Commission proposal on measures for fresh meat trade is not useful as compartments have not yet been established and this would only add to the existing trade barriers. The text should take account of field experience that shows that the importation of fresh meat coming from zones in which only wild animals are infected does not present a risk of disease spread. The Community recommends that this matter be further considered by the *ad hoc* Group in consultation with the members of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, the Scientific Commission and the OIE Wildlife Working Group and in light of further guidance on the implementation of compartmentalisation. The Delegate stated that a decision not to adopt the revised Chapter would have no impact on Members. The Delegate clarified that the Community could support the adoption of the revised Appendix.

Dr O'Neil, President of the OIE, thanked the EU for these comments and asked other OIE Members if they had any difference of view regarding the non-adoption of the revised Chapter.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the concept of compartmentalisation was being introduced for several diseases, not just CSF. He explained that although this concept is considered as a relatively new concept, compartmentalisation has in fact been used for many years and has produced successful results, for instance in the eradication of bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis by some OIE Members. Dr Thiermann reminded Members that the Terrestrial Code Commission had previously proposed that CSF in wild swine be treated in the same manner as avian influenza in wild birds, namely that trade bans should not be applied in the case of findings of the disease in wildlife. He also reminded Members that the current text is under consultation with the *ad hoc* group on Epidemiology and the Scientific Commission. He invited OIE Members to provide guidance on how they wished to see these matters resolved.

In reply, the Delegate of Germany commented that the Community does not oppose the concept of compartmentalisation. However, the concept has not yet been implemented in practice and for this reason the Community did not accept the proposed draft text.

The Delegate of South Africa commented that the previous Chapter did not provide adequate advice to OIE Members. The presence of CSF in wildlife prevents Members from declaring freedom from the disease. The use of compartmentalisation is very important to ensure that trade can continue, despite the presence of the disease in wildlife.

The OIE President asked the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group, including EU experts on CSF and others on compartmentalisation, to advise the Members on this matter.

The Director General stated that it was important to maintain the credibility of the OIE. This chapter had been discussed for many years and has given rise to conflicting decisions depending on the year. Dr Vallat agreed that the OIE would do more work on the guidelines for the use of compartmentalisation, particularly in the case of CSF, to support exports from countries in which the disease occurs in wild pigs, and asked Members to make a commitment to adopt the revised text in 2009.

The chapter was not adopted. The appendix was adopted unanimously.



398. **Chapter 2.7.12. – Avian influenza, Appendix 3.6.5. – Guidelines on inactivation of the avian influenza virus and Appendix 3.8.9. – Guidelines on surveillance for avian influenza**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted that the Central Bureau had received many inquiries, from Members and industry representatives, about the health status of countries following occurrences of HPNAI<sup>39</sup> infection in various birds, including wild birds, pet birds and zoo birds. Dr Thiermann restated the Terrestrial Code Commission's rationale for the definition of 'poultry' and its desire to minimise negative effects on trade as well as to maintain the incentive for transparency in reporting. The Terrestrial Code Commission amended the text of several articles to address Member comments, and to make the format of this chapter consistent with that of Chapter 2.7.13. Newcastle disease (ND) and the associated surveillance guidelines. The Terrestrial Code Commission considered that the two texts could now be considered as harmonised.

Dr Thiermann also noted the receipt of scientific documents from a Member regarding the inactivation procedures for avian influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease and reported that these are under consideration. He reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission would again work on the inactivation of the viruses that cause AI and Newcastle disease.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of the United States of America requested clarification in regard to Articles 2.7.12.8.bis and 2.7.12.10.bis. He wished to know whether the aim was to test a statistically representative sample of flocks. Dr Thiermann confirmed this approach. With respect to the inactivation of AI viruses, the Delegate requested that the *ad hoc* Group complete this work and remove the designation 'under study' in 2009.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the proposed changes and requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission consider a previously provided comment, namely that trade should only be permitted if the compartment is free from notifiable AI. The Community supported the proposed changes to the Appendix but recommended that the term 'NAI' be used instead of 'HPAI' in Article 2.7.12.14., in the statement: "regardless of the status of a country, zone or compartment". Dr Thiermann agreed that this comment would be re-examined.

The Delegate of Vietnam supported the proposed text and commented that the word 'between' should be deleted from Article 2.7.14. for clarity of the text.

The Delegate of India commented on Article 2.7.12.1., stating that HPAI in wild birds and LPAI<sup>40</sup> in poultry in a country could still pose a danger to safe trading in poultry or poultry products. Therefore, the position adopted in the *Code*, namely that while HPNAI and LPNAI<sup>41</sup> are notifiable they should not lead to the immediate imposition of trade restrictions, is contradictory. Dr Thiermann pointed out that the Article had previously been accepted by the International Committee in 2007 and no proposal had been made to modify the text.

The Delegate of Argentina asked Dr Thiermann to modify the definition of poultry, to make reference to birds in captivity. Dr Thiermann replied that the definition had been carefully drafted to avoid the imposition of trade bans in response to findings in birds that are separate from the commercial sector. Modification of the definition was not, therefore, supported.

The chapter and appendices amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

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<sup>39</sup> HPNAI: highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza

<sup>40</sup> LPAI: low pathogenic avian influenza

<sup>41</sup> LPNAI: Low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza

399. **Chapter 2.7.13. – Newcastle disease and Guidelines on surveillance for Newcastle disease**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had addressed Member comments and modified draft text provided in March 2007 to be consistent with Chapter 2.7.12. Avian Influenza and Appendix 3.8.9. Guidelines on surveillance for avian influenza. Several Members commented that there is confusion and/or ambiguity in the definition of Newcastle disease (ND) and of Newcastle disease virus (NDV). The Terrestrial Code Commission clarified this issue by modifying Article 1. The Terrestrial Code Commission also brought the definition of ‘poultry’ into line with that of Chapter 2.7.12. Avian influenza. He noted that the definition of ND and the conditions for notification of this disease were adopted in Resolution No. XIII during the General Session in 1999.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, raised serious concerns of the Community on this chapter. The definition of the disease in Article 1 was strongly opposed, due to the implications of requiring reporting of Newcastle disease, which is present in wild birds all around the world. The Community requested that its comments on the definition of the disease be taken into account or it could not support adoption of the chapter.

In reply, Dr Thiermann proposed to re-insert into the first paragraph of Article 2.7.13.1. the words “for the purpose of international trade” and to make reference to ‘poultry’ rather than ‘birds’. In addition, the sixth paragraph would be deleted but the concept presented in this paragraph would be retained in text under Article 2.7.13.1.3., which deals with disease notification, with the addition of the words “according to Article 2.1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*”. These amendments would provide for consistency between the chapters on avian influenza and Newcastle disease and would address the points raised by the Delegate of Slovenia.

The Delegate of Chile requested an update on the preparation of text regarding the inactivation of Newcastle disease virus. Dr Thiermann confirmed that this matter was under examination; scientific information had been received, and appropriate text would be prepared for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* in 2009.

The chapter and appendix amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

400. **General guidelines on the design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission has worked on animal traceability, based on the advice of an *ad hoc* Group and the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, to address Member comments. The resulting text should help with the implementation of animal traceability by OIE Members. He also noted that an OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability will be held in March 2009 and would be the source of valuable information on this topic.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work on this topic and supported the proposed guidelines. The Community requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission address the written comments previously provided. The Community would support the planned international Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability.

The appendix was adopted unanimously.

401. **Animal welfare**

Dr Thiermann stated that the Terrestrial Code Commission had continued to work on this important topic with advice from the Working Group on Animal Welfare and *ad hoc* Groups, in accordance with the mandate given by the International Committee. He also noted that the 2nd OIE Global Conference would be held on 20–22 October 2008 in Cairo, Egypt, with the goal of supporting the implementation of OIE standards.

**Definition of ‘animal welfare’ and Appendix 3.7.1. – Introduction to the guidelines for animal welfare**

The Terrestrial Code Commission had discussed the definition of ‘animal welfare’ with the Working Group on Animal Welfare in September 2007. The Terrestrial Code Commission reviewed Member comments and proposed an expanded definition for ‘animal welfare’ in consultation with the Working Group on Animal Welfare. The Terrestrial Code Commission proposed to include this new definition in Chapter 1.1.1. and to insert an introductory paragraph regarding this definition in Appendix 3.7.1. The Administrative Commission, meeting the week before the General Session, proposed amendments to this proposal, and these are being presented to the Committee.

Dr O’Neil, President of the OIE, drew the Delegates’ attention to the discussion of the animal welfare definition in the Administrative Commission and the revised text that had been circulated for Members’ consideration earlier in the week.

The Delegate of Australia thanked the OIE for its work on this important topic. Australia accepted the proposed text but would also consult stakeholders and may provide additional comments to the OIE to further improve the text in future.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported adoption of the revised definition.

The definition of ‘animal welfare’ amended as described in the working paper circulated to Members was adopted unanimously.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Uruguay requested clarification on the Spanish translation of the term ‘performance criteria’ and ‘design criteria’ in Article 3.7.1.4., point 8. Dr Thiermann agreed that there appeared to be an error in translation and proposed an alternative text in Spanish. Dr Thiermann undertook that the OIE would provide some examples to illustrate the meaning of these terms.

The Delegate of Japan proposed to add a new sentence to Article 3.7.1.1., as follows: “Animal welfare measures are normally implemented taking into account the other concurring priorities of each Member”.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU, opposed the inclusion at this late stage of the amendment proposed by the Delegate of Japan.

The Delegate of India supported the proposal made by the Delegate of Japan.

The Delegate of Colombia supported the Delegate of Japan and commented that there had previously been discussion of the need for developing countries to implement animal welfare measures over a period of time.

The OIE President commented that, while it is true that Members are at different stages in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare guidelines, the proposal of the Delegate of Japan would not materially assist this situation. The President considered that as there has already been considerable work on the animal welfare definition, further changes at

this late stage would not be appropriate. Dr O’Neil requested that the proposal of the Delegate of Japan be further considered by the Terrestrial Code Commission and be reported back at the next General Session. Dr Thiermann suggested that the Japanese proposal also be considered by the Working Group on Animal Welfare at its next meeting.

The Delegate of Uruguay urged the OIE to take account of the different production systems of Members in further developing its recommendations on animal welfare. Dr Thiermann agreed that this would be done.

The definition of ‘animal welfare’, amended as described above, and the appendix were adopted unanimously.

#### **Appendices 3.7.2. – Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea and 3.7.3. – Guidelines for the transport of animals by land**

At its September meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined Member comments and the work of the Working Group on Animal Welfare to refine these appendices. At its March meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined additional Member comments and made certain adjustments.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work on animal welfare and requested the scientific rationale for non-acceptance of its previously provided written comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The appendices were adopted unanimously.

#### **Appendix 3.7.4. – Guidelines for the transport of animals by air**

At its March meeting, the OIE prepared an update to Appendix 3.7.4. based on the revised IATA<sup>42</sup> Live Animals Regulations, which came into effect on 1 October 2007. Dr Thiermann recalled that the original text of this appendix had been based on the previous version of the IATA Live Animals Regulations.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The appendix was adopted unanimously.

#### **Appendices 3.7.5. and 3.7.6. – Guidelines for the slaughter of animals and Guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control purposes**

At its September meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined Member comments and the work of the Working Group on Animal Welfare to refine these appendices. At its March meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined additional Member comments and made additional adjustments.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the EU, thanked the OIE for its work on animal welfare and requested the scientific rationale for non-acceptance of its previously provided written comments. The Delegate also requested the removal of the revolving restraint box in Appendix 3.7.5. and asked the OIE to consider inclusion of the containerised gassing system for killing poultry in the list of methods presented in Appendix 3.7.6. Dr Thiermann explained that the revolving restraint box had to be retained as the text included all methods and clearly contraindicated the use of this one. Dr Thiermann gave an undertaking that the Terrestrial Code Commission would work in collaboration with the Working Group on Animal Welfare on the incorporation of the containerised gassing system.

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<sup>42</sup> IATA: International Air Transport Association

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The appendices were adopted unanimously.

### **Dog population control**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had examined extensive comments from Members on this topic. He also noted that most comments came from developed countries and dealt mostly with how to manage individually owned dogs. The small number of comments from developing countries was regrettable because this issue was of particular importance to those countries. The Terrestrial Code Commission encouraged developing country Delegates to identify the relevant Competent Authorities and bring this draft text to their attention. The Terrestrial Code Commission considered that it was important to finalise the guidelines. However, it was not possible to address the diversity of comments received and the Terrestrial Code Commission referred the text and the Member comments to the Working Group on Animal Welfare, with a request that the Group prepare an opinion in time for the September 2008 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann noted that views and experiences of developing countries on the subject of dog population control would be of critical importance for ensuring that the OIE recommendations would be applicable to developing countries where dog-borne rabies is a serious concern.

#### **402. *Aethina tumida* (Small hive beetle)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had proposed a new chapter on this disease in September and that it had addressed Member comments at its March meeting.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, urged the Terrestrial Code Commission to take account of its previously provided written comments. Dr Thiermann agreed to the deletion in the title of this chapter of the words ‘infestation of honey bees’ and undertook to refer to experts the request to add bumblebees to relevant Articles within the chapter.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

#### **403. Guidelines for somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock and horses**

Dr Thiermann noted that this new text had been drafted by the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology and submitted for Member comments by the Biological Standards Commission. The Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission addressed Member comments and comments from the IETS<sup>43</sup>.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The appendix was adopted unanimously.

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<sup>43</sup> IETS: International Embryo Transfer Society

404. **Appendix 3.3.5. – Categorisation of diseases and pathogenic agents by the IETS**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had received new recommendations from the IETS. He recalled that the text of this appendix had originally been based on the recommendation of the IETS.

Dr O’Neil, President of the OIE, recommended deletion of the words ‘by the IETS’ from the title of this appendix. Dr Thiermann agreed to this proposed amendment.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The appendix amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

405. **The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety had developed this text for the information of Members and that the OIE had decided to include it as a new chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*. The text had been provided for Member comment as annex XXXI to the Terrestrial Code Commission’s September report.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the International Trade Department would be asked to make the necessary changes to the text to bring it into line with *Terrestrial Code* texts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Uruguay stated that he was not opposed to adoption of the text but asked for some opportunity to reconsider this text at the General Session in 2009. He wished to raise the issue of the delegation of ante- and post-mortem inspection activities to the private sector. The Delegate stated that although this practice does occur, he felt that the OIE should not support this approach and that these activities should be undertaken by the Veterinary Authority.

Dr Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, expressed concern at the possibility that the text on the delegation of inspection activities would be initially included, then deleted, from this text. The change proposed by the Delegate of Uruguay was a significant change and it could be difficult for Members to be faced with significant changes in a short period after the adoption of the text. Dr Thiermann replied that this text is not a standard; rather, it is provided for the guidance of Members. Dr Thiermann considered that the current text adequately covered the option of delegation of inspection activities to the private sector.

The Delegate of Uruguay clarified his comments, stating that he does not agree with the proposal that the private sector may carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection.

Dr O’Neil stated that this matter should be referred to the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety for further advice and proposed that the text be adopted in the interim.

The appendix amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

406. **Chapter 2.1.1. – Notification criteria for listing diseases**

Dr Thiermann stated that the proposal resulted from the report of the *ad hoc* Group on the Notification of Terrestrial Animal Diseases / Pathogenic Agents in Annex XXXII of the Terrestrial Code Commission’s September report. The Terrestrial Code Commission accepted all the proposed changes at its March meeting.

The Delegate of Japan requested an explanation for the proposed deletion of malignant catarrhal fever from the list. Dr Thiermann provided advice, based on the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Disease Listing.

The Delegate of Sudan requested clarification as to the deletion of malignant catarrhal fever, pointing out that this disease exists in two forms, a sheep form and a wildebeest form. Dr O’Neil clarified that only the wildebeest form had previously been listed and this was now proposed for deletion.

The Delegate of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the proposed changes and made some additional comments. There are some discrepancies between OIE-listed diseases, the diseases covered in the *Manual*, and the OIE disease cards and questions on how to list diseases affecting wildlife. The Community recommended that this matter be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group on Disease Listing, in collaboration with the Wildlife Working Group. Dr O’Neil agreed that this request should be addressed by the OIE in the year to come.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**407. Chapter 1.4.5. – International Transfer of pathogens**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Terrestrial Code Commission had proposed certain amendments in March 2006 and had postponed a decision until the publication of a new edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*). Dr Thiermann emphasised the fact that the changes were strictly editorial and were limited to the movement of (unchanged) text from the *Terrestrial Code* to the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

**408. Future work programme**

Due to the volume of Member comments and the lack of time at the March meeting, Dr Thiermann reported that the draft chapter on West Nile fever and the guidelines on animal feed would be addressed at the Terrestrial Code Commission’s September 2008 meeting. He also acknowledged the work of an *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis in the development of new guidelines on salmonellosis in layer hens and broilers and proposed modification of the *Terrestrial Code* Appendix on Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry production. He also thanked experts who had provided a revised draft Chapter 2.4.8. Scrapie and the revision of Chapter 2.2.1. Anthrax.

Dr Thiermann noted that additional revised texts, including those addressing salmonellosis and scrapie, had been provided to Members for comment in Part B of the March meeting report. He encouraged Members to review these texts and provide comments so that the Terrestrial Code Commission could prepare draft texts for adoption at the 77th General Session.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission, at its September meeting, had reviewed the Commission's work programme, taking into account the outcomes of the 75th General Session, Member comments and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. He encouraged Members to provide comments on the future work programme of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

409. The International Committee noted the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

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≡ THURSDAY 29 MAY 2008 ≡

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<b>SIXTH PLENARY SESSION</b>
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## **Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)**

### **Biological Standards Commission**

410. Prof. Steven Edwards, President of the Biological Standards Commission, presented the activities of the Commission, which met twice, from 25 to 27 September 2007 and from 22 to 24 January 2008 (Docs 76 SG/12/CS2 A and B). Additional business was transacted between meetings by e-mail. He thanked the Members of the Commission who had participated in the meetings for their support. The Commission currently comprises Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, Dr Mehdi El Harrak, Secretary-General, Dr Santanu K. Bandhopadhyay and Dr Vladimir Drygin, Members. He expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants, Dr Peter Wright, specialist in diagnostic tests, and Dr James Pearson, consultant, 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 unstinting in their support.

### **411. OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

The Commission supports and recommends proposals to establish an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training Veterinary Officials and Control of Infectious Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Tropical Africa, at the Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV) in Dakar, Senegal; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Validation, Quality Assessment and Quality Control of Diagnostic Assays and Vaccine Testing for Vesicular Diseases in Europe, at the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Vétérinaires et Agrochimiques (CERVA) in Ukkel, Belgium; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Capacity Building, at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, Australia; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Surveillance and Control of Animal Protozoan Diseases, at the National Research Center for Protozoan Diseases, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan; and an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Services Capacity Building at the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS), University of Minnesota, United States of America.

The Commission recommends acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status:

*Foot and mouth disease:* Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, Exotic Diseases Division, South Africa.

*Foot and mouth disease:* Laboratorio de Fiebre Aftosa de la Dirección de Laboratorios y Control Técnico, Argentina.

*Avian influenza:* Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, Harbin, People's Republic of China.



*Bovine viral diarrhoea*: Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute (EMAI), Australia.

*Enzootic bovine leukosis*: National Veterinary Research Institute, Poland.

*American foulbrood*: Laboratorio de Loque Americana de la Unidad de Bacteriología del Centro de Investigaciones en Fitopatología (CIDEFI), Argentina.

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 were presented to the Committee by Prof. Edwards and will be published in the list of OIE Reference Laboratories.

The Commission continues to encourage appropriate laboratories in developing countries to apply for twinning projects. The aim is to build capacity in laboratories in developing countries, the ultimate goal being to have more reference laboratories in those countries. It is important that the candidate laboratories can show evidence of sustainability and credibility. The OIE Twinning Manual, developed within the Scientific and Technical Department, was commented on and endorsed by the Commission. The financial support provided through the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund is an important element in the programme. A number of twinning projects are now active, and more are in process of application and approval. It was agreed that either an OIE Reference Laboratory or an OIE Collaborating Centre could be the 'parent' partner in a twinning arrangement provided that the support provided by the OIE was related to the topic of the twinning.

Reports were received from 136/142 Reference Laboratories and all 23 Collaborating Centres for diseases of terrestrial animals. An analysis of the reported activities is included in the report of the January meeting (pp.2–3). The full set of reports will be supplied on CD-ROM to Members and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Commission continues to stress the huge importance of the international activities of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

The second International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres is planned for 2010. This could be an opportunity to update the mandates of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and to identify any compliance issues.

#### 412. **International standardisation of diagnostic tests**

The Commission considers the preparation of internationally accepted standard reference materials for avian influenza to be a matter of high priority. A meeting of the Reference Laboratories in the OFFLU network in March 2008 had initiated a number of projects to take this forward. Concerning other OIE-listed diseases, work has continued among OIE Reference Laboratories to prepare reference materials for diagnostic tests for enzootic bovine leukosis; ovine, caprine and porcine brucellosis; rabies; and dourine. The Commission will continue to monitor and encourage such activities.

#### 413. **International standardisation of vaccines**

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the 2008 report of the equine influenza expert surveillance panel, which can be found at Appendix V of the January report. The year 2007 was a significant one for equine influenza. Vaccine manufacturers and regulatory authorities are urged to take note of the recommendations, in particular regarding the strains to be included in this year's equine influenza vaccines. The key recommendations will also be published in the OIE *Bulletin*.

The Commission noted a report from the OIE Regional Workshop on Harmonisation of Veterinary Vaccines at the Veterinary Biologics Assay Division, Bureau of Quality Control of Livestock Products, Pakchong, Thailand, in January 2008. The participants expressed great interest in the OIE twinning initiative and the OIE standards on vaccines.

#### 414. **List of prescribed and alternative tests**

The Commission normally only recommends prescribed tests for international trade for diseases on the OIE List, and then only when the *Terrestrial Code* specifies laboratory testing prior to the movement of animals. In future, now that the OIE template for test validation has been adopted, new designations for prescribed tests will only be made when a comprehensive validation dossier has been presented supporting the fitness of the test for this purpose. For tests that may be useful in international trade or movement, but lack a full validation dossier, the designation as alternative tests will be retained.

The Commission maintained a dialogue with the Terrestrial Code Commission to ensure that new or revised *Terrestrial Code* chapters calling for international trade testing are appropriately supported by tests in the *Terrestrial Manual*. An example is African horse sickness, where the real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is proposed as an alternative test for trade, where the *Terrestrial Code* so requires. The validation data are as yet insufficiently complete for its designation as a prescribed test. There is also a need to clarify the analytical specificity of the test in regard to related viruses such as equine encephalosis virus.

In the case of West Nile fever, the Commission advised the Terrestrial Code Commission that although a PCR test has been validated in horses, no validated test was available for ducks and geese and it could not currently recommend any test suitable for trade testing in such species.

The Commission had requested advice from the OIE Reference Laboratory experts on the suitability of proposing the gamma interferon test as a prescribed test for bovine tuberculosis. Based on the answers received, the Commission recommends that the test be designated, at this stage, as an alternative test for trade. As the test is only available as a commercial kit, the manufacturer would be encouraged to apply to have the kit included on the OIE register, which would give the opportunity for a fuller evaluation of its validation data. Considering the wider use of the gamma interferon test for diagnosis and surveillance, the Commission noted that the test has higher sensitivity but lower specificity than the tuberculin test and as such might be better used as a screening test, with the tuberculin test being used for confirmation. It is nevertheless important to take account of practical considerations such as general familiarity with the tuberculin test, and the difficulty in some countries of getting blood samples to the laboratory in time to preserve their lymphocyte viability, which is an essential component of the gamma interferon test. Experts agree that the most reliable diagnosis is achieved by using both tests in a complementary fashion.

The Commission recommends that the real-time PCR test for African horse sickness and the gamma interferon test for bovine tuberculosis be adopted as alternative tests for international trade.

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

The sixth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* was adopted by the International Committee last year and printed copies of the English version are now available. The Web version will be uploaded during the coming months. It is envisaged that the French and Spanish translations will be available on the Web in December of this year, and that the paper versions will be available in January/February 2009. Prof. Edwards paid special tribute to the work of the editorial team (Dr James Pearson and Ms Sara Linnane) as well as the expert advice provided by OIE Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and Members.

The Commission had agreed with the Terrestrial Code Commission to append current *Terrestrial Code* texts dealing with risk analysis for veterinary vaccines and biologicals to the introductory chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* on vaccine production and tests for sterility, respectively.

Prof. Edwards noted the increasing burden on a very small team of keeping the *Terrestrial Manual* up to date with the latest scientific knowledge. The Commission felt the current pattern of publishing a completely new edition every 4 years was becoming unmanageable. It is proposed that each year a set of chapters should be identified that are in need of priority revision. These would be updated in the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* following adoption by the International Committee. The production of new printed editions at 4-yearly intervals could continue according to the directions from OIE, but this would be an accumulation of the annual updates rather than a complete revision of the whole *Terrestrial Manual*. In line with this the Commission has identified chapters to be revised during 2008 for presentation to the Committee in May 2009. Delegates are invited to suggest chapters needing priority revision.

416. **Register of OIE validated and certified diagnostic tests**

The OIE validation template for diagnostic tests is becoming widely acknowledged and used around the world. Applications to the OIE for test kits to be included on the Register are slowly building up, although it is disappointing that diagnostics companies have not yet made more use of the procedure. In a meeting to address this with the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Manufacturers, the Director General had announced a reduction in the application fee for the OIE Register, and the template had been simplified and clarified. Further work to clarify the template and provide guidelines is planned during 2008. Although the full dossiers remain confidential for commercial reasons, a short summary of the key data used for validation will be published on the OIE Web site for kits added to the Register. The Commission determined that the Register be limited to tests used for infectious disease diagnosis or identification of a pathogenic agent, as it was not designed for kits for other applications, such as animal traceability.

The Commission endorsed the expert reports on the two dossiers below and recommends to the Committee that both kits be placed on the OIE Register:

- the Prionics®-Check-WESTERN for the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle, for the following purposes: 1. For confirmatory diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (including confirmation of a positive screening test); 2. For estimating prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control, e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures, etc.) and for assisting in the demonstration of the efficiency of control policies; and 3. To confirm a non-negative test result obtained during active surveillance with a different type of test.

- the BioChek Avian Influenza Antibody Test Kit for avian influenza for the serological diagnosis in chickens of type A avian influenza (specific to IgG in the serum), for the following purposes: 1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd); 2. To demonstrate re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks in a defined population (country/zone/compartment/herd); 3. For confirmatory diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases; 4. For estimating prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control); and 5. For determining the immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination).

Prof. Edwards reminded the International Committee that a test kit for white spot disease in crustaceans had also been proposed for inclusion in the OIE register by the Aquatic Animals Commission (see Resolution No. XXVII).

#### 417. **OIE quality standard and laboratory guidelines**

The second edition of the booklet *OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories* was published in 2008. The texts take account of the latest version of the ISO 17025 standard, as well as refinements of the guidelines on test validation, preparation of reference materials, and external quality assurance/proficiency testing. The booklet also includes a new guideline on validation of tests that use the polymerase chain reaction.

#### 418. ***Ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology**

The reports of the meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology were appended to the September 2007 (pp. 13–39) and January 2008 (pp. 13–24) meeting reports of the Commission. The Commission recommended that future work of the Group should be carried out through a series of smaller, specialised subgroups. It proposed that priorities for future work should be: applications of biotechnology to molecular diagnostics; RNA-based technologies; vaccinology, in particular the use of genetically modified and recombinant DNA vaccines and their implications for food safety and animal health; and the implications of biotechnology and genetic engineering for animal health and welfare.

The *ad hoc* Group had developed Draft Guidelines for Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (Appendix III of the report of the June 2007 meeting of the *ad hoc* Group), which have been passed to the Terrestrial Code Commission for consideration for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. The *ad hoc* Group also developed Draft Guidelines for Veterinary Plasmid DNA Vaccines (see Appendix IV of the aforementioned *ad hoc* Group report), which will be finalised later this year. The Commission proposed that genetically modified animals should fall within the remit of this *ad hoc* Group, but for aspects related to traceability the Group should collaborate with the *ad hoc* Group on Traceability.

The *ad hoc* Group had prepared a paper on “Potential Nanotechnology Applications in Animal Health”, which was referred to the Publications Department. In addition a shorter paper on “Nanotechnologies in diagnosis and vaccine development” (Appendix IV of the report of the January meeting of the Commission, pp. 25–26) is proposed for adoption in the *Terrestrial Manual*. If adopted it will be included in the Web version later this year.

#### 419. **Antimicrobial resistance**

Dialogue has continued between the OIE and WHO on the lists of critically important antimicrobials. Following the adoption of the OIE list in May 2007, the Commission asked the OIE Reference Laboratory for Antimicrobial Resistance to keep it under review and suggest any modifications that may be needed.

420. ***Ad hoc* Group on Camelidae Diseases**

Following a request made during the General Session in May 2007, the Commission asked the OIE to convene an *ad hoc* Group to review the diagnosis of infectious diseases of camelids. The Group will be asked to identify important diseases of camels to investigate the suitability and validation of diagnostic tests in these species, and to identify areas where further research and development are needed.

421. **Liaison with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

At a joint meeting between the Biological Standards Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission it was agreed that equine rhinopneumonitis should be retained as the name of the OIE-listed disease. However the wording of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter is such that only infections with equine herpes virus type 1 (EHV-1) are the subject of regulation for international trade or movement, whereas the chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* covers clinical signs and diagnostic procedures for both EHV-1 and EHV-4 infections. Among the requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* is the requirement that horses should show “no clinical sign of equine herpes virus type 1 infection, on the day of shipment and during the 21 days prior to shipment”. Advice from experts was that a useful description of such suspected clinical signs would be, “pyrexia, nasal discharge, recent unexplained abortion, and/or hind limb ataxia of undetermined cause”.

The Commission provided advice to the Terrestrial Code Commission on the evaluation of laboratories as part of the OIE PVS Tool.

A discussion was held regarding infections with bat lyssaviruses and the implications of such infections for country status on rabies.

422. **Classical swine fever**

The Commission is working with the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology on the principles for differentiating infected from vaccinated animals (DIVA) as applied to various diseases. Although this approach shows promise for the control of classical swine fever, evidence is still lacking that it is fully effective. More comprehensive validation data are needed before it can be recommended. Advice was provided to the Terrestrial Code Commission on wording for the *Terrestrial Code* chapter that would address these concerns. In a dialogue with the Scientific Commission, the Commission agreed with Member comments that reverse-transcription PCR should be included as a practical tool in the surveillance guidelines for classical swine fever.

423. **OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Avian Influenza (OFFLU)**

The OFFLU Steering Committee had recommended a reorganisation of the network committee structure, which has now been implemented. Liaison officers are in place at both the OIE and FAO. In addition, the secretariat will now be based at the OIE Headquarters for the next 2 years. Avian influenza continues to be a matter of international concern, and the OFFLU Steering Committee has identified a number of specialist technical activities that should be initiated to deal with critical aspects of the science. One of these is a project on the application of genetic and antigenic mapping tools to support vaccination programmes in Indonesia. Others include work on diagnostic methods, vaccines, and applied epidemiology. An OFFLU-funded scientist is now in post and will be working on bioinformatics, liaising with all the OIE Reference Laboratories. The OFFLU Reference Laboratory experts met at the OIE Headquarters on 5 March to identify key areas for collaborative activity. Further details are available on the OFFLU Web site ([www.offlu.net](http://www.offlu.net)). At this meeting it was agreed that OFFLU would propose a draft resolution on sharing of AI information and virus strains.

It was also agreed that the Laboratories within the OFFLU Network should use the GISAID<sup>44</sup> database to render their biological data transparent.

**424. 8th OIE Biotechnology Seminar**

The OIE again collaborated with the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD) to present a seminar on the Applications of Biotechnology to the Diagnosis and Pathology of Animal Diseases during the highly successful 13th International Symposium of the WAVLD held in Melbourne, Australia, in November 2007. Keynote presentations identified emerging technologies that may be relevant to the future work of the OIE, and to the introduction of such technologies to national veterinary laboratories in Member Countries and Territories.

The OIE will likewise participate in the next WAVLD Congress, in Madrid, Spain, in 2009.

**425. Laboratory biosecurity**

Considerable attention has been focused on biosecurity following events in the United Kingdom last year. The Commission reviewed the current OIE Standards for biosafety and biosecurity as published in the sixth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* and concluded that they were appropriate and fit for purpose. A number of points were identified that could merit stronger emphasis when the chapter is next reviewed. These are detailed in the report of the September meeting (p.7).

Dialogue has continued with WHO and others on biosecurity requirements for packaging and shipment of infectious substances. The standards for this are determined by the United Nations as summarised in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission reiterated its opinion that diagnostic specimens for submission to OIE Reference Laboratories must continue to be allowed to be shipped as UN Category B.

While recognising the need to guard against bioterrorist-related activities, and the need for researchers to follow appropriate codes of conduct, the Commission emphasised that such codes should not be overly restrictive for legitimate studies.

426. President O'Neil thanked Prof. Edwards for his comprehensive presentation. Before opening the discussions on the draft resolutions, he asked the International Committee to consider the adoption of Prof. Edwards' report, pointing out that adoption of the report would imply approval of five new OIE Collaborating Centres, six new OIE Reference Laboratories, the changes in Reference Laboratory experts, the two new alternative tests, and incorporation of the proposed text on nanotechnologies into the chapter on biotechnology in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

427. The Delegate of Honduras thanked Prof. Edwards and congratulated him on his excellent report. Referring to the map showing the global distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories that Prof. Edwards had included in his presentation, the Delegate commented that there is clearly a need for Reference Laboratories in developing countries. He mentioned that Honduras has initiated a process to upgrade and accredit its laboratories using the OIE Quality Standard as a guideline. The Delegate expressed an interest in the OIE Twinning Programme and asked for details of how to initiate a project with a laboratory in Honduras. In response, Prof. Edwards explained that the Twinning Guide is available on the Web site and that it contains all the details. Should the Delegate already have a potential twinning partner in mind (OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre), he invited him to contact them directly; otherwise the OIE would help to identify a suitable twinning partner.

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<sup>44</sup> GISAID: Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data

428. The OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr Luis Barcos, informed the Delegates that a meeting of national veterinary laboratories for the Americas would be held in November 2008 to strengthen capacity and networking. He also proposed that the OIE should consider requesting Delegates to designate national focal points for veterinary laboratories. In response to Dr Barcos, Prof. Edwards stated that he fully supported the proposal to designate national focal points for laboratories.
429. The Delegate of Belize expressed his appreciation that twinning projects can be initiated with OIE Collaborating Centres as well as with Reference Laboratories.
430. The Delegate of Eritrea thanked Prof. Edwards for his report. The twinning project on brucellosis between Eritrea and the OIE Collaborating Centre in Teramo, Italy, is in the process of implementation. He expressed his appreciation to the OIE, to the Director of the Centre and to the Delegate of Italy. He mentioned that diagnostics and capacity building are very important for developing countries, many of which experience huge problems with disease control. He asked if the OIE could establish technical cooperation agreements with developing countries to assist them with national disease control programmes. Prof. Edwards was encouraged to hear that the twinning project was progressing well. He referred the Delegate's request for technical assistance to the OIE Director General.
431. The Delegate of Cuba thanked Prof. Edwards for his report and the work done by the Biological Standards Commission. He enquired about the application from Cuba for the designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Biotechnology, which was not mentioned in the presentation. Prof. Edwards stated that, as the application had been received after the last meeting, the Commission had not had enough time to discuss it in detail and propose a recommendation to the International Committee. He assured the Delegate that the application would be discussed at the next meeting of the Biological Standards Commission, which will be held in September 2008.
432. The Delegate of Ethiopia thanked Prof. Edwards. Regarding the *ad hoc* Group on Camelidae Diseases he spoke about an unknown disease that has been causing huge problems in dromedaries in Eastern Africa for the past 5 to 6 years. Despite expert intervention (e.g. from CIRAD-EMVT<sup>45</sup>, USDA<sup>46</sup> and FAO), the cause of the sudden death remains unknown and the disease has now become a problem in all of Africa. He asked that the *ad hoc* Group consider this situation during its meeting. Prof. Edwards thanked the Delegate and assured him that this disease would be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group. He asked the Delegate to send in writing any information that he might have that would assist the *ad hoc* Group in this matter.
433. The Delegate of Chile thanked Prof. Edwards and informed the Committee about the twinning initiative between Chile and Canada for infectious salmon anaemia. The first steps had been taken to finalise the agreement on the project for twinning. Prof. Edwards thanked the Delegate for this information and added that, for aquatic animal diseases, twinning projects are managed by the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission.
434. The Delegate of Senegal thanked Prof. Edwards and expressed his appreciation that the application from the Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV), in Dakar, Senegal to be designated as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training Veterinary Officials Controlling Infectious Animal Diseases and Zoonoses in Tropical Africa, would be proposed for adoption by the International Committee. If adopted, this would improve training and management of veterinary personnel and therefore veterinary and public health in the region. President O'Neil reiterated that the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centre are adopted with the adoption of Prof. Edwards' report.

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<sup>45</sup> CIRAD-EMVT: *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement – Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire* (Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine of the International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development)

<sup>46</sup> USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

435. Dr Bernard Vallat reminded the International Committee that twinning had been devised to encourage the participation of as many OIE Members as possible in the OIE Reference Laboratory network. He stressed that OIE Reference Laboratories have a great responsibility in fulfilling their mandate; their designation is based on their excellence, which includes a role as a global arbiter, and on a balanced geographical distribution. All applications received are evaluated by the Biological Standards Commission. Dr Vallat informed the Delegates that they could obtain printed copies of the Twinning Guide, available in the three languages, on leaving the conference room.
436. Regarding the second edition of the “OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories: infectious diseases”, which was published earlier this year, Dr Vallat reminded Delegates that they are sent free copies of all OIE publications. If they had not yet received their copy, they could obtain one from the OIE.
437. On the issue of national focal points for laboratories, Dr Vallat reminded Delegates that they had been asked to designate focal points in several other fields and that not all of the responses had yet been received. He considered that focal points should first be appointed in the previously identified fields before extending the concept to additional fields.
438. In response to the question from the Delegate of Eritrea, Dr Vallat pointed out that the current mandate does not provide for direct involvement of the OIE in national disease programmes. He reminded the Delegates that it is they who determine OIE policy. Any suggestions for changes to the policy must follow the OIE process, which starts with discussion in the Regional Commissions. For the moment priority is being given to strengthening the Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE President agreed with Dr Vallat. This issue could be discussed within the framework of the next OIE Strategic Plan. He added that this would be an important change in direction for the OIE, which therefore needs careful consideration.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI  
Sharing of avian influenza viral material and information  
in support of global avian influenza control**

439. The Delegate of Indonesia indicated that Indonesia has submitted a lot of viral material to several OIE Reference Laboratories. He requested that material transfer agreements (MTAs) be integrated into the resolution. Prof. Edwards answered that MTAs are important for laboratories involved in sharing materials in order to protect their interests, and a template is available on the OFFLU Web site. However, as laboratories can choose not to use this procedure, he believed that it would not be appropriate to include MTAs in the resolution.
440. The Delegate of India enquired whether sharing of information and material could be done on a reciprocal basis and the source receive more recognition than a simple acknowledgement in a scientific publication. President O’Neil indicated that the resolution had been discussed by the Administrative Commission; acknowledging that there are various ways in which laboratories share information and materials, the Administrative Commission had preferred to make the concept as wide and open as possible. Prof. Edwards proposed that the word “acknowledged” be changed to the word “recognised” in point 3 of the resolution.
441. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVI on Sharing of avian influenza viral material and information in support of global avian influenza control, with the change proposed above. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVI at the end of this report.



**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII  
Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE**

442. The Delegate of Belize had two comments: first concerning the use of the kit for AI as a confirmatory test following the diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases; secondly, he questioned the use of the word 'herd' in reference to avian and crustacean species. Prof. Edwards replied that the test is used as any serological test, for example to demonstrate seroconversion. It is therefore implicit that the test kit could be used for confirmatory testing following the diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases. Regarding the use of the word 'herd', Prof. Edwards stated that generic terms are used in the validation template; while recognising that 'herd' does not apply to all species, it would, however, be left in the resolution provided the Delegates did not object.
443. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVII on the Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVII at the end of this report.
444. The President invited the International Committee to adopt the report of the Biological Standards Commission and its recommendations: the proposed changes to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, the changes in Reference Laboratory experts, the two new alternative tests, and the text on nanotechnologies for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The International Committee adopted the report unanimously.

<b>SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION</b>
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**Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions**  
(Docs 76 SG/11A and B)

**Regional Commission for Africa**

445. Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 76 SG/11B AF).
446. The Committee noted the report.

**Regional Commission for the Americas**

447. Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 76 SG/11B AM).
448. The Committee noted the report.

**Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

449. Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, gave a report on the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 76 SG/11B AS).
450. He also presented the recommendations of the 25th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 26 to 30 November 2007.
451. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Queenstown.

### **Regional Commission for Europe**

452. Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 76 SG/11B EU).
453. The Committee noted the report.

### **Regional Commission for the Middle East**

454. On behalf of the President of the Commission, the OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, Dr Ghazi Yehia, gave a report on the meeting of the Commission held on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 76 SG/11B ME).
455. He also presented the recommendations of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007.
456. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Damascus.

### **Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions**

#### **Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXI Participation of Small Farmers in Animal Health Programmes**

457. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXI at the end of this report.

#### **Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXII Implication of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products**

458. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXXII at the end of this report.

### **Dates of the 77th General Session (May 2009)**

459. The Committee decided that the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee would be held from Sunday 24 May to Friday 29 May 2009. The Director General stated that the 77th General Session would also be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

### **Technical Items for the 77th General Session (May 2009)**

460. The Committee confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Administrative Commission:
- Impact of climate change and environmental changes on emerging and re-emerging animal disease and animal production.
461. Further to a decision of the Administrative Commission, the second Technical Item for 2009 will be determined by the Administrative Commission at its meeting in February prior to the next General Session, so that the latest developments in the field of animal health and welfare can be taken into account. This Item will not involve a questionnaire being sent to Member Countries.

The same procedure will apply to Technical Items for the Regional Conferences.

### **Technical Items for the 78th General Session (May 2010)**

462. The Committee selected the following Technical Item from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda:
- The critical contribution of veterinary activities to global food security for food derived from terrestrial and aquatic animals.
463. Further to the decision of the Administrative Commission, the second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) will be determined by the Administrative Commission at its meeting in February prior to the 78th General Session, so that the latest developments can be taken into account.

### **Preparation of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015) and OIE activities**

464. The Director General invited the Delegates to prepare proposals for the Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015), via the Regional Commissions, for examination by the Administrative Committee. This Fifth Plan will be submitted to the International Committee for adoption in May 2010.
465. The Delegate of Sudan proposed the organisation of national workshops attended by ministers, elected representatives and senior civil servants of the country. He also suggested that OIE bureaux should be opened in Member Countries and territories. In addition he proposed that Resolutions should be submitted to Members via diplomatic channels in order to enhance their status. He also considered that cooperation between international organisations was a key condition for the proper application of standards.
466. The Director General pointed out that national seminars had already been organised in more than twenty countries. He stated that these seminars could only be held if the host country participated in their funding. On the subject of opening national bureaux, he explained that the current resources of the OIE were insufficient and that priority was given to reinforcing and opening Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He expressed reservations concerning the use of diplomatic channels for Resolutions. He believed that the current OIE system was more efficient, with standards that had been adopted in 2 years, or even 1 year. This was a good compromise between the appropriation of standards by countries and the urgency of adopting them. He stated that 2 years ago the Central Bureau had sent a letter to all Members on the rights and obligations of Delegates, who were considered to be plenipotentiaries when they adopted Resolutions at a General Session. He confirmed that coordination between international organisations was essential and recommended in particular that the Veterinary Services should be represented in delegations from countries participating in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius, and that national coordination involving the Veterinary Services should take place prior to such meetings.
467. The Delegate of Russia raised the issue of the animal health situation in certain territories not recognised by the international community. He cited the example of Abkhazia, for which no information on African swine fever was available when the disease appeared.
468. The Director General stated that there were indeed territories where the veterinary authority could not inform the OIE about the animal health situation because of positions taken by the United Nations concerning sovereignty, except in exceptional cases, as was the case last year with Resolution No. XX (People's Republic of China/Chinese Taipei).

469. The Delegate of the Democratic Republic of Congo described the difficulties encountered by certain Delegates in obtaining a visa to take part in OIE meetings. He also raised the problem of fraud in the export of food products of animal origin that were unfit for consumption.
470. The Director General pointed out that the Headquarters Agreement signed with France in 1977 stipulated that visas should be issued free of charge for persons invited to participate in OIE meetings in France. He stated that the Central Bureau regularly intervened to remind French embassies of the contents of this agreement whenever problems were reported. He invited Members to inform the Central Bureau systematically of any difficulties they encountered. On the subject of fraud, the Director General reiterated the importance of veterinary certification and asked Members to use documents that could not be falsified. There should also be a permanent dialogue between the exporting country and the importing country. He pointed out that the scope of the OIE in these certificates relates solely to pathogens of animal origin.
471. The Delegate of Norway thought that good cooperation between international organisations should be promoted rather than excessive growth at the OIE, an organisation whose effectiveness was largely due to its modest size. Concerning the standard-setting process, she asked for closer dialogue between the Commissions and the Members, in addition to written comments.
472. The President stated that the Presidents of the Specialist Commissions were keen to have exchanges with Members that had submitted comments and encouraged a permanent dialogue between them. Concerning the General Session, he explained that operational improvements had been made in recent years, but was open to proposals for improving its efficiency.
473. The Delegate of Chad reminded the Committee that it had examined the French concepts of '*bientraitance animale*' (good treatment of animals) and '*bien-être animal*' (animal welfare).
474. The Director General stated that a semantic discussion on this subject, initiated by France, had taken place last year. He recalled that a new definition of '*bien-être animal*' had been adopted during this General Session that incorporated the concept of '*bientraitance animale*'. The problem could now be considered to have been resolved.
475. The Delegate of Bolivia cited the example of good coordination in the European Union where one country spoke on behalf of all the others. He considered that this should be the aim of all regions and that the OIE should promote such coordination and reinforce the regional and sub-regional bureaux.
476. The Delegate of Haiti believed that the OIE, thanks to its prestige and competence, could revitalise relations between countries in the same region, or different regions, to help developing countries. He cited the example of technical assistance provided to his country by Argentina.
477. The Director General stated that the OIE was constantly seeking to persuade the rich countries that providing animal health aid was a 'win-win' situation for all concerned, because it was aimed at eliminating reservoirs of pathogenic agents for the benefit of the entire international community. The OIE had paved the way for Veterinary Services to be considered as a global public good. This had resulted in a substantial increase in credits allocated by donors to animal health programmes. He stated that the PVS programme formed an integral part of this policy, covered by the current Strategic Plan, and that the OIE would continue to work in this direction.
478. The President concluded the debates by stating that the proposals made by the Members would be carefully examined during the preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan.

## **Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions (contd)**

### **Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

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

### **Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXX Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

481. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXX on Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously.
482. The text appears under Resolution No. XXX at the end of this report.

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≡ FRIDAY 30 MAY 2008 ≡

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<b>FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION</b>
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483. The roll call of Delegates showed that 121 countries were represented at the Administrative Session and that a quorum had been reached.

### **Report of the Director General On the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2007 (Doc. 76 SG/3)**

484. Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, finance and human resources, reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE and the elections that were due to be held during the Administrative Session.
485. 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.
486. 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 81st Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2007) (Doc. 76 SG/4) (RESERVED ON DELEGATES)**



**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor  
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 81st Financial Year**

(Docs 76 SG/15 and 76 SG/16)

497. The Committee noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) and Dr Nicola T. Belev (Bulgaria).
498. The Committee noted the reports of the External Auditor.
499. The President indicated that the Administrative Commission had accepted all the recommendations of the External Auditor and thanked her for the quality of her work.
500. The Delegate of Singapore asked for details on the management of the Pension Fund and liquid assets.
501. Mrs Cordier stated that the OIE was progressively following the recommendations for liquid assets. Concerning the Pension Fund, competitive bidding between two banking establishments resulted in improved yields. The active management of liquid assets could be extended to the current accounts. She said that it would be interesting for the future to have a cash management report submitted to the International Committee.
502. Dr Yehia gave details of the remarks made by the External Auditor concerning the budget of the Regional Representation for the Middle East.
503. The Delegate of Swaziland thanked the External Auditor for her comprehensive report and for the efforts made by the Central Bureau to ensure transparency.
504. The Delegate of South Africa requested that Members with significant contribution arrears should be penalised and that those paying their contribution in advance should be accorded a reduction.
505. The President stated that the Administrative Commission had decided that Members that are more than 7 years in arrears with their contributions would not have the right to vote and that no allowance would be paid to the Delegates concerned for the General Session.
506. The Director General stated that, this year, five countries were in this situation.
507. Mrs Cordier stated that for contribution arrears in excess of 3 years, the OIE includes a provision in its accounts for the entire unrecovered debt and that there is therefore no financial risk for the Organisation.
508. The Delegate of Singapore considered that it was important to harmonise the accounting system and asked whether the reserves of the Pension Fund had been professionally assessed.
509. Mrs Cordier stated that the current lack of classification by type of expenditure for the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund prevented consolidation of all expenditure, but explained that this was a computer problem, and would be resolved next year. On the subject of the Pension Fund, she stated that an assessment had been carried out by an actuary in 2002 and that the next evaluation would take place in early 2009.
510. The Delegate of Argentina was surprised that there were not more countries in the first category.

511. The President and the Director General stated that a letter had been sent to around forty countries to propose a change of contribution category, based on a study taking into account the gross domestic product and the share of agriculture and livestock production in the economy of these countries. Twenty-five countries had responded favourably, which was very encouraging. A few countries had still not responded and the Central Bureau would soon be sending them a new letter.
512. Draft Resolution No. III on the Financial Report for the 81st Financial Year of the OIE was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. III at the end of this report.

**Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and to  
Intergovernmental Organisations making Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies  
to the OIE, or participating in the Organisation of OIE Meetings**

513. The Director General sincerely thanked the Governments of:
- Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, the People's Republic of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Vietnam, as well as the World Bank, the European Commission and FAO for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the implementation of OIE programmes in 2007.
  - Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Djibouti, Eritrea, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Moldavia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vietnam for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2007.
514. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. IV. The text appears as Resolution No. IV at the end of this report.

**Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor**  
(Doc. 76 SG/17)

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

**2008 Budget**  
(Doc. 76 SG/5) **(RESERVED ON DELEGATES)**



**Proposed 2009 Contributions Scale  
and 2009 Budget Estimates**  
(Doc. 76 SG/6) **(RESERVED ON DELEGATES)**

### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. X Working Programme for 2009**

535. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. X on the Work Programme for 2009.
536. The Delegate of India considered that research and development should be encouraged and coordinated. He asked the Director General about the use of the United Nations Fund for avian influenza.
537. The Director General stated that support for research and development was already provided for in the Fourth Strategic Plan and that it would be necessary to persuade the decision-makers and donors of the importance of investing in veterinary research.

There is no specific United Nations fund for avian influenza, but a coordinator has been appointed, with whom the OIE is working in close collaboration, in partnership with the World Bank and other organisations.

538. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. X at the end of this report.

### **Activities of the Administrative Commission**

539. The President commented on document 76 SG/18, which summarises the activities of the Administrative Commission between May 2007 and May 2008, and reminded Delegates of the statutory provisions concerning this Commission. He informed the International Committee that, during its extraordinary meeting in September 2008, organised thanks to financial support from Canada, the Administrative Commission would examine a draft revision of the Basic Texts and would launch the preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015).
540. The document submitted included in an appendix the Chart on FAO and OIE Competencies and Complementarities in the Field of Animal Health and a table.
541. The International Committee adopted document 76 SG/18.

<b>SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION</b>
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### **Adoption of Draft Resolution No. IX Work Programme of the Director General for 2008–2010**

542. Dr Vallat presented the Draft Work Programme for 2008–2010 prepared in application of the Fourth Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee in May 2005.

543. Draft Resolution No. IX was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. IX at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII  
Food security and animal health**

544. The President presented for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXVIII on Food security and animal health. He drew the Committee's attention to the strong link that exists between the quantitative and qualitative security of food production and the control of animal diseases.
545. Dr Vallat pointed out that PVS evaluations can enable the capacities of the national Veterinary Services to be improved in this respect.
546. The Delegates of Jamaica, Botswana, Honduras, Singapore, Malaysia, Colombia, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania proposed amendments to the draft Resolution.
547. The amended Draft Resolution No. XXVIII was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. XXVIII at the end of this report.

**Mandate given to the Director General for the acquisition of a property  
situated at 14 rue de Prony**

548. The Director General stated that the increase in the number of staff at the Central Bureau and the constant growth in the mandates and activities of the OIE had made it necessary to rent offices at 14 rue de Prony, in the building adjoining the OIE Headquarters.
549. The Administrative Commission had deemed it preferable for the OIE to acquire the property situated at 14 rue de Prony. As this represents a considerable investment for the Organisation, a call for subscription will have to be launched, on a voluntary basis, among Members and potential donors to supplement the funding of this operation.
550. The Director General stated that an independent international agency would be called in to evaluate the asset. He proposed that, as is the practice with other international organisations, subscribers would benefit from special visibility (name of a country given to a room, etc.).
551. The Delegate of Argentina supported this Draft Resolution.
552. The Delegate of France noted the request concerning her country in the Draft Resolution and confirmed that France would ensure continuing support for the development of the OIE, but believed that other category 1 or 2 countries should also be canvassed.
553. The Delegate of Senegal proposed that the Resolution should be split into two Resolutions.
554. The Legal Counsel considered that the Draft Resolution could be kept as it stood.
555. The Delegate of Singapore supported the Draft Resolution and asked how the financing of the acquisition would be structured.
556. The Director General stated that it was not possible to propose financing without knowing the amount of the transaction and whether it would be compatible with the regular resources of the Organisation. When the amount was known, and if the operation was considered feasible, a letter would be sent to all countries to invite them to subscribe. Part of the loan that would be contracted could be covered by savings on OIE rental expenses and income from letting office space to third parties.

557. The International Committee supported this proposal.
558. Draft Resolution No. XI was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. XI at the end of this report.

**Modification of the Agreement between the World Organisation  
for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO)**

559. The Director General submitted for adoption the modified Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO), approved by the Administrative Commission.
560. 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 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**

561. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), approved by the Administrative Commission.
562. 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 International Poultry Council (IPC)**

563. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Poultry Council (IPC), approved by the Administrative Commission.
564. 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 International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

565. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), approved by the Administrative Commission.
566. The Delegate of Jamaica raised the problem of a lack of the use of dry ice for the transport of perishable food and biological products.
567. The Director General stated that the agreement with IATA would help to resolve this type of problem and invited Members to report to him any difficulties encountered in the field of air transport.
568. 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  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

569. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), approved by the Administrative Commission.
570. The Delegates of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago proposed adding the Caribbean to Article 1 of the Draft Agreement.

571. The President accepted this proposal.
572. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XVI at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

573. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), approved by the Administrative Commission.
574. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVII at the end of this report.

**Election of two Vice-Presidents of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

575. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to communicate the proposals of the Commission for the positions of Vice-Presidents of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposals:

Vice-President: Dr Zhang Zhongqui (People's Republic of China)

Vice-President: Dr Davinio P. Catbagan (Philippines).

**Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission  
for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

576. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Secretary General: Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan)

**Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission  
for Europe**

577. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for Europe to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Secretary General of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Secretary General: Dr Nicolay Vlasov (Russia).

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

578. The President asked the President of the Bureau 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 Kassem Nasser Al-Qahtani (Qatar).

## **Distribution of animal health status certificates**

579. The representatives of the following countries received a certificate from the OIE on behalf of their country certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, is recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Afghanistan, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Brunei, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

### **EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION**

#### **Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report**

580. The President reminded the Committee that the Draft Final Report was now being printed in two stages (first the Technical Sessions, then the Administrative Sessions), to save time during its examination by the Delegates.
581. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
582. 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 2008** 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 have been adopted in its final form.

#### **Closing Session**

583. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs 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 76th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
584. He invited the Delegates to return for the 77th General Session in May 2009.

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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

# ***Resolutions***

**Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE  
during its 76th General Session**

**25 – 30 May 2008**





## LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. I](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2007 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2007 and the beginning of 2008
- [No. II](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2007
- [No. III](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 81st Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2007)
- [No. IV](#) Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Territories and Intergovernmental Organisations that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the organisation of OIE Meetings
- [No. V](#) Authorisation to transfer part of the surplus of the 81st Financial Year of the OIE to 2008 budget
- [No. VI](#) OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 83rd Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2009)
- [No. VII](#) Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2009
- [No. VIII](#) Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. IX](#) Director's General Work programme for 2008-2010
- [No. X](#) Work programme for 2009
- [No. XI](#) Mandate given to the Director General for the acquisition of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony
- [No. XII](#) Modification of the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)
- [No. XIII](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- [No. XIV](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Poultry Council (IPC)
- [No. XV](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- [No. XVI](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- [No. XVII](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- [No. XVIII](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members
- [No. XIX](#) Recognition of the Rinderpest Status of Members
- [No. XX](#) Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members
- [No. XXI](#) Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Members

<a href="#"><u>No. XXII</u></a>	Update on procedures for Members for the official recognition and maintenance of status of certain animal diseases
<a href="#"><u>No. XXIII</u></a>	Update on the cost to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
<a href="#"><u>No. XXIV</u></a>	Animal Welfare
<a href="#"><u>No. XXV</u></a>	Animal Production Food Safety
<a href="#"><u>No. XXVI</u></a>	Sharing of avian influenza viral material and information in support of global avian influenza prevention and control
<a href="#"><u>No. XXVII</u></a>	Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE
<a href="#"><u>No. XXVIII</u></a>	Food Security and Animal Health
<a href="#"><u>No. XXIX</u></a>	Amendments to the OIE <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>
<a href="#"><u>No. XXX</u></a>	Amendments to the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
<a href="#"><u>No. XXXI</u></a>	Participation of Small Farmers in Animal Health Programmes
<a href="#"><u>No. XXXII</u></a>	Implications of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products

RESOLUTION No. I

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2007  
and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2007 and the beginning of 2008**

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 2007 (76 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2007 and the beginning of 2008 (76 SG/2).

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. II

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities  
and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2007**

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 81<sup>st</sup> Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2007) (76 SG/3).

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. III

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 81<sup>st</sup> Financial Year of the OIE  
(1 January – 31 December 2007)**

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 81<sup>st</sup> Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2007) (76 SG/4).

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. IV

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

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2007 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2007,

THE COMMITTEE

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of:

1. Argentina, Australia, Canada, People's Republic of China, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vietnam, and the European Commission, the FAO and the World Bank, for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2007.
2. Argentina, Belarus, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Djibouti, Eritrea, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Moldavia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vietnam for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2007.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. V

**Authorisation to transfer part of the surplus of the 81st Financial Year  
of the OIE to 2008 budget**

**RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

RESOLUTION No. VI

**OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 83rd Financial Year  
(1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 December 2009)**

**RESERVED ON DELEGATES**



RESOLUTION No. VII

**Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2009**

**RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

RESOLUTION No. VIII

**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 (2008) the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. IX

**Director General's Work Programme for 2008-2010**

CONSIDERING

Resolution No X adopted by the International Committee during the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Session in May 2005,

The document 76 SG/19 presenting the Director General's Work Programme for 2008-2010, in compliance with the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the Director General's Work Programme for 2008-2010.

REQUEST

The Director General to prepare, according to the orientations of this Work Programme, annual programmes including the corresponding budgets.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. X

**Work Programme for 2009**

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Fourth Strategic Plan by the International Committee during its 74th General Session in May 2006,

Resolution No. IX adopted by the International Committee during the 76th General Session in May 2008,

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. DECIDES

To approve the 2009 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Annex I of document 76 SG/6).

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries and Territories 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.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XI

**Mandate given to the Director General for the acquisition  
of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony**

CONSIDERING

The International Agreement for the creation of an Office International des Epizooties in Paris, done at Paris, 25 January 1924 and its appendix (Organic Statutes);

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of France and the OIE concerning the headquarters of the OIE and its privileges and immunities on French territory, signed in Paris on 21 February 1977;

The Organic Rules of the OIE and the General Rules of the OIE, decided by the International Committee on 24 May 1973;

The Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE (2006-2010) adopted by the International Committee on 27 May 2005;

The increase in the number of staff at the OIE Central Bureau due to the constant growth in the organisation's mandates and activities;

The extensive office space at 14 rue de Prony currently rented by the OIE;

THE COMMITTEE, ON A PROPOSAL BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

DECIDES

To give the Director General a mandate to negotiate at the best possible price and for an amount compatible with the regular resources of the organisation, the acquisition by the OIE of all or part of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony, to seek the agreement of the Administrative Commission before proceeding with this acquisition and to launch a voluntary subscription among Member Countries and Territories and other potential donors to enable the financing of the acquisition to be completed.

RECOMMENDS THAT

OIE Member Countries and Territories and other potential donors help in the acquisition of this property by participating in the voluntary subscription that will be launched by the Director General or by making voluntary contributions or specific subsidies. France, the host country of the headquarter of the organisation, is invited to make a special effort.

REQUESTS

The Director General to report to the International Committee at the 77th General Session on progress made with the acquisition of this property.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XII

**Modification of the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organisation (WHO)**

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) adopted on 16 December 2004,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to update the terms of cooperation between the OIE and the WHO on the subject of food safety,

The modification of the Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 22 May 2008 (76 SG/20),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

---

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XIII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES),

The Agreement between the OIE and ICES approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 20 February 2008 and signed by the Director General (76 SG/21),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XIV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the International Poultry Council (IPC)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Poultry Council (IPC),

The Agreement between the OIE and IPC approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 20 February 2008 and signed by the Director General (76 SG/22),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)



RESOLUTION No. XV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA),

The Agreement between the OIE and IATA approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 20 February 2008 (76 SG/23),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XVI

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),

The Agreement between the OIE and IDB approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 20 February 2008 (76 SG/24),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XVII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU),

The Agreement between the OIE and WAEMU approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 22 Mai 2008 (76 SG/25),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XVIII

**Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Adoption of subsequent Resolutions<sup>1</sup> since the 62nd General Session of the OIE International Committee has established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. 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 for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
3. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which stated that the Delegates of Members where entire countries or zones 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,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission regarding the evaluation of countries or zones as being free from FMD have been submitted to Members for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Members applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information, 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 FMD.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

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

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<sup>1</sup> 62nd General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) IX; 63rd GS Res XI and Res XII; 64th GS Res XII, 65th GS Res XVII and 71st GS Res XXI.

Albania	France	Montenegro
Australia	Germany	Netherlands
Austria	Greece	New Caledonia
Belarus	Guatemala	New Zealand
Belgium	Guyana	Nicaragua
Belize	Haiti	Norway
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Honduras	Panama
Brunei	Hungary	Poland
Bulgaria	Iceland	Portugal
Canada	Indonesia	Romania
Chile	Ireland	Serbia <sup>2</sup>
Costa Rica	Italy	Singapore
Croatia	Japan	Slovakia
Cuba	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Cyprus	Latvia	Spain
Czech Rep.	Lithuania	Sweden
Denmark	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Dominican Republic	Madagascar	Ukraine
El Salvador	Malta	United Kingdom
Estonia	Mauritius	United States of America
Finland	Mexico	Vanuatu
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia		

2. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Chinese Taipei and Uruguay.

3. The Director General publish the following list of Members having a FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*<sup>3</sup>:

Argentina: the zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

Botswana: the zones as designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2006;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina;

Colombia: zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department) and in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andres and Providencia);

Malaysia: zones of Sabah and Sarawak designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;

Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General in February 1997;

Peru: zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in two documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004 and in January 2007;

Philippines: Islands of Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate;

<sup>2</sup> Including Kosovo administered by the United Nations

<sup>3</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, it is required to address enquiries to the Director General of the OIE

South Africa: zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2005.

4. The Director General publish the following list of Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: zone of Argentina designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007.

Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and a zone situated in the western part of the Department of Oruro in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2005;

Brazil: States of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of Amazon state, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia and the middle southern part of the State Pará, as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in March 2004 and February 2007. The States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Tocantins, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo of Brazil as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2008;

Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, two zones designated by the Delegate in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004 and a south western zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

Paraguay: zone designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Central Bureau if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

## RESOLUTION No. XIX

### **Recognition of the Rinderpest Status of Members**

#### CONSIDERING THAT

1. Adoption of subsequent Resolutions<sup>1</sup> since the 63rd General Session of the OIE International Committee has established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from rinderpest according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. During the 69th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVI which stated that Delegates of Members where entire countries or zones are recognised as rinderpest free, annually reconfirm by letter during the month of November that their rinderpest status and the criteria by which the status was recognized have remained unchanged,
3. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking fees to be paid by Members applying for evaluation for freedom from rinderpest and that these fees would be recovered whenever possible from sources other than the applicant countries,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information, 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.
5. During the 75<sup>th</sup> General Session the International Committee adopted the proposed update in the “OIE rinderpest pathway” of the *Terrestrial Code*. In view of the progress in global rinderpest eradication, the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code* 2007 were restricted the sole recognition of rinderpest free status representing a country-wide infection free status. Therefore new applications of Members for zones free from rinderpest or rinderpest disease free status are no longer applicable.

#### THE COMMITTEE

#### RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as free from rinderpest, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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<sup>1</sup> 63rd General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) XIV; 67th GS Res XVI, 68th GS Res XIII, and 70th GS Res XVI

Afghanistan	Czech Rep.	Korea (Rep. of)	Romania
Albania	Denmark	Latvia	Rwanda
Algeria	Ecuador	Lebanon	Senegal
Andorra	Egypt	Lesotho	Serbia <sup>2</sup>
Angola	El Salvador	Lithuania	Singapore
Argentina	Equatorial Guinea	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Australia	Eritrea	Madagascar	Slovenia
Austria	Estonia	Malawi	South Africa
Barbados	Ethiopia	Malaysia	Spain
Belarus	Finland	Mali	Sudan
Belgium	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Malta	Swaziland
Benin	France	Mauritania	Sweden
Bhutan	Gabon	Mauritius	Switzerland
Bolivia	Germany	Mexico	Tajikistan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ghana	Moldavia	Tanzania
Botswana	Greece	Mongolia	Thailand
Brazil	Guatemala	Morocco	Togo
Bulgaria	Guinea	Mozambique	Trinidad and Tobago
Burkina Faso	Guinea Bissau	Myanmar	Tunisia
Burundi	Guyana	Namibia	Turkey
Canada	Haiti	Nepal	Uganda
Chile	Honduras	Netherlands	Ukraine
China	Hungary	New Caledonia	United Kingdom
Chinese Taipei	Iceland	New Zealand	United States of America
Colombia	India	Norway	Uruguay
Congo	Indonesia	Pakistan	Uzbekistan
Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	Iran	Panama	Vanuatu
Côte d'Ivoire	Ireland	Paraguay	Venezuela
Costa Rica	Italy	Peru	Vietnam
Croatia	Jamaica	Philippines	Zambia
Cuba	Japan	Poland	Zimbabwe
Cyprus	Jordan	Portugal	

2. The Director General publish until May 2009 the following list of Members being free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code* 2006:

Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

3. The Director General publish until May 2009 the following Member having a zone designated by the Delegate as free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code* 2006 <sup>3</sup>:

Kenya: zone designated by the Delegate of Kenya in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2005.

AND

4. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

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<sup>2</sup> Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations

<sup>3</sup> For detailed information on the delimitation of Kenya's zone recognised as free from rinderpest disease, it is required to address enquiries to the Director General of the OIE



RESOLUTION No. XX

**Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Adoption of subsequent Resolutions<sup>1</sup> since the 71st General Session of the OIE International Committee has established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Members applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
3. During the 72nd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII that implemented the establishment of a list of countries or zones free from CBPP and included in that list Members already recognised free of CBPP by the OIE,
4. During the 72nd General Session the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII which stated that the Delegates of Members where countries or zones are recognised as CBPP free, annually confirm by letter during the month of November that their CBPP status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
5. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country or zonal disease free status based on inaccurate information, 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 CBPP,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 2.3.15. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia  
Botswana

India  
Portugal

Switzerland  
United States of America

AND

2. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Central Bureau if CBPP occurs in their countries.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

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<sup>1</sup> 71st General Session (GS) Resolution (Res) XXIV, 72nd GS res XXIV, 73rd GS Res XVI and 74th GS Res XXIX

RESOLUTION No. XXI

**Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Members**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Adoption of subsequent Resolutions<sup>1</sup> since the 67th General Session of the OIE International Committee has established a procedure for annually updating a list of Members, categorised by their BSE risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Members applying for a BSE risk evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
3. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI requesting the Director General to inform Delegates of Members whose country or zones are recognised with regard to their BSE risk status should annually confirm during the month of November whether their risk status and the criteria by which their status was recognised have remained unchanged,
4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of a Member disease status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau, subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina	New Zealand	Singapore
Australia	Norway	Sweden
Finland	Paraguay	Uruguay
Iceland		

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<sup>1</sup> 67th General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) XVI and Res XI; 69th GS Res XV, and 71st GS Res XXII, 72nd GS Res XXIV and Res XXI.

2. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Austria	Germany	Mexico
Belgium	Greece	Netherlands
Brazil	Hungary	Poland
Canada	Ireland	Portugal
Chile	Italy	Slovak Republic
Chinese Taipei	Latvia	Slovenia
Cyprus	Lichtenstein	Spain
Czech Republic	Lithuania	Switzerland
Denmark	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Estonia	Malta	United States of America
France		

AND

3. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Central Bureau if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.
- 

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXII

**Update on procedures for Members for the official recognition  
and maintenance of status of certain animal diseases**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The International Committee during its 67<sup>th</sup> General Session has adopted Resolution XVI describing the general procedure to follow by OIE Members wishing to achieve an officially recognised status for foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), according to the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
2. This procedure invites Delegates of the applicant OIE Members for recognition to submit to the OIE Central Bureau documentation for analysis by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) and its designated experts.
3. Recognition of the status following the proposal made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Members' Delegates and the corresponding Resolutions containing the established disease specific list are submitted for adoption to the International Committee.
4. Regarding FMD, rinderpest and CBPP, the recognition of an official disease status is suspended upon an outbreak in a previously recognized national territory or zone for this disease, as soon as the outbreak is declared by the Delegate of the affected OIE Member,
5. Regarding BSE, the official BSE status of a country or zone, is determined on the basis of risk. This status should be re-assessed in the event of any change in the epidemiological situation.
6. Resolution XII of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Session (FMD), Resolution XVI (RP) and XV (BSE) of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Session and Resolution XXIII of 72<sup>nd</sup> the General Session (CBPP), required that Delegates of Members where countries or zones are recognised for a disease free status or their BSE risk, should confirm by official letter during the month of November of each year that their official disease free status or BSE risk status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
7. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Members applying for evaluation for officially recognized status of certain diseases to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
8. During the 65th and 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions No. XVII and XXIV, respectively, delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member country or zone has regained its previously recognised disease free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,

9. During the 75<sup>th</sup> General Session the International Committee approved the addition of Article 2.2.10.7 to the *Terrestrial Code* allowing a Member to establish a FMD *containment zone* for the purpose of minimising the impact of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease on an entire free country or zone,
10. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Members and that 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 initial declaration.

## THE COMMITTEE

## RECOMMENDS

1. That OIE Members wishing to be officially recognized and listed for a specific disease status have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the recognition for disease status as well as the specific guidelines contained in disease specific country questionnaires endorsed by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the general provisions for veterinary services as outlined in Chapters 1.1.2, 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. That the Scientific Commission, following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member for the recognition or reinstatement of a specific disease status, could in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, request if needed a mission of experts to the applicant Member to verify compliance by that Member with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
3. That in the event of the allocation of an official status to a new zone adjacent to another zone having already the same official status, the Delegate should indicate in writing to the Director General whether the new zone should be merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone or whether the two zones shall be managed as two distinct zones by the Member.
4. That recognition by the International Committee of the disease status of a Member following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Members' Delegates for all new applications for disease status recognition, change in the category of disease free status or disease risk status as specified in the *Terrestrial Code* or change in the boundaries of an existing free zone.
5. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member country or a zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised status of the same zone following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
6. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, the reinstatement of the free status of a zone outside a FMD *containment zone* on evaluation of documented evidence provided by that Member that a FMD *containment zone* has been established in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
7. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority, without further International Committee consultation, to consider the maintenance in the previously allocated BSE risk status of a country or a same zone following a report of any change in the epidemiological situation by the OIE Delegate of the Member.

8. That a Member maintains its recognised disease status provided that the Member has been continuously compliant with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* and that the Delegate submit during the month of November of each year, a letter to the Director General of the OIE which includes the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* for that disease, for confirming the maintenance of the recognized disease status.
  9. That Members having an officially recognized disease status and who fail to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this status as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code*, will be deleted from the list of officially recognized countries or zones presented yearly to the International Committee for adoption.
  10. That a Member who has been deleted from the list due to failure to confirm the maintenance of its disease status should apply again for recognition of the lost disease status by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.
  11. That OIE Delegates are encouraged to document and clarify aspects of veterinary services and the animal health situation in non-contiguous territories covered by the same Veterinary Authority when submitting applications for official recognition of disease status.
  12. That financial participation of Members to the cost of official recognition procedures would be fixed in a specific Resolution.
  13. This Resolution XXII replaces the Resolution XV of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Session, the Resolutions XII and XVII of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XVI of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XV of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XXI of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Session and Resolutions XXIII and XXIV of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXIII

**Update on the cost to be covered by Members applying for the official recognition or re-instatement of disease status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 69th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XV asking Delegates who wish to be evaluated for compliance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, for their BSE status, to submit a formal request to the Director General of the OIE for consideration by the Scientific Commission. The participation in the OIE procedure will be voluntary and any costs, such as examination of documentation by and convening meetings of designated experts (Ad hoc Groups), and additional country missions that these experts might have summoned, are defrayed by participating countries.
2. During the 70<sup>th</sup> General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII which informs all Delegates wishing to have their countries evaluated for official BSE, FMD, rinderpest and CBPP status of the procedures to be followed and the costs involved. The expenses, including travel of experts to meetings, per diem allowances, additional labour of the personnel of the OIE Central Bureau, and other miscellaneous costs amount to nine thousand Euros per application for BSE and seven thousand Euros per application for FMD, Rinderpest and CBPP, respectively. The cost of possible additional country missions is not included in these amounts.
3. Resolution XVIII of the 70<sup>th</sup> General Session stated that Members applying for evaluation will submit with their application the amount of nine thousand Euros for BSE and of seven thousand Euros each for FMD and CBPP. Least developed countries need to submit only half the amounts mentioned. This payment will cover the complete cost of one application for evaluation, except the extra cost of possible country missions. The money submitted will not be refunded, even in the case of an application not being approved. The participation of the costs for Rinderpest evaluation will be obtained from other sources than direct payment by Members.
4. Resolution XVIII of the 70<sup>th</sup> General Session highlights further that the full amount for evaluation of BSE, FMD and CBPP status will be required only when a Member applies for recognition for the first time. For subsequent applications only half of the initial sum will be charged.
5. Since January 2002, Ad hoc Groups have been convened on a regular basis to evaluate requests from Members for designation by the OIE as free from FMD, Rinderpest, CBPP or by their BSE risk status and additional clarification has been requested by Delegates on the amount applicable to address all eventualities concerning applications within this procedure.

## THE COMMITTEE

### RESOLVES THAT

1. For new applications, the full amount for each evaluation of BSE, FMD or CBPP status will be required only when a Member not already having an officially recognized disease status for the particular disease or diseases under consideration, applies for recognition of status for that disease for the first time, for either the entire country or for one or several zones within the country.
  2. The full amount is nine thousand Euros for BSE and seven thousand Euros for each application for FMD and CBPP, irrespective if the application for evaluation is for a Member's complete national territory or only for one or several zones within the Member's territory. The cost of possible additional country missions is not included in these amounts.
  3. For subsequent additional applications possibly submitted for the same disease (e.g. recognition of an additional zone or change in category of a Member's disease status, the merging of zones or recovery of status along with enlargement of the zone under consideration), only half of the initial amount will be charged for each debated disease.
  4. For recovery of status of a country or a zone already recognized, i.e. Members seeking evaluation for reinstatement of a formerly recognized disease status or for confirmation of maintenance of the recognized disease status, except in the event of an OIE mission to the Member country or territory, Members will not be charged provided that the application is for the reinstatement of the same disease status within the same country, the same zone(s) as described by the Delegate for the initial recognition of disease status.
  5. For all applications of least developed countries only half the amounts mentioned above need to be submitted. In considering this the eligibility of Members for reduced cost is based on the current official UN list of least developed countries at the time of the OIE's call for capitals.
  6. The amount transferred with any application will not be refunded, even in the case of applications not being compliant on a technical basis or not being approved by either the Scientific Commission or the International Committee.
  7. This Resolution XXIII replaces Resolutions XV and XVIII adopted at the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> General Session, respectively.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2008)



RESOLUTION No. XXIV

**Animal Welfare**

CONSIDERING

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme.
3. A successful Global Conference on Animal Welfare was held in February 2004, which confirmed the OIE's global leadership role in animal welfare.
4. A set of five animal welfare guidelines were adopted at the May 2005 General Session and are regularly updated.
5. Publication of "Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges", in October 2005, in the OIE Scientific and Technical Review Series further reinforced the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.
6. Draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines have been developed and will be the subject of further discussion between the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and the Animal Welfare Working Group.
7. Draft Guidelines on Dog Population Control have been developed and will be the subject of further discussion between the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and the Animal Welfare Working Group.
8. Work is well underway in respect of the four additional areas of strategic priority, agreed as the 2005 General Session, with first meetings of the ad hoc Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare and the ad hoc Group on Production Animal Welfare having taken place.
9. The active involvement of all OIE members will be essential to the successful international implementation of the OIE animal welfare mandate.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintains the Working Group on Animal Welfare to advise him and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions on OIE activities in the field of animal welfare.
2. The Working Group and Central Bureau 2008/2009 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and the OIE Central Bureau and Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.

3. Veterinary Services on each member be actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of animal welfare legislation and that Delegates take steps to nominate their national animal welfare contact point to facilitate communication.
  4. OIE members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non governmental organisations, the private sector and with other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.
  5. OIE Regional Commissions play an active role in promoting the OIE work programme (particularly in relation to implementation of guidelines and animal welfare in education), with active involvement of Working Group regional members.
  6. The OIE Central Bureau and Working Group continue to give high priority to effective and regular communication and transparent consultation in implementing the animal welfare work programme.
  7. The Working Group continues to monitor international developments in the area of wildlife animal welfare.
  8. Members are encouraged to participate actively on the Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Cairo from 19 - 22 October 2008.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXV

**Animal Production Food Safety**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its seventh meeting in November 2007 and drafted a work programme for 2008.
2. The Working Group has developed a document on *The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety*, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to OIE Members in regard to the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Services in food safety, to assist them in meeting food safety objectives laid down in national legislation and the requirements of importing countries.
3. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a *Guide to Good Farming Practices*. A draft of the Guide, prepared by an *ad hoc* Group, was reviewed by the Working Group and will be finalised and published in cooperation with FAO.
4. The Working Group reviewed a revised draft document *Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed*, in light of comments from OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission. The Working Group also made recommendations on the development of OIE guidelines relating to feed for aquatic animals.
5. The Working Group discussed the report of an *ad hoc* Group on OIE Model Veterinary Certificates, in light of the comments of OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission, and made a number of recommendations on the further development of this document.
6. The Working Group reviewed the draft *Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of Salmonella enteritidis and S. typhimurium in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption* produced by an *ad hoc* Group in light of OIE Member comments on this draft. The Working Group also reviewed the terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group that will be convened to develop recommendations on the detection, prevention and control of salmonella in broiler chickens.
7. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by either party are consistent and take a ‘whole food chain’ approach to food safety,
8. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, zoonotic diseases and related issues.

## THE COMMITTEE

### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.
  2. The participation of FAO and WHO high level experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.
  3. The 2008 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with resources needed to address the identified priorities.
  4. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group give special attention to its work on the development of texts on animal identification and traceability; animal feed, including feed for aquatic animals; and salmonellosis in poultry; for consideration by the International Committee.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXVI

**Sharing of avian influenza viral material and information  
in support of global avian influenza prevention and control**

CONSIDERING THAT

Avian influenza is a global problem that poses an ongoing threat to animal and human health.

Global control strategies must focus on controlling the disease at the animal source.

Avian influenza is a transboundary disease that has the ability to spread rapidly across continents. An outbreak of avian influenza in any one country is a threat to the whole international community.

It is paramount that any changes in the virological characteristics of avian influenza viruses resulting in increased risks to animal or human health are detected early.

Countries reporting outbreaks of avian influenza are responsible for sharing material and data with the international scientific community in a timely manner to ensure that this is freely available to formulate global control and preparedness strategies.

Genetic information about current circulating field viruses is needed for the early development and preparation of human influenza vaccines and to facilitate accurate laboratory diagnosis.

OFFLU is the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on avian influenza. The objectives of OFFLU include encouraging members to exchange scientific data and biological materials (including virus strains) within the network and to share such information with the wider scientific community, and to collaborate with the WHO influenza network on issues relating to the animal–human interface, including early preparation of human vaccine.

All information about avian influenza viruses that can lead to the development of more effective prevention and control policies is a global public good and should be put into the public domain without delay.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Members reporting outbreaks of avian influenza should agree to share animal avian influenza viral material and information about avian influenza viruses through OFFLU with the international scientific community.
2. OIE Reference Laboratories must actively encourage sharing of material and data with the international scientific community, and as a minimum deposit genetic data within 3 months of receiving an isolate into a public database designated by the OFFLU Steering Committee, which will manage scientific relations with the WHO.

3. To enhance cooperation and transparency, the actions taken by countries must be recognised in subsequent publications and other benefits arising from the use of biological material or data that they have submitted to OIE Reference Laboratories.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXVII

**Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays (test methods) for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,
2. The Resolution establishes that ‘fitness for purpose’ should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of the procedure for diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised assays for OIE Members and for test manufacturers,
4. OIE Members need assays that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of assays, to ensure that the test can be used to correctly establish animal disease status and to enhance confidence in assays,
5. The process of producing an OIE register of recognised assays will provide greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that produce validated and certified tests in kit format,
6. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Members,
7. To render the process transparent, all results of the test validation procedure carried out by the OIE will be included in detailed form on the OIE web site,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General adds the following to the register of test kits certified by the OIE as validated as fit for purpose:

<b>Name of the diagnostic kit</b>	<b>Name of the Manufacturer</b>	<b>Fitness for purpose</b>
BioChek Avian Influenza Antibody test kit	BioChek UK Ltd	Fit for serological diagnosis of type A avian influenza in chickens (specific to IgG in serum) and for the following purposes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To demonstrate historical freedom from infection in a defined population (country/zone/compartiment/herd);</li><li>2. To demonstrate re-establishment of freedom after outbreaks in a defined population (country/zone/compartiment/herd);</li></ol>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases;</li> <li>4. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis in non-vaccinated populations (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control);</li> <li>5. To determine immune status in individual animals or populations (post-vaccination).</li> </ol>
IQ 2000™ WSSV Detection and Prevention System	Genereach Biotechnology Corporation	<p>Fit for the diagnosis of white spot disease in crustaceans and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To certify freedom from infection (&lt;10 virions/sample) in individual animals or products for trade/movement purposes;</li> <li>2. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (confirmation of a diagnosis by histopathology or clinical signs);</li> <li>3. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control).</li> </ol>
Prionics®-Check WESTERN	Prionics®	<p>Fit for the post-mortem diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle and for the following purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To confirm diagnosis of suspect or clinical cases (includes confirmation of a positive screening test);</li> <li>2. To estimate prevalence of infection to facilitate risk analysis (surveys/herd health schemes/disease control, e.g. surveys, implementation of disease control measures) and to assist in the demonstration of the efficiency of control policies;</li> <li>3. To confirm a non-negative test result obtained during active surveillance with a different type of test.</li> </ol>

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)



RESOLUTION No. XXVIII

**Food security and animal health**

CONSIDERING

1. The problems that many countries are experiencing with their food supply, in terms of quantity, quality and affordability,
2. The nutritional requirements of populations in terms of protein and essential amino acids derived from animal products,
3. The growth in world demand for animal products,
4. The increasing demand for food crops for human and animal food, and for energy,
5. The health threats linked to global warming and to the globalisation of trade and movements of people,
6. The current huge impact of animal diseases on the world animal production, particularly in developing and in transition countries.
7. The mandate of the OIE to improve world animal health and welfare,

THE COMMITTEE

EMPHASISES

1. The strong link that exists between the quantitative and qualitative security of food production and the control of animal diseases,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE OIE

1. Support its Members in the fight against terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases by supporting improvement of sanitary governance and strengthening the capacities of national Veterinary Services based on the quality standards contained in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
2. Further develop the use of the PVS tool for the evaluation of national Veterinary Services, with the aim of helping to improve their capacities and urgently seeking the appropriate national and international resources for their compliance with the OIE standards in the field of quality.
3. Encourage countries and donor organisations, based on the results of the PVS evaluations accepted by Members, to increase their investment in the field of animal health, so as to help to contribute to food security throughout the world by improving the health status of food-producing animals.
4. Commission and communicate research and surveys on the current and likely future impact of animal diseases in the world animal production, as well as animal health policies that minimise the loss of animal proteins.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2008)

RESOLUTION N° XXIX

**Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous OIE General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the March 2008 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III to XVI of Document 76 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Appendices III to XVI of Document 76 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
  2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code*.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

RESOLUTION N° XXX

**Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code***

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (in brief, the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the March 2008 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 76 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members,

THE COMMITTEE RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX (Appendix 3.8.8. only), XXIII, XXVI, XXIX and XXX of Document 76 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Annexes III, IV, X, XIV, XV, XX (Chapter 2.6.7 only), XXI, XXII, XXIV, XXV, XXVII and XXVIII of Document 76 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Annex III (Chapter 1.1.1.)

- a) in the first sentence of the definition of buffer zone, go back to the existing text of 2007 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.
- b) replace the definition of animal welfare with “means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment”.

2.2. In Annex IV (Section 4)

In Appendix X.X.X, “General” section:

add “on paper” before the words “in capitals”.

In Article 1.2.2.4:

in Point 2, insert “may be in a different format but” after “Electronic certificates” and insert the word “paper” after the word “conventional”.

2.3. In Annex X (Chapter 2.2.10.)

In Article 2.2.10.2.:

in the first paragraph, go back to the existing text of 2007 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

In Article 2.2.10.3.:

in the first paragraph, go back to the existing text of 2007 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

In Articles 2.2.10.2., 2.2.10.3., 2.2.10.4. and 2.2.10.5.:

Replace the word “should” with “can” before “be separated”.

In Article 2.2.10.7.:

after Point 5. add a new point “6. *containment zone* should be large enough to contain the disease and comprise both a restricted/protection zone and a larger surveillance zone.”

2.4. In Annex XIV (Chapters 2.3.3.)

In Article 2.3.3.2.bis:

add “under study” after the Article number.

2.5. In Annex XV (Chapter 2.3.13.)

In Article 2.3.13.15.:

in point 2. a), add “and vertebral columns” after the word “skulls”.

In Article 3.8.5.1.:

In last paragraph delete text between square brackets “[ ]”.

2.6. In Annex XX (Chapter 2.6.7. and Appendix 3.8.8.)

go back to the existing text of Chapter 2.6.7 of 2007 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

2.7. In Annex XXI (Chapter 2.7.12., Appendix 3.6.5. and Appendix 3.8.9.)

In Article 2.7.12.17.:

In point 3., delete the word “between” only in the English version.

2.8. In Annex XXII (Chapter 2.7.13. and Appendix 3.8.X.)

In Article 2.7.13.1.:

- a) in the first paragraph, add “For the purposes of international trade,” before “Newcastle disease (ND)” and replace the word “birds” with “poultry”.
- b) delete last paragraph of Point 1.
- c) in Point 3 insert “according to Article 2.1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.” after “other than poultry”

2.9. In Annex XXIV (Animal welfare Appendices)

In Article 3.7.1.1., replace existing text with the amended definition of animal welfare.

2.10. In Annex XXV (Chapter 2.9.X.)

In the title, delete “infestation of honey bees” only in the English version.

2.11. In Annex XXVII (Appendix 3.3.5.)

In the title, delete “by the international embryo transfer society”.

2.12. In Annex XXVIII

- a) add a title “Purpose” before the first paragraph.
  - b) delete Definitions in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph and Bibliography at the end of Annex.
  - c) change “paper” to “chapter” where appropriate.
  - d) format texts as appropriate, including article numbers.
3. To ask the Director General to take action to divide the *Terrestrial Code* into two volumes with appropriate formatting and publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXXI

**Participation of Small Farmers in Animal Health Programmes**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. There is a diversity of farming systems and perceptions regarding the characteristics of small livestock owners.
2. Small farmers are numerically the largest stakeholder group active in livestock production worldwide.
3. In developing countries, the majority of those in poverty continue to depend on small-scale farming as a key livelihood activity.
4. Many small farmers keep livestock, and livestock keepers include some of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in particular women farmers and certain pastoral societies.
5. Members reported that small farmers are a significant source of animal health information and are important partners in disease control.
6. Success of national programmes for disease surveillance and mitigation depends in part on small farmer involvement and Members reported that small farms, due to their diversity, offer challenges to bio-security and surveillance programmes.
7. Small farms differ both quantitatively and qualitatively from large farms in animal health needs, capacity to participate and ability to influence national policy.
8. It is recognised that trained representatives of small farmers, such as community animal health workers, have an important role in the delivery of services in national animal health programmes, under the supervision of veterinarians.
9. Members reported that the role of small farmers should increase in animal health and that this could be achieved through capacity building, new programmes, revised policies and increased organisation
10. Small farmers are integrated into national marketing systems and both affect and are affected by international trade decisions

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Members actively encourage small farmer organisation and representation in national and international animal health decision-making and policy setting processes in order to contribute to more effective Veterinary Services and animal health programmes.

2. OIE Members undertake to ensure that small farmer organisations are given the opportunity to contribute their comments and submissions on proposed or revised OIE standards.
  3. The principle of equivalence be applied whenever possible in developing and evaluating animal health programmes to enhance the involvement, market access and level of services provided to small farmers.
  4. Passive and active disease surveillance should be applied using conventional and participatory approaches to enhance small farmer inclusion and the sensitivity and representativeness of animal health information systems.
  5. The OIE review international standards, definitions and guidelines to identify opportunities to encourage small farmer participation, under the supervision of Veterinary Services and enhance equity and efficiency in animal health programmes and trade.
  6. The PVS evaluation of countries should provide the basis for promoting further investment and capacity building to permit an increased role of the small farmers in animal health programme.
  7. The OIE and its Members be encouraged to fully consider the critical engagement of small farmers in the development of OIE activities and its annual work plan.
  8. The OIE Members encourage the training of technicians, community animal health workers and livestock owners, and their organisations involved in animal health promotion in order to engage in animal health surveillance and disease control.
  9. The OIE and its Members support and increase animal health data collection concerning all stakeholders in order to disaggregate data by farm size for better strategic planning and policy formulation.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

RESOLUTION No. XXXII

**Implications of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products**

CONSIDERING

That the World Trade Organization, under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, formally recognises the OIE as the reference organisation responsible for establishing international standards relating to animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases

That the OIE's current 172 Members and the international community at large recognise the OIE as the organisation responsible for setting standards for animal disease surveillance and animal health and welfare, with the objective of providing a scientific basis for safe international trade in animals and animal products and improving animal health and welfare worldwide,

That the OIE International Committee has adopted international standards for animal welfare during transport, slaughter and killing for sanitary purposes, and the OIE is developing new standards in the animal welfare domain, and

NOTING

That commercial standards, established by private companies without direct involvement of governments, are increasingly coming into play in international trade, and are of great concern for a majority of OIE Members

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

1. To reaffirm the standards published by the OIE in the field of animal health including zoonoses, as the global official sanitary guarantees for preventing the risks associated with international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade, and promoting the prevention and control of animal diseases worldwide.
2. To reaffirm the standards published by the OIE in the field of animal welfare as the global reference standard for OIE Members.
3. To ask the Director General to work with relevant public and private international organisations with the objective that concerns of Members are taken into consideration and that private standards, where used, are consistent with and do not conflict with those of the OIE.
4. To ask the Director General to support Members in taking whatever steps are available to them to ensure that private animal health and animal welfare standards, where used, are consistent with and do not conflict with those of the OIE.
5. To ask the Director General to continue with the relevant activities to further strengthen the OIE's work in standard setting for animal health, including zoonotic diseases, and animal welfare and to continue to implement and reinforce capacity building programmes to assist Members in implementing OIE standards. Capacity building includes communication for Veterinary Services in order to convince consumers on the efficiency of OIE standards to protect health and animal welfare.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)



# *Recommendations*

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2007**

**endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 29 May 2008**

**9th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Damascus (Syria), 29 October-01 November 2007

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) The application of the Geographic Information Systems in the surveillance of animal diseases

Recommendation No. 1

**The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services**

CONSIDERING THAT

The quality of Veterinary Services of a country is an essential prerequisite for animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, food safety and hygiene and for the protection of the environment,

Veterinary Statutory Bodies regulate the registration, licensing and the eligibility for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals to continue practice,

Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations promote public confidence in the practice of veterinary medicine and other veterinary activities.

Veterinary Associations represent veterinarians and promote their recognition by society,

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides standards and guidelines on the quality, organisation and structure of Veterinary Services and Veterinary Statutory Bodies as well as on the qualifications and educational and scientific expertise of their human resources,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries of the Middle East improve the implementation of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Standards and fundamental principles for the quality of Veterinary Services and their human resources;
2. Member Countries not currently having autonomous Veterinary Statutory Bodies establish such bodies, in accordance with the OIE guidelines, empowering them with legal authority to:
  - i. define the educational, ethical and level of expertise of veterinarians and paraprofessionals;
  - ii. develop a code for professional ethics and conduct and the procedures to ensure compliance of the veterinarian and veterinary paraprofessional to the principles of the code;
  - iii. protect the interests of animal owners, consumers of animal products and other stakeholders by ensuring the availability of services provided by persons who are properly qualified and practice in a professional and ethical manner;

- iv. regulate the interface between the members of the profession and their clients;
  - v. maintain high standards and credibility of the profession;
  - vi. promote the art and science of veterinary medicine;
  - vii. examine complaints against veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals and take appropriate measures, including sanctions in case of violation of set standards;
  - viii. develop educational programmes for continuing professional development for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
  - ix. apply the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for independent and credible veterinary certification;
  - x. encourage safe trade of animals and animal products to regional and international markets;
  - xi. regulate and encourage the participation of accredited private veterinarians in the activities of the Veterinary Services;
  - xii. register and license to practice all veterinary para-professionals, who should work under the responsibility and supervision of licensed and registered veterinarians.
3. Member countries encourage and support the functions and activities of Veterinary Associations.
4. The OIE develop more detailed guidelines and recommendations for the establishment and functioning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations
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((Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 1 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

Recommendation No. 2

**The application of the Geographic Information Systems in the surveillance of animal diseases**

CONSIDERING THAT

The Geographic Information System (GIS) helps in understanding and explaining disease dynamics including spreading patterns and can also be used as a warning tool against disease or for predicting the evolution of a recently introduced disease. Such remote sensing increases the speed of response against disease emergencies,

Although the application of the GIS in the veterinary field has been developed over the last decade and specialised software has become more affordable and "user-friendly", very few countries of the Middle East have applied such technologies,

All Veterinary Services in the Middle East have hardware and access to internet. Some use other form of digital information in their tasks but very few have computer-based mapping technologies with respect to animal health activities,

The majority of countries in the Middle East would like to build in house GIS capacity. Some even wish to establish a GIS capability within the epidemiological unit of the Veterinary Services to provide mapping services to other livestock activities in their countries on an on-call basis.

Even those countries of the Middle East that have GIS technology, are not making optimal use of their investments mainly because of lack of trained staff. GIS work in these countries is generally entrusted to focal points responsible for the notification to the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries should consider as a first step to improve animal surveillance networks in their territories and provide appropriate training to members of such networks,
2. Member Countries should work towards improving data quality collection, storage and analyses while developing the use of GIS tools for spatial analysis related to animal health activities,
3. OIE:
  - a) provide necessary support to Veterinary Services for the application of GIS to animal health activities,

- b) organise in collaboration with its Collaborating Centres on epidemiology and additional geospatial expertise, regional training courses on the application of GIS technology for Veterinary Services particularly for OIE - WAHIS focal points,
  - c) prepare and publish guidelines in the use of GIS in animal health.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 1 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

**25th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Queenstown (New Zealand), 26-30 November 2007

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Region with special emphasis on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Poultry production food safety in Asia





Recommendation No. 1

**Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Region with special emphasis on  
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea**

CONSIDERING THAT

A number of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases such as porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) are becoming increasingly important in the region,

The causes of newly observed diseases of pigs are complex and multifactorial,

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea has been reported in several countries of the region and is responsible for significant economic losses to farmers,

It is not certain that porcine epidemic diarrhoea meets the criteria to be considered an OIE listed disease,

Vaccination of piglets against PED in the region does not seem to be cost effective,

Many emerging and re-emerging animal diseases seem to have entered the region through importation of breeding animals,

Not all countries of the region regularly report emerging and listed diseases to the OIE.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of the region encourage studies and research to determine the nature of the agent, spread and economic impact of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases such as PED and PRRS;
2. The OIE examine the possibility of recognising an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre for emerging and re-emerging diseases of swine in the region rapidly. In the meantime, consideration should be given by existing relevant OIE Reference Laboratories to assist countries of the region in the diagnosis of these diseases and also to undertake research in vaccines with the aim of producing more robust and cost-effective vaccines;
3. Veterinary Services carry out appropriate import risk analyses in order to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken by importing countries and territories especially those free from PED and PRRS when importing live animals and animal commodities from PED and PRRS infected countries and territories;

4. Veterinary Services of the region commit themselves in accordance with their obligations as Members to implement the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) of the OIE and to report listed and emerging and re-emerging diseases of swine to the OIE in a timely manner;
  - 5 OIE consider developing guidelines on good husbandry and biosecurity practices to guard against multifactorial pig diseases in the region.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

Recommendation No. 2

**Poultry production food safety in Asia**

CONSIDERING THAT

Consumers worldwide have become more sensitive to policies governing the microbiological and toxicological safety of food of animal origin,

Poultry production food safety is an essential prerequisite to ensure consumer confidence,

Veterinary Services and other stake holders are conscious that the health of animals during the production stage has an important bearing on food safety,

An effective mechanism to ensure poultry production food safety should include training of farmers, farm personnel and veterinarians and ensure that appropriate diagnostic facilities including laboratory tests are available. Such training would have applicability to other animal production systems,

Appropriate legislation and enforcement mechanisms regarding food safety including poultry disease surveillance, monitoring and traceability do not exist in many countries of the region.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE pursue its efforts in establishing standards and guidelines on animal production food safety;
2. The OIE in collaboration with its Collaborating Centres, Reference Laboratories and other relevant organisations such as FAO, organise or co-organise training programmes for the personnel of Veterinary Services involved in relevant food safety activities. Such training should cover the nature of food safety systems, risk analyses, surveillance, emergency management, compartmentalisation, monitoring and traceability mechanisms throughout the production chain;
3. The OIE in collaboration with other international organisations assist developing countries of the region in upgrading their laboratories for surveillance and monitoring of animal production food safety including training of laboratory staff on analytical techniques and good laboratory practices;
4. Veterinary Services of the region become more involved in animal production food safety issues including good practices particularly in farms and slaughter houses to reduce the risk from pathogens, toxins, residues or other contaminants to support the production to safe food;

5. Veterinary Services organise training programmes for farmers, para-professionals and veterinarians on good agricultural and hygienic practices in farms and food processing plants;
  6. Members adopt and enforce appropriate legislation in accordance with OIE guidelines to ensure that necessary controls are implemented at the various stages along the animal food production chain to ensure that farm and processing plant practices do not have an adverse effect on food safety.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2007  
and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

# *Reports*

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions  
held during the 76th General Session  
in Paris, 26 May 2008**

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**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, 26 May 2008**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 128 Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 14 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, AVSF<sup>55</sup>, BVI, CEBEVIRHA<sup>56</sup>, EISMV<sup>57</sup>, FAO, FEI, IDF, ILRI, OBP, PANVAC<sup>58</sup>, SADC<sup>59</sup>, World Bank,

The meeting was chaired by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania), Secretary General of the Commission and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. He also welcomed all partners who support activities in the region.

The president asked for a minute's silence in memory of Dr Jean Jacques Delate who recently died suddenly. He was a special colleague highly committed to supporting animal health activities of AU-IBAR.

The president introduced Dr A. Niang, ex president of the OIE International Committee, to the assembly, informing them that he replaces Dr Samba Sidibé as Regional Representative for Africa and called the assembly to congratulate Dr Sidibé for his excellent work on the region.

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<sup>55</sup> AVSF: *Agronomes & Vétérinaires sans frontières*

<sup>56</sup> CEBEVIRHA: *Communauté Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques de l'Afrique Centrale*

<sup>57</sup> EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires*

<sup>58</sup> PANVAC: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

<sup>59</sup> SADC: Southern African Development Community

He also congratulated Dr Modibo Traore who has left the AU-IBAR and joined the FAO. Finally, he congratulated Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi who is the new Acting Director of AU-IBAR.

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

### **2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern. He said that all contribution reminders have been sent out on time and that it is very important that countries promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

He congratulated countries that have returned their contributions to the OIE on time and encouraged remaining countries to do the same.

### **3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa**

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

He informed the Commission about the planned activities for 2008 that are built on what was achieved on 2007.

He explained that activities in the fields of animal health, zoonoses, public health, animal welfare and other strategic elements from the 4th OIE Strategic Plan should take priority.

It is important to continue implementing the strategic objectives defined in the 4th OIE Strategic Plan that promote capacity building of Veterinary Services, improve economic and social development, encourage regional and international exchanges, and reduce poverty.

He informed the Commission about the agreement between the OIE and CEDEAO which has been signed in the framework of the OIE Regional Representation.

He encouraged countries that have not yet benefited from a PVS evaluation, to make the request.

The report was approved.

### **4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa**

Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa.

In line with the OIE's global policy and mandate, the objective of establishing the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa is to contribute to wealth creation in the region. This can be achieved through increased livestock productivity resulting from improved compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards; these reduce sanitary constraints on trade of livestock and livestock products (LLPs).

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation puts emphasis on raising the level of VS capacity of SADC Member States; providing technical advice on matters of legislation, disease surveillance, notification, and food safety; developing sub-regional networks of OIE subject; providing support to SADC Member States and supporting centres of excellence in the sub-region in order to improve their capacities.



The report was approved.

**5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

The role of Veterinary Services in the improvement of global food security

**6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)**

The following technical item was selected for the 18th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets

**7. Regional Seminars on Communication**

Mme Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE communication Unit, reported on the importance of an effective communication strategy for Veterinary Services, so that they are accessible to the general public and other more specific target populations.

She said that the OIE is planning to organise regional seminars to assist Veterinary Services in strengthening their communication capacities, so that they can respond to national and international demands and improve their visibility and credibility. In 2009 two such seminars are planned for Africa.

She announced that there is to be an annual international veterinary day celebrated each year on the last Saturday of April. This was agreed by the OIE and the World Veterinary Association.

**8. Confirmation of the possible venue of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)**

Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub, Delegate of Chad, confirmed his country's invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in N'Djamena on February 2009.

The government of Chad has already established an organising committee for the preparation of this Conference.

On behalf of the Minister of the Livestock, Dr Abderrahmane, Director General of the Livestock Development, confirmed and expressed the willingness of his country to host the 18th Regional Conference. He elaborated that budgetary arrangements have been put in place.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission about his mission to N'Djamena and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

**9. Recommendations of the 1st OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 16 to 18 January 2008**

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, reported on the main recommendations of the seminar on good governance held in Gaborone, Botswana.

This seminar was attended by OIE Delegates from 17 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (including the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles<sup>60</sup>), as well as 9 representatives from veterinary councils, veterinary associations and farmers' associations, and representatives from the SADC Secretariat, the FAO and AU-CTTBD.

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<sup>60</sup> Non-OIE member country (observer status)

Recommendations approved by the participants focused on the sound governance of Veterinary Services; the use of the PVS Tool; the twinning agreements with OIE Reference Laboratories; the need to revise and review veterinary legislation in a number of countries; and the organisation and functions of Veterinary Statutory Bodies including the involvement of the private veterinary sector.

The facilitation of regional and international trade of livestock and livestock products was also part of the recommendations approved by the participants. This included a request to the OIE for it to continue the development of standards -based on meticulous risk analysis- in order to enable importing countries to base their import conditions primarily on OIE standards and thus avoid carrying out expensive or arbitrary national risk analysis activities before authorising imports.

## **10. Update on the ALive<sup>61</sup> and GF-TADs programmes**

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the GF-TADs - First Global Steering Committee Meeting held on 6 March, 2008 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. He described the main points coming from the meeting. GF-TADs addresses areas where the mandates of the OIE and FAO join up in the field of animal health. For some issues it is clear which organisation has primary responsibility. He explained that the OIE is the leading international organisation devoted to standard setting in the area of animal health and welfare, and that FAO is the leading technical international agency devoted to the development and implementation of animal health and production strategies in developing countries. For other topics the responsibilities between FAO and the OIE have been agreed upon in the GF-TADs agreement, signed in 2007.

Overall, Africa was identified as the continent with the weakest capacity to respond to an animal health crisis. However, thanks to the PARC and PACE programs, implemented over the past 20 years, most of the affected African countries have been able to cope with avian influenza epizootics. This underlines the importance of long-term investment programs in the field of animal health.

The second GF-TADs Steering Committee for Africa meeting took place in Djibouti in March 2007. During this meeting, it was decided that the GF-TADs for Africa be integrated as the animal health part of the ALive platform. This had the following consequences: (i) the GF-TADs for Africa Action Plan is an integral part of the ALive Action Plan and (ii) recommendation made under the GF-TADs for Africa have to be translated into resolutions of the ALive Executive Committee meeting.

The main outcomes of the 11th Meeting of the ALive Executive Committee (EC11) held in Rome, April 8-10, 2008 were as follows:

- Dr. Ahmed El-Sawhaly, acting Director of the AU-IBAR was designated as the acting Chairman of the Executive Committee until after the next Executive Committee Meeting (EC12)
- a branch Office of the ALive Secretariat has been established in the AU-IBAR Office in Nairobi , Kenya for the interim period. It was also agreed that the Secretariat continues to be hosted by the World Bank for the rest of the interim period.

## **11. PVS evaluations update in the region**

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the African region.

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<sup>61</sup> ALive: Platform for African Livestock

Dr Dehove clarified that gap analysis is quantitative and PVS evaluation is qualitative.

To summarize Africa situation regarding PVS evaluation:

- 2/3 of Members of the Africa Region have already requested a PVS evaluation;
- 80% of PVS evaluation requested by African countries already done;
- 89% of draft reports for African countries currently finalised (when mission done);
- 52% of all PVS evaluations carried out to date were in Africa.

In addition, to date 12 African countries (out of total of 13 requests) have requested additional assistance from the OIE for gap analysis (assistance on the preparation of investment programmes) and/or review of national animal health legislation. Moreover, two African countries (out of total of four requests) have already indicated their interest in PVS follow-up missions.

## **12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region**

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an update on the implementation of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) in the African region. He recognized the progress made by the members in submitting reports on time, in comparison to 2006.

He encouraged the delegates to report dated on both terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. He stressed how important it is that Members provide final reports on the events already notified. He clarified that the OIE expects its Members to submit the six-monthly reports one month after the end of the period; this period is extended to 45 days for the annual report. Finally, he stressed the need for CVOs to ensure a transition when there is a change in the national focal points. He concluded by encouraging the delegates to check the accuracy of the digital maps presented in WAHIS.

## **13. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE**

### **• AU-IBAR**

Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi, Director of AU-IBAR, reported on the new activities of his organisation stressing the importance of the SPINAP programme and the possibility that in the near future they will be able to finance approximately 47 countries.

### **• SADC**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, reported on the activities of his organisation underlining the development of the livestock sector. He remarked on the Print Project, and the FMD programme.

Proposals on BSE, Commodity-Based Trade and Foot and Mouth Disease were presented to the Regional Commission for consideration and submission to the International Committee.

The chairman observed that these proposals are similar to the ones of the 4th AU-IBAR/OIE African Delegates Consultative Meeting and the ones presented last year to the International Committee. These proposals will be discussed during the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2009.

- **CEBEVIRHA**

Dr Khalidou Bouba, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation. He talked about the control programmes for African swine fever, Newcastle disease and animal trypanosomoses and their vectors within the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; he expressed the interest of CEBEVIRHA in participating in activities related to capacity building, to the implementation of a study on harmonisation of laws and regulations for veterinary medicines in Central Africa, and to the Regional Animal Health Centre.

#### **14. Outcome of the OIE Workshop on Rift Valley Fever Control and Preventive Strategies**

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the OIE Workshop for RVF held in Cairo from 13 to 15 June 2007. He highlighted some of the recommendations such as the application of a proper vaccination strategy, the development of new vaccines, risk analysis, surveillance and effective coordination between Veterinary Services and Public Health Services.

He highlighted the supporting role of the OIE Reference Laboratory in South Africa, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, which is the only OIE RVF Reference Laboratory.

He stressed the importance of establishing twinning agreements for RVF in affected areas. He also stressed the importance of strengthening surveillance in animals, taking into account that currently human cases are detected before detection in animals.

#### **15. Outcome and recommendations of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa**

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the Conference on Veterinary medicinal products held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008. He said that it was a very successful Conference attended by 160 participants from more than 50 countries. Participants were principally OIE Delegates and OIE focal points for veterinary medicinal products.

Recommendations approved by participants focused on harmonizing and improving the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

He explained that some attempts had been made to harmonize veterinary medicinal products in WAEMU<sup>62</sup> countries but that it was necessary to reinforce and widen this initiative to the whole continent.

He asked the commission to endorse the two recommendations of the conference.

The representative of Sudan announced that his country is organising a workshop on transboundary animal diseases which will be held from 17 to 21 August 2008. Eastern and Central African countries are invited to attend; the invitations will be sent via AU-IBAR.

The meeting ended at 6:12 p.m.

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.../Appendix

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62 WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa
5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
7. Regional Seminars on Communication
8. Confirmation of the possible venue of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
9. Recommendations of the 1st OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 16 to 18 January 2008
10. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs programmes
11. PVS evaluations update in the region
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region
13. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE
  - AU-IBAR
  - SADC
  - CEBEVIRHA
14. Outcome of the OIE Workshop on Rift Valley Fever Control and Preventive Strategies
15. Outcome and recommendations of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa



**MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 109 Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and one observer country, and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations.

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay.

Observer countries/territories: Spain

International/regional organisations: ALA<sup>63</sup>, AVMA, CIRAD<sup>64</sup>, ICFAW<sup>65</sup>, IDF<sup>66</sup>, IFAH<sup>67</sup>, IICA<sup>68</sup>, OIRSA<sup>69</sup>, PAHO-PANAFTOSA<sup>70</sup>, World Bank, WVA

Dr José Ángel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-President of the Regional Commission, opened the meeting and was followed by Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize), Secretary General of the Regional Commission.

Dr José Ángel del Valle Molina welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, in particular the Agriculture Minister of Belize, the Deputy Agriculture Minister of Cuba, and the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, then joined the meeting and took over the chair.

## **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, given in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes relating to agenda items were circulated to all participants.

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<sup>63</sup> ALA: Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)  
<sup>64</sup> CIRAD: Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)  
<sup>65</sup> ICFAW: International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare  
<sup>66</sup> IDF: International Dairy Federation  
<sup>67</sup> IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health  
<sup>68</sup> IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
<sup>69</sup> OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuario (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)  
<sup>70</sup> PAHO: Pan American Health Organization / PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

## **2. Administrative Commission update**

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Uruguay, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

He discussed the importance of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

He reported that the OIE would be signing a cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

He reminded participants of the OIE mediation mechanism for settling disputes between countries regarding sanitary criteria for trade in animals and animal products and urged Members to make use of this mechanism.

Dr Brian Evans (Canada), member of the Administrative Commission, supplemented Dr Correa Messuti's presentation with information on the work of the Administrative Commission, saying that in September 2008 the Administrative Commission would begin work on drafting the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan 2011-2015, reason why it was important to discuss this item at the Conference of the Regional Commission of the Americas due to be held in Cuba in November 2008.

He said that elections for members of the Specialist Commissions and the Administrative Commission would be held in 2009 and that the region should propose candidates. He added that Dr Correa Messuti would become OIE President with the support of the other regions.

## **3. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Brian Evans, member of the OIE Administrative Commission, and Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, reported that there had been an increase in the number of Members responding positively to the Director General's request.

He thanked Argentina and Panama warmly for hosting the offices of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, respectively.

He welcomed the fact that, in general, OIE Members in the Americas were complying with their contribution obligations, and urged Members with outstanding contributions to settle their arrears as soon as possible.

## **4. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Cuba from 17 to 21 November 2008**

Dr Emerio Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba, reminded the Regional Commission of his country's invitation to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission in Havana, from 17 to 21 November 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details.

He said that the technical item to be presented at the Conference was 'Biotechnology and its Application to Veterinary Science' and that the technical visit would be to an Engineering and Biotechnology Centre.

## **5. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)**

Dr Barcos reminded the Regional Commission of the Recommendations approved at the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis and subsequently endorsed by the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee, on



‘Animal Welfare’ and ‘Compensation Mechanisms’. Dr Barcos reported that the Recommendations were being followed as part of the Regional Representation’s activities.

**6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas**

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, presented the Regional Commission’s activities over the past year.

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the Regional Representation’s activities, including the changes to the website. He highlighted the interinstitutional agenda and the list of OIE focal points.

He spoke in particular of the Regional Representation’s ongoing work in support of regional foot and mouth disease programmes, including the recommendations of the latest meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2007.

He also discussed the support from countries in the region for economic cost/benefit studies of Veterinary Services.

Dr Barcos went on to present the work programme for 2008-2009, highlighting amongst other activities the Animal Welfare Workshop to be held in Panama, in preparation for the Global Conference in Cairo; the seminar to be held by national laboratories in all countries to identify common needs and assistance possibilities; and a workshop on compensation mechanisms to be held in Panama next July.

He also reported on a plan for translating the reports of the Specialist Commissions and Ad Hoc Groups into Spanish, in draft form, to better enable Spanish-speaking Members to comment on those reports.

Both the report and the work programme were approved.

**7. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America**

Dr José Oreamuno, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, summarised the activities of the Sub-Regional Representation and also presented the work programme for 2008-2009.

**8. Animal welfare**

**• Reminder on the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo**

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay, reiterated the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 24 and 25 April 2007.

**• OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting**

Dr José Oreamuno, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, presented the OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting, to be held in Panama City, Panama, on 19 and 20 August 2008 to discuss and prepare a joint regional strategy for the Global Conference in Cairo.

**• Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare**

Dr L. Stuardo, Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department, presented the Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 20 to 22 October 2008. He pointed out that the Conference would focus on the application of OIE animal

welfare standards and would be based on the practical experience of a number of countries in the matter.

He said that full information on the Conference could be found on the OIE website.

The Delegates would shortly be receiving an official letter of invitation from the Director General of the OIE.

**9. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2010**

The Regional Commission proposed the following Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session (based on a questionnaire sent to Members):

‘The changing role of Veterinary Services in the management of aquatic animal diseases to support sustainable production and international trade’

**10. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (17–21 November 2008)**

Following discussions and suggestions, the Commission selected the following Technical Item (not involving a questionnaire):

‘Members’ implementation of OIE international standards’.

**11. PVS evaluations update in the Region**

Dr Gastón Funes, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Americas region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps or weaknesses and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE would work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

**12. Outcome of the 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication**

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, presented the OIE’s current communication activities and stressed the importance accorded to communication in the OIE Fourth Strategic Plan.

She discussed the successful Communication Seminar that had been held in Buenos Aires in November 2007. As a result of the Seminar, the OIE would be convening an Ad Hoc Group in September to develop the subject of Communication and Veterinary Services.

Dr Luis Barcos presented the recommendations of the Communication Seminar, which were approved by the Commission.

Participants were reminded that the OIE would be staging the World Veterinary Day in 2008 jointly with the World Veterinary Association.

**13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region – Progress on the Regional WAHIS agreement between OIRSA and OIE**

Dr María Cristina Ramirez, Chargée de mission to the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region.

Dr Ramirez also presented data on animal disease information for 2007 and 2008 (six-monthly and annual reports). She clarified that the OIE expects its Members to submit the six-monthly reports one month after the end of the period; this period is extended to 45 days for the annual report. Finally, she stressed the need for CVOs to ensure a transition when there is a change in the national focal points. She encouraged the Delegates to check the accuracy of the digital maps presented in WAHIS.

She stressed the good overall compliance of countries in the region. She reiterated to non-complying countries the importance of submitting their reports on time.

She reported that three training workshops had been held for the Americas region, and mentioned a few problems that some countries had experienced with implementing the system and with OIE support.

She discussed the status of the Agreement with OIRSA for the implementation of the Regional WAHIS, which would be signed at this year's General Session.

#### **14. Relevant standards to be amended during the 76th General Session**

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, stated that the report on the Code amendments to be adopted would be submitted in due course and asked whether any country had doubts or questions. There were no comments on the matter.

Dr Alejandro Schudel, Vice-President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD), reported that it would be of greatest benefit to postpone the discussion on the proposed changes to September, after sending out the report for comments. He described the proposed revisions prepared by the SCAD, for which the respective resolutions would be presented at this year's General Session.

He also reported on current SCAD activities, including assistance to the member countries of the MERCOSUR Standing Veterinary Committee (CVP) in implementing a Regional Programme to control foot and mouth disease in border areas.

The Delegate of Panama reminded the participants that in the past a number of Members had asked the OIE to include Newcastle disease and classical swine fever in the list of diseases for which the OIE officially recognises the disease status.

#### **15. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories**

Dr Carlos Correa informed on the following OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories that the countries had presented for approval and that were approved by the Administrative Commission, stressing their importance in providing technical support for the countries in the region:

- Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biotechnology in Cuba;
- Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease in Argentina;
- Reference Laboratory for American fowlbrood in Argentina.

The Delegate of Chile reported that he presented for approval a Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Chile. He added that his country was working on a twinning project for a Reference Laboratory for infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) virus.

The Regional Commission approved these suggestions.

## **16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language**

Dr Fernando Crespo León, from Spain, Secretary of the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish Language, presented the work of the Steering Committee and the respective Ad Hoc Group.

He pointed out that the translation of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* into Spanish was already complete, saying that it had been published on the OIE website and that a printed version would be sent to the Members.

He provided detailed information on the contributions made by Members represented on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish Language in support of the translation projects.

He discussed the Framework Agreement concluded between the OIE and Spain's Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA), as well as other ongoing projects in connection with the agreement that would be signed shortly.

## **17. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**

### **• PAHO-PANAFTOSA**

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives, structure, principal actions and mechanisms used, international coordination bodies, alliances and partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations. He highlighted the three main areas of cooperation in which PANAFTOSA is working: foot and mouth disease, food and zoonoses.

He reiterated the need for good regional coordination.

He reminded participants of the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 11 and 12 June 2008, and invited all those present to attend.

### **• IICA**

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities that IICA is carrying out in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level, in particular assistance to countries in the region.

### **• OIRSA**

Dr Mara González Ortiz, Animal Health Specialist, OIRSA, presented her organisation's activities, highlighting collaboration with other organisations and technical assistance to its member countries.

She also emphasised a number of collaboration projects with the OIE.

## **18. Other matters**

### **• Latin American Poultry Association (ALA)**

Dr Ariel Mendes described the structure and objectives of the ALA.

He discussed the recent creation of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), whose members come from both the official and private poultry farming sectors of all the countries in the Americas.

He described the work of CISA in providing input for the revision of OIE standards.

He called on the Regional Commission for a formal Agreement to be concluded between the ALA and the OIE.

Dr Barcos replied that he would consult with the Director General and the Administrative Commission on the possibility of concluding an agreement with the ALA.

- **World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver**

Dr John Drake, President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, announced the 29th World Veterinary Congress to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in July 2008 and invited all those present to attend.

- **Meeting of the OIE Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases**

The Bureau thanked the Delegate of Mexico for holding the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases in Mexico in September 2008. The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas would support the organisation of the meeting.

- **Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology**

The Delegate of Panama discussed the drafting of a Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology, which had been printed and has been made available to the Members free of charge.

Dr Barcos said that the guide would be published on the website of the OIE Representation for the Americas so as to make it available to Members and for general distribution.

- **World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference**

The Delegate of Paraguay reported that his country had agreed to host the first World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference to be held by the OIE jointly with FAO in April 2009.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Administrative Commission update
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE
4. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Cuba from 17 to 21 November 2008
5. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)
6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
7. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America
8. Animal welfare
  - Reminder on the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo
  - OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting
  - Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare
9. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2010
10. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (17–21 November 2008)
11. PVS evaluations update in the Region
12. Outcome of the 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region – Progress on the Regional WAHIS agreement between OIRSA and OIE
14. Relevant standards to be amended during the 76th General Session
15. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories
16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language

17. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- PAHO-PANAFTOSA
- IICA
- OIRSA

18. Other matters

- Latin American Poultry Association (ALA)
- World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver
- Meeting of the OIE Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases
- Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology
- World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference





**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.25 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 participants including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

<u>Members of the Commission:</u>	Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam
<u>Observer countries/territories:</u>	France, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China), Papua New Guinea
<u>International/regional organisations:</u>	FAO, FEI, ICFAW, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Regional Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. He described the business of the meeting, saying the agenda was most comprehensive. He asked presenters to be disciplined in their approach so the meeting could be managed efficiently. The President stated that the meeting papers provided many details and he hoped Delegates had a chance to read them.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted with the addition at agenda item 14 of Veterinary Legislation and Governance, Veterinary Education and Training, proposed by India. In addition, short presentations would be made by the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer and by the Republic of Korea, Japan and PR China. Agenda papers and annexes were circulated.

**2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, then reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any. He also recommended that they shift up their contribution categories if possible.

**3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

The President of the Regional Commission presented his report on the activities of the Commission.

The President stated that items in his report would be considered at other agenda items. However, he mentioned two important issues: the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and ASEAN on technical cooperation; and the ASEAN +3 Workshop on rabies, where the OIE strongly contributed to discussions.

Specific thanks and appreciation were conveyed to the President of the OIE International Committee and Delegate of New Zealand for the excellent organisation and wonderful hospitality of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as well as others such as the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo and Sub-Regional Office in Bangkok.

His report was noted and accepted.

**4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific**

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, made a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2008-2009.

The Delegate from India raised two issues: evaluation of programmes and research. Although evaluation mechanisms are required of some projects, it was agreed that evaluation of programmes activities be included to the extent feasible. It was noted that OIE is not mandated to provide direct help for research but had a role in advising on the nature of research needed to support animal health.

His report was noted and accepted.

The President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Japan for supporting regional activities and hoped such support would continue.

**5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries**

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asian countries, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2008-2009. In particular, he discussed the OIE/AusAID Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services and the SEAsia Foot and Mouth disease campaign.

The President noted that an application to AusAID for funding to support the continuation of the SEAFMD programme till December 2010 was being finalised. He advised that New Zealand would provide funding assistance.

The Delegate of India raised the issue of the nature and scope of funding for programmes managed by the Regional Representation in Tokyo and sub-regional representation in Bangkok as well as the issue of regional and global cooperation for sharing information regarding genetic sequencing of avian influenza virus which may help in identifying the source of outbreak of avian influenza. Dr Fujita explained OFFLU arrangements and the chair discussed funding approaches. Regarding HPAI, he also introduced a new HPAI control programme funded by Japan which includes surveillance of Poultry and migratory birds in east, south-east, and South Asia.

The representative of Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, indicated that an application for a PVS review would be made to the OIE, with the support of the People's Republic of China.

The Delegate of Afghanistan advised of problems with controlling FMD because of vaccination issues relating to the circulating A type strain. It was supported that he takes the opportunity to meet with experts and vaccine manufacturers when at the OIE.

The Delegate from Pakistan advised that his country planned to start an FMD campaign and he sought advice on such a programme. It was suggested that the Regional Coordination Unit in Bangkok could, with FAO, provide information.

Dr Abila's report was noted and accepted.

**6. Election of two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General for the Regional Commission**

Dr Murray explained the rules for elections.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of PR China to the OIE, nominated by New-Zealand and seconded by India and Vietnam, and Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines to the OIE nominated by Japan and seconded by Thailand, were unanimously elected as the new Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Chaweewan Leowijuk (Thailand) and Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Chinese Taipei).

Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan to the OIE nominated by Bhutan and seconded by Sri Lanka, was unanimously elected as the new Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka).

**7. 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam, 10-14 March 2008) and special meeting on “HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries” (14 March 2008)**

Dr Murray presented the comprehensive outcome of the 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 10 to 14 March 2008.

A highlight of the meeting was discussion on the long-term SEAFMD 2020 strategic document. An independent Review Team sent by AusAID attended the meeting and interviewed participants on the value of continuing and funding the programme till 2010.

In respect of the specific meeting on “HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries”, the recommendations included the need to reinforce Veterinary Services, utilise the OIE-PVS tool, and place emphasis on the need for improved laboratory networks.

He said those meetings had assumed greater importance than ever.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting as well as those adopted during a special meeting on “HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries” which followed immediately after. The next meeting could be held in Malaysia in March 2009.

**8. Outcome of the National Seminar on OIE Standards and Activities (Beijing, People's Republic of China, 26-28 February 2008)**

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, outlined the nature and scope of the meeting. The meeting was a great success, with 180 participants. Senior officials from the OIE also met with the Minister of Agriculture and a Vice Prime Minister.

Dr Fujita's report was noted.

**9. Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (New Delhi, India, 4-6 December 2007)**

Dr Murray said the Conference was extremely well organised by the Indian Government and well attended. Details on the outcomes of the conference were available on the web. He said important outcome included a recognition of the critical importance of Veterinary Services and "One World, One Health" approach. He said the issue of sustainability was critical in dealing with not only HPAI, but other emerging diseases.

The next conference will be held in Cairo in October 2008.

**10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010**

The Regional Commission proposed that the 2 following technical items (including a questionnaire to Members) be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

"Food security – a global response"

"Biosecurity for small-holdings and the role of community animal health workers"

In proposing the items, it was agreed that aquatic animals would be included and consideration would be given to support one or both topics for inclusion in the agenda of the 2009 Regional Commission Meeting in China.

**11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Queenstown, New Zealand, 26-30 November 2007)**

The Recommendations adopted at the 25th Conference of the Commission, held in Queenstown, New Zealand, were presented. A number of key issues were discussed. In respect of the plenary items, the importance of OIE developing guidelines on animal biosecurity and food production safety was emphasised.

The next Regional Commission meeting would be hosted by the People's Republic of China in late 2009.

**12. GF-TADs update**

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the activities of the GF-TADS Programme in the region. The programme focuses on FMD, HPAI, CSF and PPR. The next steering committee will meet later in the year.

**13. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region**

Mr Stéphane Berlaud, chargé de mission to the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Asia-Pacific region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

#### 14. Other matters

- **WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region – Agreement with NACA**

Dr T. Ishibashi, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were also presented. Dr Ishibashi emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal information on a regular basis to the OIE.

Questions were raised on matters relative to six month reports, animal reports, and reporting of emergency events. It was agreed that the Central Bureau would prepare a short document answering these questions and make it available to Regional Commission Members for their information. The importance and value of WAHIS training was emphasised.

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific also commented on the OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health held in Bangkok (March 2008). The importance of the OIE Delegate nominating a contact point was stressed, including the coordination of reporting arrangements with WAHIS.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from the OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25-28 March 2008.

Discussion took place on the difference between Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres “twinning” and the need to ensure that the highest standards are met when considering application for Collaborating Centres Status.

- **1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication**

Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, outlined the importance of effective communication for Veterinary Services, and presented the OIE Regional Seminar on Communication, due to be held in October 2008 in Bangkok, which will aim to help Veterinary Services to strengthen their communication capacities.

- **Application of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Enhancement**

The President of the Regional Commission advised that the Regional Commission had endorsed an application by AAHL for Collaborating Centre Status. The Standards and Administrative Commissions also supported the application. The Regional Commission endorsed the proposal.

- **Draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy**

Dr David Bayvel, President of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, said that a number of countries in the Region had contributed to the development of the draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS), which articulated a number of general principles. If endorsed, a “Think Tank” would meet to consider how the strategy could best be implemented.

The Regional Commission endorsed the RAWS and next steps.

- **OIE/AusAID Workshop: Veterinary Legislation and Performance**

Dr Murray introduced this item. He said that a number of issues were raised in regards to gaps, the skills needs, PVS and governance issues. The importance of the OIE in developing legislative principles and guidelines was emphasised.

The Regional Commission endorsed the recommendations.

- **Other Matters**

The Republic of Korea discussed the development and enactment of aquatic animal health. They introduced the new legislation due to go into effect in December this year, the aim of which is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Delegate of Japan indicated that Japan would apply for a Collaborating Centre in Animal Feed Safety and Analysis in 2008. The Regional Commission supported the application going forward.

The Delegate of India raised the issue of Continuing Veterinary Education and asked whether a list of experts would be drafted who might be able to assist in continuing education. It was agreed that this matter be drawn to the attention of the Director General for follow-up. The subject would be considered as an agenda item in the next regional conference. The Delegate of India also commented on some activities that his country is planning on this issue.

Dr Sit, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, advised that it was hoped a zone or compartment could be developed to support the Asian Games. An expert review team led by the OIE would visit PR China to evaluate this proposal. Dr Sit also asked CVOs to support the August 2008 global Olympic Games equestrian events as much as possible.

## **15. Presentations of regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE**

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Mr Ken Cokanasiga, advisor to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on Livestock advised on the development of a MOU between SPC and the OIE on utilizing WAHIS as a platform for disease reporting to non OIE SPC Members. He said there was an AusAID review on the avian influenza pandemic preparedness project.

The meeting ended at 6 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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**Agenda**

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3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries
6. Election of two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General for the Regional Commission
7. 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam, 10-14 March 2008) and special meeting on “HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries” (14 March 2008)
8. Outcome of the National Seminar on OIE Standards and Activities (Beijing, People’s Republic of China, 26-28 February 2008)
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10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Queenstown, New Zealand, 26-30 November 2007)
12. GF-TADs update
13. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region

14. Other matters

- WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region – Agreement with NACA
- 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
- Application of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Enhancement
- Draft regional strategy on animal welfare
- OIE/AusAID Workshop: Veterinary Legislation and Performance
- Other Matters

15. Presentations of regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)



**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
Paris, 26 May 2008**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 109 Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: Copa-Cogeca, EC<sup>71</sup>, Eurogroup-ICFAW, FAO-EUFMD, FVE<sup>72</sup>, IZS<sup>73</sup>, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland) and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

**2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

The President of the Commission explained that 18 months ago, the OIE Director General sent a letter to 15 countries of the region asking for an increase of contribution category. Most countries answered positively, but answers are still missing from Hungary, Israel, Luxembourg, Poland and Slovenia.

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<sup>71</sup> EC: European Commission

<sup>72</sup> FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

<sup>73</sup> IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale

**3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe**

Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the Regional Commission and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2007. He made reference to the series of National Seminars held in 2007 and in the early part of 2008, in Moldova, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. He also spoke on the mission of the Ukrainian Ministers and Parliamentarians to Italy. He referred to the rabies conference held in May 2007 at OIE Headquarters, to the Special Meeting of the Regional Commission on FMD and ASF held in Paris in July 2007, and the Washington Conference with the World Bank last October.

The Commission accepted the report.

**4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels**

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for the year 2007. She explained the major objectives of this Sub-Regional Representation and the part played by the Representation in the dissemination of information on OIE standards, participation in major OIE programmes, help with the development of the communication system, and assistance in the preparation of further seminars to be held in September 2008 in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The Sub-Regional Representation has been involved in international meetings on AI, PPR, FMD, ASF and bluetongue, meetings pertaining to bio-terrorism, and in the OIE Seminar in China using a similar format to that used for the OIE/EC national seminars. Provision of emergency support was given to Georgia and Armenia for ASF. Development and roll out of the website has been completed and further work is under way. The website is accessible at: [www.rr-europe.oie.int](http://www.rr-europe.oie.int).

The Commission accepted the report.

**5. Election of the Secretary General of the Regional Commission**

The proposal to nominate Dr Nikolay Vlasov, new Delegate of Russia, to the OIE, was seconded by Germany and he was unanimously elected as the new Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, replacing Dr Evgueni Nepoklonov (Russia).

**6. Outcome of the Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: 'Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia' (OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007)**

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the aims of the Conference and the key elements of the resolution adopted. The next Conference for Eurasia will probably take place in 2010. All information and a full report is available on the OIE website.

**7. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010**

There were four proposals for a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.

A proposal was made by WSPA drawing the attention of the OIE to the situation of rabies in Eurasia and the need to provide technical and logistical support to Members to help provide services to sterilise dogs and cats, to assist in the elimination of rabies. This is seen as important as vaccination alone will not succeed in the elimination of this disease.

The Delegate of France proposed that the topic of the use of veterinary medication, and particularly the development of resistance to antimicrobials, should be put forward by the Regional Commission for Europe. This proposal was supported by a number of Member Country Delegates including Sweden, Czech Republic, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Albania, Luxembourg and the UK (this Delegate called for effective cooperative surveillance involving both human and animal health experts on the use of antimicrobial and in particular antibiotics). The Delegate of France also mentioned that the topic of animal feed could be worthy of a technical item at some time in the future.

The Delegate of Croatia proposed an item on the importance of biosecurity measures on farms and in particular biosecurity on small farms as a disease control measure. She commented that it would be useful to have guidelines for the different scenarios that may apply. This was supported by Macedonia.

The Delegate of Spain proposed consideration of the role of wildlife, specifically focusing on the movement of wildlife (including domesticated wildlife), the implication of this movement for the spread of different strains of pathogens and the impact of wildlife movement on on-farm biosecurity. This was supported by Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal. In support of the Spanish proposal, the Italian Delegate referred to an article published 4 years ago by CDC in Atlanta pertaining to “trade and wildlife diseases”.

The Regional Commission proposed that the French and Spanish proposals would go forward for consideration by the International Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

**8. Selection of a technical item without questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008**

The following technical item, not including a questionnaire to Members, was chosen for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

“Strategy for controlling bluetongue, including the application of vaccines”

This item will be presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale from IZS of Teramo, Italy.

**9. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008**

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Lithuania, reminded the Regional Commission about his country’s invitation to host the 23rd Conference of the Regional Commission in Vilnius, from 16 to 19 September 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details. All information is available on a specially commissioned website: [www.oievilnius.lt](http://www.oievilnius.lt)

**10. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE**

**• European Commission**

Dr Alberto Laddomada made a presentation on behalf of Bernard Van Goethem, which was divided in two parts : 1) diseases in Europe and 2) GF-TADs . In apologising for the absence of Dr Van Goethem, Dr Laddomada explained that Dr Van Goethem had to return to Brussels to attend a meeting in the Parliament and was particularly sorry not to have been able to play a part in the meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe.

Initially, Dr Laddomada spoke about the animal health situation in 2007, which was not an easy year, particularly because of the continuing spread of bluetongue. The necessity for a common approach was emphasised as was the uptake of vaccination as an essential

part of the overall control programme. He also emphasised the need for more research and greater coordination and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for further discussion on bluetongue and in particular the role of vaccination, at the meeting of the Regional Commission in Lithuania.

He spoke about ASF as a matter of very considerable concern, particularly because of the situation in the Caucasus. He reiterated the willingness of the EC to offer its assistance in the control and the elimination of this disease. He referred briefly to the FMD situation in the UK and Cyprus, which was a matter of some concern at the time, but the situation was brought under control with a rapid return to the status quo. He spoke on the AI situation which is currently stable in the EU, but which could deteriorate when least expected. In speaking about rabies and CSF, he said that they should continue to be considered as priorities in Europe, and he referred to the fact that all the technical skills necessary are available to effectively deal with these diseases.

He went on to inform Delegates of a major communication from the EC to the EU Council and Parliament with the new Community Animal Health Strategy (CAHS). This is the first time such a major policy has been presented by the EC. He thanked the CVOs of the EU for the support in the development of this policy document and went on to indicate that an action plan should be submitted by June 2008. In the context of the CAHS, he spoke of the cost of surveillance as an important issue and the fact that the EC Commission has also asked the OIE to undertake studies to assist in determining the costs and benefits of disease surveillance/early warning, as opposed to simply responding to disease outbreaks. The EC is working with EU Member States on animal health priorities and on new funding arrangements.

He went on to speak about the veterinary week in November 2008, in the planning of which the EC will have the support of the OIE and FVE. He indicated that the EC is very keen to continue its work with the OIE on the development of international standards but would also welcome the greater involvement of other countries.

He also mentioned briefly the next International Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Cairo in October 2008, emphasising the role of the EU as a major sponsor for this important event.

He also spoke about the EC work with a number of countries and stakeholders on the development of Veterinary Services standards, particularly through the programme Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF). Quality of Veterinary Services is another important priority for the EC and it is working closely with the OIE to support the PVS and associated processes. The European Commission sees the PVS procedures as a valuable mechanism for coordination between the OIE, other international organisations, donor agencies and Member Countries. The EU will continue to support the PVS initiative.

In concluding this part of the presentation, Dr Laddomada spoke on the importance of a number of forthcoming seminars.

## **11. GF-TADs programmes**

Dr Alberto Laddomada, reminded Delegates of the role of Dr Van Goethem as president of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the European region. He also made the point that the work of this group is fully supported by the EC. He went on to speak about the role of the GF-TADs as an important tool for disease control in Europe. The EC, which is a significant donor to the work of GF-TADs, is keen to see wider and more effective coordination in the work of GF-TADs. He then spoke about the support of the EC for the GF-TADs programme in the western Balkans and the need for more cooperation in the Caucasus, particularly in the development of the Veterinary Services. He also spoke about EU support for the OIE and FAO programmes including on PVS evaluation, stressing the

importance of the OIE-PVS tool. He also suggested that there was a need for a programme of evaluation of veterinary schools.

He went on to speak about the importance of a number of activities which need specific evaluation under the PVS programme, including animal health surveillance, contingency plans, border controls, and laboratory standards. He suggested that the WHO should be an active participant in the GF-TADs Committee. He also spoke about the need to see partners in GF-TADs exerting increased pressure on governments and parliaments to place greater emphasis on the importance of more effective animal health control throughout the European region. He also spoke about the need to focus on the threat posed to the wider European region on the outbreaks of ASF and CSF in the Balkans and the Caucasus. He then went on to speak about the need to engage with southern neighbouring countries, particularly in North Africa to coordinate work on certain diseases including bluetongue.

Prof. Belev expressed his thanks to the EC for its continuing support for the GF-TADs and the OIE Regional Representation.

## **12. PVS evaluations update in the region**

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. She also described the specific status of the European region. She said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide. She also informed the meeting that a PVS update in the region was available on the Regional website.

## **13. Other matters**

### **• The emergence of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe**

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented an overview of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe which have drawn a lot of attention over the last year. Various measures have been taken to limit the spread and control of the diseases. The importance of respecting OIE standards, particularly with regards to notification, monitoring and surveillance activities, was emphasised.

### **• WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region**

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were also presented. Dr Weber-Vintzel emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal health information on a regular basis to the OIE. She urged the countries which have not yet submitted the information using the WAHIS system to do so.

The meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.

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.../Appendix

**MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels
5. Election of the Secretary General of the Regional Commission
6. Outcome of the Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: 'Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia' (OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007)
7. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
8. Selection of a technical item without questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008
9. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008
10. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE
  - European Commission
11. GF-TADs programmes
12. PVS evaluations update in the region
13. Other matters
  - The emergence of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe
  - WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

**REPORT OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Paris, 26 May 2008**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 36 Delegates and observers from 17 Members belonging to the Commission, 2 observer countries/territories and 3 international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Observer countries/territories: France, Palestinian Authorities

International/regional organisations: FAO, ICFAW, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Bashir Taha Mohammed Taha (Sudan), Vice-President, and Dr Fares Al Bakhit (Jordan), General Secretary.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

**2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

**3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities implemented during the last year. He reminded the Regional Commission about themes, conclusions and recommendations of technical workshops that focussed on the main issues affecting the region.

He described the proposed work programme for 2008-2009.

Dr Yehia mentioned that more and more important documents were translated into Arabic. Most of those documents are published on the Regional Representation website that is regularly updated with summaries of the most important diseases affecting the region.

He emphasised the role of the Regional Representation in providing assistance principally on WAHIS, PVS implementation and technical expertise.

The Delegate of Turkey proposed that workshops on compartmentalisation and vector-borne diseases could be organised.

The representative of the Jordanian Veterinary Association expressed his wish to consider National Veterinary Associations as observers to OIE work in the region.

The report on activities and the work programme of the Regional Representation were adopted by the Regional Commission.

**4. Recommendations of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Damascus, Syria, 29 October – 1 November 2007)**

Dr Salman Abdel Nabi noted that the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007, was attended by a large number of Middle Eastern countries and Regional and International Organisations.

Then he described recommendations adopted during the Conference on the two technical items; namely “the role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services” and “the Geographic Information System (GIS) used for animal disease control”.

He explained that during the conference the OIE rinderpest status recognition procedure was presented; this has the objective of recognition of freedom from rinderpest for each Member. A point about WAHIS implementation in the region was also made.

**5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations

**6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission.**

Dr Kassem Al Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar to the OIE, was elected Vice-President of the Regional Commission in replacement of Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait).

**7. GF-TADs programme update**

Dr George Khoury (Syria), chairman of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the GF-TADs, reminded the Commission about the creation of the RSC; this has a main objective of adapting policies and programmes related to epidemiology and prevalence of priority diseases to the needs of the region.



He detailed actions carried out in this framework and stressed the role of the newly established Regional Animal Health Centre.

Regional Steering Committee composition was described following question from the Delegate of Iran about the election procedure of the RSC.

## **8. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region**

Dr Pierre Primot, Project Officer, OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Middle East region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to perform a gap analysis and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

Members wishing to request a gap analysis or a follow-up PVS mission, to assess improvements made since the previous evaluation, should send an application to the OIE Director General.

## **9. Other matters**

### **9.1. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS and WAHID) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were presented. Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis. If countries are not satisfied with the map of their country presented in WAHID, they are invited to send updated maps.

### **9.2. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Beirut, Lebanon**

Dr Hassan Aidaros, from FAO, presented the action plan of the FAO ECTAD<sup>74</sup> Unit and the activities implemented in the region. Dr Yehia followed by reminding the Commission about the establishment of the agreement between OIE, FAO and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, which provides a framework for the coordination and harmonisation of monitoring and control strategies for the main TADs in the region.

He explained that the RAHC is located in the building of the OIE Regional Representation, where the FAO ECTAD Unit has been made welcomed.

The RAHC is newly established and its first activities concern the recognition of rinderpest freedom for all regional countries.

### **9.3. Focal points**

Dr Yehia reminded the Commission about the role of focal points; these are country experts appointed by the Delegates and acting under their authority to address specific issues in their countries.

The OIE recognised five focal points: sanitary information, wildlife diseases, aquatic diseases, animal welfare, and veterinary products. A focal point for food safety will be created soon.

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<sup>74</sup> ECTAD: Emergency Center for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

He explained that few countries have nominated their focal points. He invited Delegates to proceed with their nominations.

#### **9.4. Laboratory twinning**

Dr Yehia described the possibility for laboratories in the region to make a request to the OIE for assistance for twinning with OIE Reference Laboratories.

Dr Yehia mentioned that there is a need for a Rift Valley fever Reference Laboratory in the region.

He mentioned that there has been an application for twinning between Egypt and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (Germany) for Newcastle disease and avian influenza, this is due to start soon; there have also been expressions of interest from several other countries.

#### **9.5. Nomination of ME experts for Ad Hoc Groups and Working Groups**

Dr Yehia talked about OIE Working Groups and Ad hoc Groups. He stressed the importance of including experts from the Middle East in such groups to identify topics pertinent to the region. He explained that currently only one representative from the Middle East participates in such groups.

He invited Delegates to propose national experts for the expert database that will soon be constructed.

#### **9.6. Evolving veterinary education for a safer world**

Dr Yehia informed participants that “Evolving veterinary education for a safer world” is an international conference which will take place at OIE's Headquarters in Paris from 12- 14 October 2009. The main purpose of the Conference is to reach consensus in order to recommend to the international veterinary community a new veterinary curriculum. This should ensure that future graduates are increasingly able to work in an international environment applying OIE standards for disease surveillance, veterinary public health, food safety and animal welfare.

He invited Delegates to send the list of Veterinary Schools and Universities in their countries and to schedule participation at this conference.

#### **9.7. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Qatar in 2009.**

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic.

Delegates advocated that the OIE procedure for Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres should be presented during the Conference.

#### **9.8. World Veterinary Congress**

Dr Abedel-Fattah Al-Kilani (Jordan Veterinary Association) summarised the situation for veterinary associations in the region. Some of these have formed a regional federation. He explained that during the next World Veterinary Congress to be held in July 2008 in Vancouver, Canada, the new bureau of the World Veterinary Association will be elected.

The President of the Commission addressed a motion of thanks to countries holding regional conferences, seminars or workshops: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Syria.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

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.../Appendix

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5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.
6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission.
7. GF-TADs programme update
8. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region
9. Other matters
  - 9.1. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS and WAHID) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
  - 9.2. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Beirut, Lebanon
  - 9.3. Focal points
  - 9.4. Laboratory twinning
  - 9.5. Nomination of ME experts for Ad Hoc Groups and Working Groups
  - 9.6. Evolving veterinary education for a safer world
  - 9.7. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Qatar in 2009.
  - 9.8. World Veterinary Congress



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