

# RAPPORT DE MISSION/ MISSION REPORT

Dr Bernard Vallat, Directeur général

Canada

Dates de la mission/Dates of the meeting : 11 au 14 juillet 2004

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## Objet de la mission / aim of the meeting :

Participer en tant que « Key-speaker » au 23ème Congrès mondial de buiatrie à Québec, Canada.

Réunion de travail avec les autorités fédérales canadiennes en charge de la santé animale, de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, de l'OIE, du Codex Alimentarius, du Commerce extérieur, des Laboratoires vétérinaires et de la pêche et de l'agriculture.

## Résumé / Summary :

### Congrès mondial de buiatrie

Il a eu lieu à Québec. J'ai été convié à participer à l'ouverture du Congrès en tant que « Key-speaker », avec le Dr Brian Evans, Délégué du Canada auprès de l'OIE (*cf* ma présentation power point annexée). 1300 participants venus de 80 pays étaient présents.

Le thème de l'ESB et le rôle de l'OIE étaient très présents dans toutes les discussions.

L'organisation générale était excellente. Il est à déplorer que le stand de l'OIE était le seul stand fermé au moment de l'ouverture (alors que son titre était affiché) ce qui donnait une très mauvaise impression de notre organisation. Il suffisait pourtant d'envoyer le matériel quelques jours plus tôt, ceci relevant de l'adéquation des méthodes d'organisation et de planification des activités du Service Publications. La même indécision avait eu lieu pour le Congrès d'Hambourg, mais heureusement les solutions de dernière minute avaient pu fonctionner.

Il conviendra de rétablir les choses à l'occasion du prochain Congrès pour lequel on peut conclure que la présence de l'OIE à haut niveau (présentation générale et stand) doit être assurée.

### Réunion avec les autorités fédérales canadiennes

Un premier contact a eu lieu à Québec avec le Docteur Gravel, Directeur adjoint de l'ACIA (Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments).

Les autres hauts fonctionnaires canadiens ont été rencontrés à Ottawa lors d'une réunion organisée fort opportunément par le Docteur Evans.

Toutes les activités de l'OIE, ainsi que la plan stratégique en préparation et les activités régionales ont été passées en revue et j'ai eu à répondre à de très nombreuses questions.

L'impression générale qui se dégage de ces échanges de vues est que l'OIE jouit d'un grand prestige au Canada et que les attentes de ce pays sont très fortes en ce qui concerne le rôle international de l'OIE, y compris dans le cadre des relations à développer avec le Codex Alimentarius et la Convention pour la Biodiversité.

**Personnalités rencontrées/ Key person(s) met:**

- Autorités fédérales (voir ci-dessus)  
*NB* : le Ministre actuel n'était plus en fonction du fait d'élections en cours
- Autorités de santé animale de l'Etat de Québec, Mme Martine Dubuc,
- Doyen de l'Université de Sainte Hyacinthe, futur candidat à la création d'un Centre collaborateur de l'OIE en matière de biotechnologies notamment,
- Représentant de l'Association canadienne des médecins vétérinaires.

**Conclusions et suites à donner / Conclusions and follow-up:**


Poursuivre la participation de l'OIE aux Congrès mondiaux de buiatrie (présentation + stand).

Poursuivre les contacts avec l'Université de Sainte Hyacinthe (RD).

**P.J** : présentation power point

**Diffusion** : Chefs de Service et adjoints, Chargé(e)s de mission, A. Thiermann, V. Leverkuehn, M. Teissier, M. Zampaglione, Représentants régionaux.

Diapositive 1



**Animal Diseases and International Trade:  
role of the World Organisation  
for Animal Health (OIE)**

**Bernard Vallat**  
Director General - OIE

23rd World Buiatrics Congress  
Québec, July 12, 2004

Diapositive 2




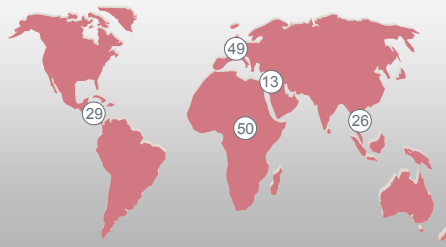


**World Organisation for Animal Health  
created in 1924 in Paris**

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Diapositive 3


**167 Member Countries** (May 2004) 



Americas: 29 – Africa: 50 – Europe: 49 – Middle East: 13 – Asia: 26

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Diapositive 4

**Objectives** 

1. To ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation
2. To collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information
3. Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products
4. To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach
5. To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases .
6. To improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services

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Diapositive 5

**International Relations** 


**Institutional cooperation with :**

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- International Plant Protection Commission (IPPC)
- World Bank
- CAB International (CABI) on sharing of resources in the Animal Health & Production Compendium
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Regional Organizations (AU-IBAR, PAHO, OIRSA, IICA, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, European Commission)

Technical and scientific cooperation with more than 20 regional organisations and international professional associations (IMS, IDF, FÉI, IFAH, IABS, WVA)

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Diapositive 6




**OIE Information System**

**Promote transparency in  
and knowledge of global  
animal disease situation**

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Diapositive 7

**How ?** 

- OIE Early Warning System based on official information and reports from Member Countries and other Organisations
- OIE Reference Laboratories
- Active search and verification of non official information
- Improve data quality at the field level
- OIE Global Information System

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Diapositive 8

**The OIE Global Information System** 



The diagram illustrates the flow of information into and out of the Global OIE Database. Inputs include Member Countries, OIE Reference Laboratories and Reports of Other International Organisations, Emergency & Follow-up Reports, Monthly Reports, and Annual Questionnaires. The database outputs Warming Messages and Weekly Disease Information, Handistatus, and World Animal Health information.

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### Diapositive 9

**Transparency in the Global Animal Disease Situation**

- Each OIE Member Country has a responsibility to report to the OIE in a timely manner occurrences of animal diseases, including those transmissible to humans.
- The OIE then disseminates the information to all other countries to enable them to take appropriate risk based measures, to protect themselves.
- Unfortunately there are still too many instances when member countries haven't fulfilled their obligations, and some serious disease events have not been reported.
- Very real risks of diseases being spread, and loss of credibility of countries involved.
- Transparency is an efficient medium term investment.

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### Diapositive 13

**How fast they are changing and in response to what pressure?**

- Pressure by exporting countries to increase trade
- Pressure by importing countries to protect themselves (e.g Avian influenza)
- Ethics and public health protection

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### Diapositive 10

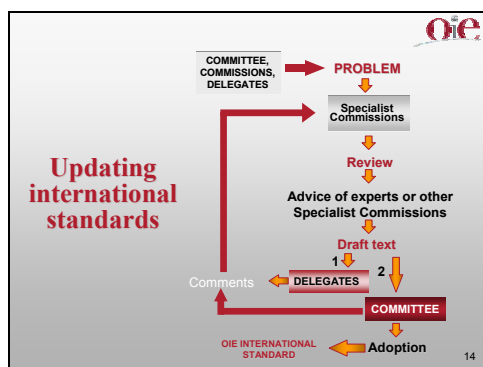
**OIE International Standards**

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code - mammals, birds and bees
- Aquatic Animal Health Code – fish, molluscs and crustaceans
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

Also available on the OIE Website

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### Diapositive 14



### Diapositive 11

**Reasons why standards are necessary (1)**

- Safety of international trade of animals and animal products
- Harmonization of legislations and control methods in countries
- Narrow the gap between rich and poor countries

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### Diapositive 15

**Fundamental Principles for Veterinary Services**

- Professional judgement
- Impartiality
- Integrity
- Objectivity (science and risk based standards)
- Transparency

These all result in the development of credibility and a relationship of trust between the exporting and importing countries, which is the foundations of trade

- Audit from importing countries and compliance with OIE Standards

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### Diapositive 12

**Reasons why standards are necessary (2)**

- Surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses = International Public Good (IPG)
- IPG implementation is a duty of governments
- International community, international organizations, donors and NGO influence and support
- Public – Private sector contracts

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### Diapositive 16

**Compliance to International standards**

- **Developed countries**
  - ✓ Exceed standards. Use of risk analysis – great deception for developing countries
- **Developing countries**
  - ✓ Not able to comply with basic standards
  - ✓ Sustainability of SPS-WTO Agreement
  - ✓ Threat for free countries

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## Diapositive 17

**Safety of International Trade** 

- The OIE develops standards for use by its Member Countries to protect themselves from disease incursions while avoiding unjustified technical barriers to trade.
- OIE standards are recognised by the WTO. They are scientifically based, are prepared by Member Countries internationally recognised scientists and elected Commissions, and adopted by Members.
- OIE standards are designed to be mainly trade enabling
- Unfortunately there are also many examples of Member Countries putting in place unjustifiable trade barriers.
- Results in significant economic impacts for exporting countries, and loss of credibility for countries taking such action

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## Diapositive 21

**OIE involvement on Animal Production Food Safety** 

- Terms of Reference
  - consider all food hazards of animal origin before slaughter and primary processing of products
  - Principal emphasis on measures applicable at farm level
- WG coordinates the food safety activities of the OIE and relations with *Codex Alimentarius*

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## Diapositive 18

**Sanitary aspects of globalisation** 

- Increase in flow of commodities and people
- Remains of pathogen reservoirs
- Emerging zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases
- Role of wildlife
- Bioterrorism

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## Diapositive 22

**Animal welfare** 

- Essential linkage between animal health and animal welfare
- OIE well placed to provide international leadership on animal welfare
  - priority given to welfare of animals used in agriculture and aquaculture
  - transportation, humane slaughter and killing for disease control to be addressed first, followed by housing and management
- Standards must be applicable by all OIE Member Countries
- Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Feb 2004)

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## Diapositive 19

**International controls** 

- Quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Quality of certification
- Importing country audits
- Conflicts and mediation

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## Diapositive 23

**Reference Laboratories** 

- 150 Reference Laboratories in 30 Countries covering 80 diseases or topics
- Expert centres for worldwide standardization
  - Store and distribute reference reagents
  - Conduct and validate diagnostic tests
  - Coordinate technical and scientific studies
  - Provide technical and scientific training
  - Organise laboratory proficiency testing

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## Diapositive 20

**International priorities** 

- Recognition of the role of farmers
- Compensation mechanisms
- Good farming practices
- OIE recognition of sanitary status
- Investments and lobbying

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## Diapositive 24

**Challenges for OIE Members** 

- To have surveillance systems operating that enable the rapid identification of significant disease events, therefore satisfying the needs of trading partners.
- Acceptance of the need for effective surveillance and early warning and response mechanisms, to be considered as systems of Public good priorities.
- Participating in the OIE standard setting process thereby having confidence in the acceptability of OIE trade standards. Consideration of animal health prevention cost as insurance for economic justifications of programmes.
- Recognition from industry and politicians of the obligation to report disease events that may have an economic impact, and to not over react to a disease event in an exporting country with non justifiable import restrictions, especially if commodity is safe.

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## Diapositive 25

**Summary** 

- Investments in surveillance and early warning and response mechanism are to be considered as international Public goods by decision-makers
- Not reporting animal disease occurrences creates risks to other countries, and will have a greater economic impact longer term due to loss of credibility and trust by trading partners
- Over reacting to another countries disease occurrences not only damages a countries credibility, but breaches rules based trade.
- OIE member countries and their veterinary services must together show leadership in this area, and OIE is able and willing to assist members if needed

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## Diapositive 26



**Treat others as you would like  
others to treat you**

Thank you for your attention

**World organisation for animal health**

12 rue de prony  
75017 Paris, France  
Tel: 33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 – Fax: 33 (0)1 42 67 09 87  
Email: [oie@oie.int](mailto:oie@oie.int)  
<http://www.oie.int>

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