

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 79th General Session
in Paris, 23 May 2011**

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

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 World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 110 participants, including Delegates and observers from 38 Members of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territories and representatives from 7 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France, South Sudan, United Kingdom, United States of Americas.

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR¹, EU², ECOWAS³, FAO⁴, SADC⁵, WAEMU⁶, WB⁷

The meeting was chaired by Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher (Ethiopia), President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, welcomed all participants to the meeting, expressing a special welcome to Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The Secretary General attended the 79th OIE General Session in order to sign an agreement with the OIE.

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, proposed some amendments to the agenda. The amendments were unanimously adopted, as follows:

- The Secretary General of AMU would be the first to address the Commission.

¹ AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
² EU: European Union
³ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
⁴ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
⁵ SADC: Southern African Development Community
⁶ WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union
⁷ WB: World Bank

- The Item regarding Council update - OIE Basic Texts would be presented at the end in order to give Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, the opportunity to present the item.
- Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice-President of Vet 2011, would address the Commission regarding the development of the activities under the umbrella of Vet 2011.
- Dr Ofosu, representative from Ghana, would give an honorary certificate to Dr Bernard Vallat.

The Agenda, including the amendments, is included in the Appendix.

2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)

Mr Habib Ben Yahia, Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), started his speech thanking Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, for having invited AMU to attend the 79th OIE General Session and to address the Regional Commission for Africa.

Mr Ben Yahia explained that AMU countries are all subject to the same climatic conditions and are situated in the same epidemiological area. Economically speaking, animal resources are of special importance because of the key role they play in the economic and social life of Maghreb countries. That is why they have attracted special attention from the Maghreb authorities.

He pointed out that as soon as the organisation had set up its Specialised Ministerial Committee for Food Security in January 1990, it was entrusted with the task of overseeing the joint Maghreb effort for animal resource development and management. This institutional framework was strengthened by the establishment of a Maghreb Veterinary Committee whose task is to define, plan and coordinate the implementation of Maghreb action plans for animal health and trade in animals and animal products. The agreement on cooperation in the veterinary field, adopted in March 1991, provides the legal framework for joint Maghreb action in the field of animal health. The implementation of this agreement led to the adoption, in 2004, of the AMU Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS), which includes several ongoing projects.

Mr Ben Yahia noted that the resurgence of transboundary diseases, including zoonotic ones, has prompted the competent Maghreb authorities to step up their cooperation to consolidate their surveillance and early-warning capacity.

In closing, he commented that the Maghreb transboundary disease surveillance network, which was set up in 2006 to improve the prevention and control of epizootics in the Maghreb region, provides the institutional framework for regional cooperation.

3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated in the previous 12 months.

He made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011, highlighting the fruitful discussions participants had during the Conference and the two recommendations adopted by the Commission. He also commented on the one day OIE-PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held back to back with the Regional Conference.

The other activities listed by Dr Gebreegzabher included: the first OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, held in Djerba in December 2010, the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, held in Paris in February 2011, the Seminar for Animal Production Food Safety Focal Points, held in Tunisia, and the 6th Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Africa.

Finally, the President of the Commission commented on the meeting of Directors of Veterinary Services and Chief Veterinary Officers, held in Nairobi on early May. During this meeting the proposed changes to the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, which were submitted for adoption at the 79th OIE General Session, were examined.

The report was approved.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region and the Regional Animal Health Centres

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, gave a summary of the activities carried out from 1 January to 1 May 2011 by the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa. These included missions to support capacity-building activities for Delegates, National Focal Points and Presidents of Veterinary Statutory Bodies. These activities also covered the PVS pathway, the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) (advanced training) and food safety.

The Regional Representative made special reference to the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15 to 18 February 2011. Dr Samaké indicated that the Conference had been a success.

Furthermore, Dr Samaké made reference to the participation of the OIE Regional Representation in statutory meetings of GF-TADs and ALive.

The Regional Representative also commented on his participation in the Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The meeting recommended signing an agreement between ECOWAS and the Government of Mali regarding the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC). The meeting also recommended that the RAHC be turned into an ECOWAS specialised institution.

The Regional Representative briefly described some of the other meetings and events that had taken place in the African region from 1/01/2011 to 1/05/2011, as follows:

- The audience granted by the Rwandan Prime Minister to the OIE Director General;
- The appointment of the new OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- The ceremony, attended by the President of the Republic of Mali, to inaugurate the new headquarters of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa; and
- The audience granted by the President of the Republic of Mali to the OIE Director General.

Regarding the activities planned for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2011 the Representative summarised them as follows:

- Entry into office of the Deputy OIE Regional Representative for Africa;
- Capacity-building in the following areas: recently appointed Delegates, diseases of honey bees, veterinary products and aquatic animal diseases;
- Implementation of the OIE-PVS pathway and the programme for modernising veterinary legislation;
- Participation in the 79th OIE General Session, as well as in the annual meeting of Regional and Sub-Regional Representations;
- Participation in the OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes and;
- Participation in the Global Conference on Rabies Control.

6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE Strategic Plan

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented a concept note prepared by the OIE management team in Africa, based on the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, adopted in the course of the 78th OIE General Session in May 2010. The note aim at increasing the political, financial and technical visibility of the OIE in Africa, which is necessary for the smooth implementation of the African components of the 5th Strategic Plan.

The Regional Representative noted that the OIE, with its worldwide mandate, is sometimes seen, by African elites not directly concerned, as an institution that is ill-adapted to African needs. The OIE felt it important to have a policy strategy document to convince policy-makers at the national, regional and continental level of the importance of establishing strong cooperation with the OIE.

Dr Samaké explained that the note clearly demonstrates, in terms intentionally accessible to the non-specialist, the close agreement between the OIE's five-year Strategic Plan and three pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Millennium Development Goals.

The note demonstrates also that the OIE Regional Commission for Africa must be considered as a Regional Organisation.

The note has been endorsed by the meeting.

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

“Interventions to improve Veterinary Services capacity in aquatic and bee health”

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 20th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

“Promoting intra-Africa trade of animal and animal products”

9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 14 to 18 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké gave an account of the two recommendations adopted during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

Regarding Recommendation N°1 *“Livestock census in Africa as a vital tool for livestock disease surveillance and control”*, Dr Samaké remarked that obtaining accurate livestock census data is a critical component of any disease control programme. He pointed out that there are OIE standards on identification and traceability of live animals and that useful data can be found in the annual OIE publication *“World Animal Health”*. In Africa, there are numerous difficulties (i.e. cultural, logistical, infrastructural and resource difficulties) in conducting effective livestock censuses. Efforts are being made to resolve these difficulties, notably using the PVS Pathway.

Dr Samaké indicated that the recommendation adopted by the Commission supports OIE Members in strengthening their Veterinary Services by enacting their legislative and regulatory texts to support livestock census activities and by promoting the use of WAHIS to transmit data. The recommendation states that the OIE, in collaboration with AU-IBAR and FAO, should promote awareness among African Governments and encourage donors to support livestock censuses (including censuses for camelids) and related activities. The OIE should develop guidelines on livestock censuses, including a definition of the term *“census”*.

In reference to recommendation N° 2 *“Main pathologies of camels, breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives”*, the Regional Representative explained that for people living in arid and semi-arid regions, camels provide an important source of income and dietary protein and are used as beasts of burden for traction and transport, and demand is increasing. The development of international trade could increase the risk of transmission of transboundary diseases of camels, yet the knowledge of camel diseases is currently insufficient and there is a need to improve the number of specialised professionals with expertise in camels.

The Regional Representative explained that recommendation N°2, adopted by the Regional Conference, proposes that the OIE should continue to support its Member Countries in strengthening their Veterinary Services to develop their diagnostic and research capabilities. It states that the OIE should support twinning projects between laboratories, and OIE Member Countries should encourage the setting up of harmonised disease surveillance systems, and, in collaboration with donors, the implementation of regional research and development programmes. It also recommends that the OIE should develop standards and guidelines for international trade of camelids and their products.

10. Confirmation of the date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Deodass Meenowa, Delegate of Mauritius to the OIE, could not attend the Conference. He had proposed that his country host the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, but Dr Yacouba Samaké asked the Commission to look for a second option in case Mauritius are not be able to host the Conference.

Dr Batassé Batawui, Delegate of Togo to the OIE, proposed that his country host the next Regional Conference if Mauritius is not able to hold it in 2013.

The Commission approved the proposal.

Without official confirmation from Mauritius before end of June 2011, Togo will host the Conference.

11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary)

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabhe informed the Conference that, for personal reasons, he would be obliged to leave the post of President of the Commission. Therefore, an election was necessary.

Dr Samaké thanked and congratulated Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher for all the work done during his years of presidency. Dr Samaké explained the procedure for elections and asked the Commission to vote.

Dr Abdel Kader Diarra, Delegate of Mali to the OIE, proposed Dr Mahamadou Saley, Delegate of Niger and current Vice-President of the Commission, to take the place of President. The Delegate of Senegal supported this proposal, which was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Dr Yacoub Adam Hassan, Delegate of Chad to the OIE, nominated by the Delegate of Gabon and supported by the Delegate of Mali, was unanimously elected to join the secretariat of the Commission.

The new Members will exercise their functions until 2012, as elections for the entire bureau are scheduled for the next General Session.

The new Bureau of the Commission is composed as follows:

President:	Dr Mahamadou Saley (Niger)
Vice-President:	Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz (Sudan)
Vice-President:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
Secretary General:	Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad)

12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, presented the outcomes of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 14 February 2011, attended by 57 participants from 40 OIE Member Countries. The purpose of this Seminar was to improve the good governance of Veterinary Services. Good governance is essential if Veterinary Services are to fulfil their missions and continue to be regarded as a Global Public Good. The evaluation of Veterinary Services' compliance with OIE standards is a starting point for modernising Veterinary Services. The OIE proposes various other mechanisms for this purpose, all of which have been recognised by their technical and financial partners.

The main recommendations of the Seminar were related to the PVS Pathway which, it was concluded, should be considered by all stakeholders as a key component in strengthening Veterinary Services in Africa. OIE Member countries should consequently be committed to finding the funds necessary to improve any weaknesses that a PVS evaluation identifies and to implementing appropriate and effective animal health and welfare policies. In addition, the RECs and AU-IBAR should also use the PVS output to develop a regional approach to dealing with the identified gaps.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reminded the Commission that thanks to the programme of activities in Africa, financed jointly by the OIE and EU/DG-SANCO BTSF, the initial evaluations of the performance of Veterinary Services (OIE-PVS) have almost been completed, and about 20 countries have progressed along the OIE Pathway through the Gap Analyses, with support being provided in the form of round-table meetings to identify additional sources of funding to implement these strategic plans for the development of Veterinary Services.

Dr Bourzat stressed that the programme has continued to promote and support laboratory Twinning projects for priority diseases.

To conclude, Dr Bourzat informed the meeting that nine (9) workshops have been attended by more than 500 participants: Delegates, Focal Points and other animal health professionals in Africa. These workshops were all very favourably evaluated by the participants.

14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

Dr Bruce Mukanda, Representative of AU-IBAR, explained that ALive is a multi-stakeholder platform for the development of livestock in Africa that works to reposition the African livestock sector so that it features on the development agendas of national, regional and international policy-makers. It does this by emphasising its crucial impacts on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, and its overall contribution to achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs).

Dr Mukanda informed the meeting that, at its 5th general assembly, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2010, ALive adopted the strategy paper, the new operational guidelines and the concept for the 2010-2012 triennial action plan (TAP).

Dr Mukanda also spoke of the achievements in 2010 and summarised the activities that had been implemented in the first semester of 2011, mentioning the organisation of the 6th general assembly in Nairobi and the mobilisation of resources to implement some activities of the TAP, among others.

15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011

Dr Joseph Domenech reported on the activities planned all around the world to celebrate World Veterinary Year.

In Africa, 15 countries have organised special events for Vet 2011. There will be a total of 59 national events across the continent.

Dr Domenech invited countries to inform the OIE of any planned activities so that the information could be accessible through the Vet 2011 Website. He reminded the commission of the procedure to follow to obtain accreditation for any national event.

Finally, he referred to the different regional events organised by the OIE and FAO and invited all participants to be present and to actively participate at these important events.

16. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, informed Delegates from the region of the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. She also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the GF-TADs for Africa, which is currently restructuring to adapt to the internal reorganisation of FAO and to the new projects financed by the EU and managed by AU-IBAR.

Dr Bourzat explained to the Commission that there is a need to rebalance the role of the founding institutions and AU-IBAR while strictly complying with the respective institutional mandates.

Dr Bourzat considered that the principle of complementarity and shared competencies must take precedence over trying to secure leadership at any price. He remarked that the list of priority diseases must be established on the basis of scientific data and not on the views of some experts. Similarly, he stated that the control and/or eradication programmes for transboundary diseases must be defined, through a true partnership, based on recent scientific findings.

Dr Bourzat reported that the 6th GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meeting took place in April in Nairobi (Kenya) and that the recommendations are available.

Dr Bourzat concluded that the GF-TADs for Africa must remain a platform for collaborative work between high-level experts recognised by their peers, or run the risk of failing in its mission.

18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Lea Knopf from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (11 in Africa) and Collaborating Centres (3 in Africa). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (these projections assumed that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly).

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (18 in Africa), along with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, and 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Knopf also commented on the “Reference Centre” which is a new term used to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

19. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, highlighted the importance of WAHIS reports. He reminded Delegates that reporting is an obligation according to OIE international standards. The submission of WAHIS reports is a criteria for OIE official recognition for animal disease status and Performance of Veterinary Service evaluation.

Dr Berlingieri presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and urged those who had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports to submit them as soon as possible.

Finally, Dr Berlingieri emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

The meeting noted the agreement between OIE and AU IBAR to develop compatibility between WAHIS and the new IBAR information system ARIS.

20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communications Unit, addressed the meeting and commented that the OIE puts a great deal of effort into its communication actions at the international level to make policy-makers and civil society more aware of the economic and social utility of all the activities that Veterinary Services throughout the world are carrying out on a daily basis.

The Head of the Communication Unit noted that the last seminar on communication held in Africa, for French speaking countries, clearly identified the need for nominating OIE national focal points on communication and for countries to request financial and organisational support from their governments. It is important to establish a network of relevant communication experts within countries and, when relevant, within the region, or to communicate with already existing networks.

Ms Zampaglione informed the Commission that this year, a chapter on communication in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* will be proposed to Members for adoption: the full integration of communication into the Code will be an effective mechanism for creating the necessary incentive for countries and ministries to incorporate communication strategies within animal health policies.

21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director General of the AU-IBAR, informed the meeting that in 2010, AU-IBAR had adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2010-2014, which had been developed in close consultation with all the RECs, Member States and its main technical partners. This plan allows AU-IBAR to be more responsive to emerging challenges. It also expresses a comprehensive view on all aspects of animal resources within the framework of CAADP.

Prof. El-Sawalhy described the achievements of AU-IBAR in 2010, highlighting the completion and closure of two major programmes: SPINAP, which pioneered the “One Health” approach and initiated the process of setting up Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanisms for the prevention and control of TADs, and SERECU, the closure of which marked the end of 60 years of fighting against rinderpest and its final eradication from the continent.

In closing, Prof. El-Sawalhy pointed out that 2011 will be marked by the start of a new major panafrikan programme entitled “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa”, which will be implemented in partnership with RECs, the OIE and FAO and will mainly address policy and legislation issues.

- **World Bank Presentation**

Dr François Le Gall addressed the Commission as representative of the World Bank on animal health issues and as President of the OIE World Fund for Animal Health and Welfare.

Dr Le Gall commented on the commitment of the World Bank to collaborate with countries in crisis throughout the world. He made special reference to its work during the avian influenza crisis.

Dr Le Gall stressed that, for the World Bank, Africa is a priority for capacity-building activities.

Dr Le Gall also commented on the work and commitment of the World Bank regarding livestock in Africa and gave the floor to Dr Stéphane Forman, the new livestock sector representative of the World Bank in Africa.

Dr Stéphane Forman re-emphasised the importance of the activities implemented by the OIE as Global Public Goods and reiterated the World Bank’s support for these activities. He recognised the crucial work carried out by the CVOs in this regard in their respective countries, in Africa and throughout the world. Finally, he described the World Bank’s support for animal health activities and the sectors of close collaboration with the OIE in Africa at both regional and national levels.

The World Bank recognises the OIE PVS Pathway as the tool to guide investments to strengthen Veterinary Services. It is now regularly used to support the preparation of World Bank-funded projects in the agriculture and livestock sector in Africa and this was demonstrated through three examples at the country level in Burkina Faso, Namibia and Zambia. The World Bank commended the OIE for the progress made in this regard and advised the OIE Delegates to continue their efforts to make use of this important tool in the development of their national strategy for poverty reduction, food security and economic growth.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Juan Lubroth commented that FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of populations and contribute to economic growth. It does this by gathering and distributing information related to nutrition, food, and agriculture, and making recommendations for action with respect to scientific, technological, social and economic research and the adoption of international policies on agricultural commodities. Member Countries have assigned roles to FAO with regard to animal disease risk reduction (including zoonoses).

Dr Lubroth stated that the organisation is aiming for more sustainable livestock production by contributing to improvements in animal health. He explained that actions implemented by the ECTAD units in Bamako, Nairobi, Gaborone and Tunis focus on animal health emergencies or development programmes against TADs and major zoonoses.

Dr Lubroth stressed that FAO supports partnerships with OIE, AU-IBAR and WHO on priority TADs and trypanosomosis/zoonoses in order to reduce the impact on livelihoods and public health, ensuring regional and national programmes/projects conform to CAADP.

Finally, he indicated that between 2007 and 2010, about 12 national/regional projects had been implemented for countries in Africa.

22. Other matters

Morocco's proposal – made during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali last February – to host the 21st Regional Conference, was ratified by the Commission. The Delegate of Guinea reiterated his proposal to host an OIE Regional Conference in the future. He also supported the proposal of Morocco to host the 21st Regional Conference.

Dr Ofosu from Ghana gave an honorary certificate of registration to the Director General of the OIE in appreciation of the role he played in the 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference. Dr Yacouba Samaké received the certificate on behalf of Dr Vallat who, due to agenda constraints, was not able to attend the meeting.

Dr Yacouba Samaké invited all participants to attend the OIE Global Conference on "Aquatic Animal Health Programmes: their benefits for global food security" to be held in Panama from 28 to 30 June 2011.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 pm.

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**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

Programme

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
2. Speech from the secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)
3. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and for the OIE Sub-Regional Representations in the Region as well as the Regional Animal Health Centres (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
6. Progress of the regional vision and activities regarding the 5th OIE strategic plan (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in February 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
9. Recommendations of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Kigali, Rwanda from 14 to 18 February 2011. (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
10. Confirmation date and venue of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
11. Election of a Member of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (if necessary) (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
12. Outcome of the OIE PVS Pathway Regional Seminar held in Kigali, Rwanda on 14 February 2011 (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
13. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
14. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)
15. Presentation of Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of Vet 2011

16. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General)
17. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
18. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)
19. WAHIS/WAHID–Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
20. Communication – Progress in implementation of activities in Africa (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)
21. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - World Bank
 - Union du Maghreb
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

N.B.: WAEMU and SADC will make a presentation in 2012

22. Other matters
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 23 May 2011 at Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 83 participants, including Delegates and observers from 20 Members of the Commission and representatives from 14 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, United States of America, Uruguay.

International/regional organisations: ALA¹, CAN², Codex Alimentarius Commission, COPEG³, CVP⁴, European Union FAO, ICFAW, IFAH⁵, IICA⁶, OIRSA, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁷, WHO, World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, and seconded by Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, President of the World Assembly of Delegates and Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Brian Evans, member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Canada, Dr John Clifford, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, Dr Emerio Serrano Ramirez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Cuba and Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Guatemala.

Dr Correa welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, as well as Panama's Minister for Agricultural Development, Emilio José Kieswetter.

Speaking on behalf of the President of Panama, Ricardo Alberto Martinelli Berrocal, Panama's Minister for Agricultural Development acknowledged the importance of the work undertaken by the participants of the 79th OIE General Session. The Minister also invited participants to attend the Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes (Panama, on 28–30 June 2011) and the World Brahman Congress (Panama, on 2–7 July 2012).

¹ ALA: Latin American Poultry Association

² CAN: Andean Community of Nations

³ COPEG: Panama/United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm

⁴ CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

⁵ IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

⁶ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁷ PAHO-PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Members' financial contributions to the OIE

Dr Correa reported on budgetary aspects in the region and commended the progress made on voluntary contributions to the World Fund. He expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the countries hosting the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. He also welcomed the Government of Panama's financial support for the upcoming OIE Global Conference.

Dr Evans pointed out that Member Countries' voluntary contributions were used to support the activities of the Commission and regional ad hoc groups and called on Members to increase their contributions.

3. Council update – OIE Basic Texts

Dr Correa reviewed the nature of the OIE Basic Texts. He invited Dr Evans to describe the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. Dr Evans also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

4. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Cuba, presented a summary of the Regional Commission's activities.

Dr Serrano welcomed the new Delegates from the Region and acknowledged the work achieved by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, former Delegate of Brazil and member of the OIE Regional Commission. The audience unanimously supported this acknowledgment. Dr Serrano went on to highlight the activities of Dr Jose Joaquin Orearuno as Sub-Regional Representative for the Caribbean and Central America, who is soon to step down from his position, and welcomed his successor, Dr Filiberto Frago Santamaria.

Dr Serrano reported that the Regional Commission held annual meetings to discuss the planning of activities, as well as to debate the most relevant subjects concerning Member Countries. He said that the Regional Commission agreed on the need to continue the training for Focal Points and new Delegates, as well as to organise meetings for discussing and updating OIE standards.

Dr Serrano also reported that the Regional Commission was in support of maintaining the Regional Committees' activities, as well as the links with other international and regional organisations. He reiterated the importance of continuing to encourage Member Countries to participate in the OIE PVS Pathway.

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including focal point seminars, update on GF-TADs mechanisms and Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and the Sub-Regional Representation (Panama). He stated that the OIE in the Americas would continue with its previous activities, focusing on strengthening the Veterinary Services and on supporting Members' participation in the OIE standard-setting process. He highlighted the need for meetings to be

held at regional level to discuss proposals for submission to the OIE General Session. Dr Barcos reiterated the value of the seminars for new Delegates and Focal Points and endorsed their active involvement in the region. He also pointed out that the OIE Regional Representations had been encouraging countries to participate in the OIE PVS Pathway, as well as cooperating and supporting Members' actions at regional level.

Dr Barcos reported that the OIE Regional Representations were working on the structure of the Laboratory Network of the Americas, with the aim of sharing information on the capacities of national laboratories. He added that the draft paper on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas was circulating and under discussion, suggesting its adoption at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. He said that efforts were continuing to ensure effective implementation of OIE standards on foot and mouth disease and on interaction with other countries and regional and international organisations regarding this and other matters, via GF-TADs for the Americas.

Dr Barcos reported on the OIE Representatives' participation in regional meetings of ad hoc committees, adding that efforts would continue on coordinating and participating in various regional and national activities, strengthening relations with international organisations, producer organisations, industry, researchers, donors and universities. He added that the Regional Representation would continue to prioritise opportunities for publicising OIE activities.

Dr Barcos concluded by thanking the Government of Brazil for the invitation to the meeting of regional quarantine managers.

The report and work programme were approved.

6. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the programme of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the programme of the 81st General Session:

“The use of new technology for animal disease prevention, control and eradication and its impact on international trade, public health and the environment”

7. Date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in November 2012, and proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Conference programme

The proposal of Barbados to host the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas was confirmed. The Conference will be held in Barbados in November 2012.

The organisation of a seminar for discussing OIE standards, to be held back to back with the conference, will be coordinated.

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted by the Regional Commission:

“Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services”

8. Election of the President and second Vice-President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America, nominated by Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, was unanimously elected as the new President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

Dr Hugo Idoyaga, Delegate of Paraguay, nominated by Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez, Delegate of Bolivia, was unanimously elected as Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

The term of office is until May 2012 as elections for the entire Bureau are scheduled for the next General Session.

9. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new procedure, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Kate Glynn, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories (65 in the Americas) and Collaborating Centres (14 in the Americas). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections on the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, on the assumption that the Assembly would adopt all the new proposals to be made during the current General Session.

The Commission was presented with an update on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (eight in the Americas) and an analysis of current trends. Three OIE Twinning projects have been completed, 29 are under way and six have been approved by the relevant Specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Glynn also commented on the new bridging term “Reference Centre”, which is designed to refer to either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, in line with the streamlined procedure, support for the new designation will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

In addition, the proposal for establishing two Collaborating Centres was approved: one in Cuba (Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Emerging, Re-Emerging and Transboundary Diseases of Animals in the Caribbean and Central America) and two in the United States of America (“*Veterinary Drugs, Regulatory Programmes, Products*” and “*Research and Diagnosis of Emerging and Existing Pathogens of Wildlife*”).

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Paula Caceres, from the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those that had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports, urging them to submit these as soon as possible. Dr Caceres concluded by stressing the importance of countries/territories submitting animal health information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, acknowledged the increased level of information being collected and submitted through the efforts of national disease reporting focal points, wildlife focal points and aquatic focal points. He stressed the importance of focusing on the quality and accuracy of data rather than increasing the scope of reporting. He further stressed the need for the Animal Health Information Department to inform and confirm with Delegates if any change is made to information officially submitted prior to posting.

Finally, he recommended that the Animal Health Information Department consult with national focal points as part of the continuous improvement of the WAHIS system to ensure smooth implementation.

11. Presentations from organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez presented the activities of the CVP, highlighting those relating to the MERCOSUR Free from Foot and Mouth Disease Action Program (PAMA), which had succeeded in having the status of the zone previously known as the 'High Surveillance Zone' restored to that of an FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised. He also reported on the training courses in risk analysis and geographic information systems, carried out under the agreement between the CVP and IICA, and the activities developed in cooperation with the OIE and other international organisations.

- **Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)**

Dr Abelardo de Gracia presented OIRSA activities, focusing on the various regional health and safety programmes currently being developed, as well as those on veterinary medicines and animal welfare. He highlighted the activities for building the capacity of Veterinary Services in the region and concluded by detailing the most important activities developed jointly with the OIE, other organisations and cooperation agencies.

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

Dr Romeo Amorin Bohorquez, as *pro tempore* President, presented CAN activities in the field of animal health, describing CAN regulations with a direct impact on trade in livestock products and on disease reporting systems, as well as the application of risk analysis and the recognition of disease-free zones. He went on to describe the activities undertaken in connection with the eradication of foot and mouth disease. He concluded by mentioning CAN interaction with the OIE and other international organisations.

12. Other matters

- **Proposal for the inclusion of new diseases in the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza and African horse sickness)**

Dr Barcos said that, as Members stressed the importance of production and trade of poultry and pork products, as well as their impact on food security, higher priority should be given to issues relating to these species and their diseases. Dr Barcos reported that the Members had proposed the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza in the list of diseases for which the OIE gives official recognition of animal disease status, assigning higher priority to these diseases than to others such as African horse sickness.

- **Removal of leptospirosis from the OIE list of diseases**

Dr Barcos stated that the OIE Code was not only used for the purposes of international trade, but was highly useful in developing national legislation and setting up programmes and activities. He added that the countries of the Americas had called for leptospirosis not to be excluded from the OIE list, as this would leave Members without a legal basis and technical reference.

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, replied that, given the endemic nature of this disease worldwide, it was inappropriate to keep it in the Code. However, he said that the chapter on leptospirosis in the Manual would remain.

- **Definition of susceptible species**

Dr Barcos reported that the Member Countries had agreed on the need for more specific definitions of susceptible animal species when reviewing chapters of both the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes, as well as when developing new chapters. He also proposed that this review should consider the epidemiological relevance of various animal species in disease maintenance and transmission.

- **Apiary inspection**

Dr Barcos reported that Members had reached agreement on Chapter 4.14 of the *Terrestrial Code* on hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries. He pointed out that the Article 4.14.3 originally proposed by the OIE referred to the need for apiaries to be inspected in the spring and autumn. However, as there is no clearly defined autumn season in the Central American region, it was proposed not to modify the Code in this respect but instead to specify “twice a year”.

Dr Alex Thiermann commended the great progress made by countries in the region in sending comments on apiculture, adding that work was needed to prepare updated practical recommendations.

- **Proposal for training on Animal Welfare**

In response to concerns expressed by several Delegates about a proposal for an International Seminar on Animal Welfare offered to countries of the Americas by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG-SANCO) and the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, Dr Barcos proposed that these activities should be coordinated with the OIE. His proposal was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal for amending the Code with respect to Animal Welfare of poultry and aquaculture**

In relation to this matter, Dr Barcos referred to the draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, for which the deadline for comments was the end of August 2011, with a view to its submission for adoption by the 2012 Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in Barbados.

- **Focal Points – their importance to the OIE**

Dr Correa, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reviewed the responsibilities of the various National Focal Points. He placed special emphasis on their work in assisting Delegates, given their role as experts in specific areas, and to access to the training developed specially by the OIE.

He concluded by stressing the importance of involving Focal Points in the preparation of Member Countries’ technical positions and in issuing comments to the General Session, as well as the need for networks for linking these Focal Points at regional level.

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)
2. Members' financial contributions to the OIE (Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada and Member of the Council)
3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates)
4. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)
5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including focal point seminars, update on GF-TADs mechanisms and Recommendations of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
6. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2013 (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
7. Date and venue of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in November 2012 and Proposal of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the Conference (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
8. Election of the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
9. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)
10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dpt.)
11. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC)
 - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
 - Andean Community (CAN)

N.B.: FAO, IICA and PANAFTOSA will make a presentation in 2012

12. Other matters:

- Proposal for the inclusion of new diseases on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (classical swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza and frican horse sickness)
- Removal of leptospirosis from the list
- Definition of susceptible species
- Apiary Inspection
- Proposal for training on Animal Welfare
- Proposal for amending the Code with respect to Animal Welfare of poultry and aquaculture

13. Focal Points – their importance to the OIE (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay and President of the World Assembly of Delegates)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 101 participants, including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China (People Rep. of), Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, Netherlands

International/regional organisations: EU, FAO, IEC, SCP¹, WSPA²

Dr Toshio Kawashima, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. On behalf of the Members of the Regional Commission, he congratulated Dr Barry O'Neil for the gold medal and Dr Yukol Limlathong for the meritorious medal received.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission highlighted that most Regional Commission Members respect their financial commitment to the OIE. However, he reported that contributions from a few countries were still missing and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

Dr Ebrahim Molayemi, Representative of the Iran Veterinary Organisation, explained that the budgetary calendar of Iran is not the same as that of the OIE. Therefore, he explained that the contribution of his country would always be late. He also expressed his concerns regarding the height level of contribution of his country.

¹ SCP: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

² WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

3. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates, reminded delegates of the background regarding modernising the OIE's basic texts and clarified the reasons for the two options that are being considered by delegates on Friday 27 May, and the different voting requirements. He reinforced the Council's preference for Option 1 as it best meets the needs of the OIE's 178 Members, and introduces the wider mandate while clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the World Assembly.

He stressed that if Option 1 was not adopted, the Council would need to continue to review the organic rules to ensure an appropriate legal basis for the organisation. The delegates would then be asked to vote on them in the future.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Toshiro Kawashima gave a presentation on the activities of the commission. He indicated that he has been invited to a number of key world conferences over the past year:

- OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation: Djerba, Tunisia, 7-9 December 2010. He noted that the OIE was currently working on veterinary legislation guidelines to be proposed for inclusion in the OIE Codes next year;
- OIE Global Conference on Animal Health and Biodiversity: Paris, 23-25 February 2011;
- World Conference on Veterinary Education: Lyons, France, 13-15 May 2011. He highlighted that an OIE ad hoc group has been set up to identify the minimum requirements for veterinary curricula worldwide.

Dr Kawashima presented a report on the Regional Strategic Plan of the Commission, which consists of the following objectives:

- To communicate timely accurate animal disease information;
- To propose adaptations of OIE standards and guidelines and encourage OIE Members to make appropriate use of them;
- To provide science-based recommendations on measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases;
- To ensure the scientific excellence and timeliness of information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other parties;
- To strengthen the capacity of the national Veterinary Services of Member Countries;
- To strengthen cooperation with partner agencies in the implementation of the "One Health" concept.

Dr Kawashima explained that the Commission will undertake the following specific activities to carry out the plan:

- Circulating comments on various OIE documents within the Region.

- Establishing an email network through which Members could share information about OIE matters. He presented the various topics on which Regional Commission Members could provide comments; they include legislation, rabies, and disease-listing criteria.
- Developing a list of experts that might be suitable for nomination to OIE Specialist Commissions, Working Groups or Ad hoc Groups in order to increase the participation of regional experts in OIE work.

He explained that it was still possible to send comments on the Regional Strategic Plan and encouraged Members to review this document before it is proposed for adoption at the upcoming Conference of the Commission.

5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including focal point seminars, and update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented a report on the regional activities implemented in order to strengthen Veterinary Services in compliance with international standards. Capacity-building activities in different areas (legislation, diagnosis and surveillance, disease notification, communication) have been organised to that effect. Regional workshops focusing on disease control and risk analysis of veterinary products have also been organised early in 2011.

He noted that more intensive efforts have been made for HPAI control in Asia through field surveillance activities in wild and domestic birds along the migratory flyways in Vietnam. All samples were sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory for HPAI in Japan.

He explained that the activities implemented to improve the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the Region in 2010-2011 were identified following the recommendations of the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in July 2010. This meeting was co-organised by the OIE and FAO with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Government of Thailand.

Dr Shimohira indicated that from May to December 2011, the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific will organise several capacity-building activities, including the OIE National Focal Points Seminar for Animal Welfare, and various coordination meetings, including the Regional Workshop for FMD Control in East Asia.

6. Report of the 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, presented a report on the significant role played by the OIE SRR-SEA in the coordination of animal health activities and in the management of emerging infectious diseases at sub-regional level.

Dr Abila provided details of some of the activities / programmes implemented through the Sub-Regional Representation, as follows:

- The meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia and China (SEACFMD) was held in March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, with the participation of new members (Brunei, China and Singapore). The revised SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, taking into account the changes in the epidemiology of FMD and new developments in the political and economic landscape in the sub-region, was endorsed. It

also includes the new SEACFMD Vaccination Strategy. In the coming months, the SEACFMD will continue to organise various coordination and technical meetings, including capacity-building seminars on outbreak investigation and management, disease information and data analysis, laboratory diagnostics, and quality assurance. It will also conduct case studies on FMD outbreaks, animal movement patterns, vaccination trials and risk-based approaches to effectively control FMD. Finally, the SEACFMD will work to strengthen public-private partnerships and to engender support for the Campaign, particularly among traders and high-level decision-makers.

- The EU Highly Pathogenic and Emerging or Re-emerging Diseases (HPED) project supported the training of Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and Animal Disease notification to the OIE; funded PVS Evaluation and PVS Gap Analysis missions; supported the finalisation of the call for tenders for a FMD vaccine bank; and participated in the OIE/FAO/WHO tripartite meeting during the EU-HPED stakeholders networking event. In the coming months, the HPED programme will continue to support the implementation of the OIE PVS Pathway in Member Countries; participate in the organisation of seminars for Focal Points for Veterinary Products and Animal Welfare; and help to finalise the procurements and activate the operation of the vaccine bank(s) by participating in / organising some workshops. Regarding the latter, Dr Abila noted that particular support will be provided to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar for FMD vaccine delivery mechanisms, in close collaboration with the SEACFMD campaign, and to Bhutan and Indonesia for rabies.
- Activities implemented in the framework of the IDENTIFY project included a stakeholders' meeting, a desktop mapping exercise and the development of a tool for disease prioritisation at country level. A two-year project has been updated and a dedicated SRR staff has been recruited. Dr Abila described the planned activities related to the assessment and improvement of laboratory capacity across the region.
- Dr Abila explained that the Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) will end in June 2011. One of the key activities conducted is the holding of a Sub-Regional Workshop on Veterinary Education held in Cebu, the Philippines, in February 2011. The Workshop recommended helping to strengthen the veterinary curriculum and possibly twinning veterinary schools. The next phase of PSVS will be renamed STRIVES (STRengthening Initiative for Veterinary Services). It has been designed to continue to support the implementation of the OIE PVS pathway and VS good governance training programme for future leaders in the sub-region.
- By 1 July, the SEACFMD and PSVS/STRIVES will be managed under an umbrella programme, funded by AusAID, called Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) in South-East Asia. A new component on One Health will also be included under STANDZ. Within the framework of the One Health initiative, the SRR will initiate the development of a sub-regional rabies strategy in coordination with ASEAN, FAO and WHO.

7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The following technical items (including a questionnaire to Members) were proposed by the Delegates of New Zealand (Dr Barry O’Neil) and Bangladesh (Dr Musaddique Hossain) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

- “Modern approaches for eradicating and controlling diseases that minimise the need for animal slaughter”
- “Biological standard commission, seeds of vaccine”
- “Quality control for drugs and vaccine”
- “Identification of capacity and gaps in biosecurity and disease monitoring and surveillance”

The following technical item was chosen by 17 out of 20 delegates as the one to be proposed to the World Assembly:

“Modern approaches for eradicating and controlling diseases that minimise the need for animal slaughter”

Following a question from Dr Subhash Morzaria, representative from FAO, Dr Barry O’Neil explained that both zoonotic and non-zoonotic diseases could be included in the proposed technical item, as long as the control strategy currently used involves slaughter of animals.

8. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Teheran, Iran, from 19-23 November 2011

Dr Ebrahim Molayemi provided the Commission with details about the organisation of the upcoming Regional Conference to be held in Teheran from 19 to 23 November 2011.

9. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Following proposals from the Members, the following technical items were adopted for the 27th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

With a questionnaire: “Active participation of Members in the development of the OIE Codes”

Without a questionnaire: “Epidemiological developments and control of FMD in Asia”

Experts have been suggested for both technical items.

10. Outcome of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 7-11 March 2011, including the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap

Dr Ronello Abila presented a report on the outcomes of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China. He highlighted the endorsement of the revised SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap, which provides direction and a strategic framework for achieving FMD-freedom in South-East Asia by the year 2020 and for maintaining the current status of FMD-free countries and zones. He explained that the revised roadmap refocuses its strategy to control FMD at the source, targeting possible

hotspots which probably serve as foci of infection and critical points along the animal movement pathways and which possibly act as amplification points of FMD transmission. The Meeting re-affirmed support for the vaccination policies in the 2020 Roadmap but noted that vaccination should be used appropriately as part of an overall national FMD-control programme, and that vaccine policies may be customised to suit national needs.

Dr Abila pointed out that the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap has evolved since the 2007 Roadmap was drawn up and that it now includes a range of strategies that take into account the addition of Brunei, China and Singapore as Members, the changing socio-economic circumstances of the Region, and learning experiences over the last 4 years.

During the course of the meeting, significant epidemiological changes in the global and regional status of FMD were reviewed, emphasising that 68% of samples tested were serotype O and that no serotype Asia 1, C and SAT 3 were detected; more outbreaks were reported in 2010 compared to 2009, even if some countries (Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand) reported lower numbers of outbreaks. This was attributed to the declining coverage of vaccination, which presumably was due to a lack of vaccine and resources.

The Meeting also endorsed the strains to be included in the call for tenders for a FMD regional vaccine bank, finalised in the framework of the EU-HPED programme.

The STANDZ concept and the development of constructive working partnerships, including in the area of zoonoses, were endorsed by the Meeting. The GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific remains an umbrella body for all the activities related to the control of transboundary animal diseases, as is already the case for the EU-funded HPED programme.

Finally, the Sub-Regional Representative indicated that the ‘One Health’ session re-affirmed that there was no need to create another global or regional institution for ‘One Health’, as pertinent organisations and networks are already in place. This reflects the position taken by the Tripartite (OIE, FAO and WHO).

Dr Musaddique Hossain, Delegate of Bangladesh, requested additional information on the FMD activity reports of each country, including outbreak notification. Dr Abila explained that most of this information is available in the World Animal Health Information Database.

Mr Tenzin Dhendup, Delegate of Bhutan, questioned the coverage of programmes implemented in the region. Dr Abila explained that each programme had a defined list of eligible countries.

11. Update of the new Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South-East Asia

Dr Abila gave a report on the Stop Transboundary Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) initiative, which is to be managed by the SRR in Bangkok from 1 July 2011 till 31 December 2015. He explained that this initiative has four main objectives: to support animal health

and regional coordination in South-East Asia; to strengthen veterinary services capacities; to implement management strategies for priority diseases; and to strengthen the capacity of the SRR.

Dr Zayat Batsukh, Delegate of Mongolia raised a question about what mechanisms are in place to coordinate the programmes and activities implemented in the region. He agreed with the previous comment made by Mr Dhendup.

Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines and Vice-President of the Commission, reminded the meeting that Dr Joseph Domenech will give a presentation on the implementation of a global strategy for FMD control on Tuesday, 24 May.

Dr Gardner Murray, President of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia and China, reminded the meeting that a coordination mechanism was already in place in South-East Asia under the GF-TADs framework and that the next Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific would be held in Tokyo in July 2011. He supported the statement made earlier by Dr Abila regarding the list of eligible countries for each programme.

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Yong Joo Kim, representative of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented a report that gave an overview of the activities, current status and distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Asia: there are currently 41 Reference Laboratories and 7 Collaborating Centres spread across 8 countries. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (10 in Asia-Pacific), and provided with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed worldwide, 29 are underway, and 6 have been approved by the relevant Specialist Commission.

Dr Yong Joo Kim also commented on the “Reference Centre” which is a new term that is used to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

Dr Sun Yan, representative of China, asked for more information on the procedure for applying for designation as a Collaborating Centre. This point was clarified by Dr Yong Joo Kim.

Dr Barry O’Neil presented a twinning application proposal between the Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis in Australia and New Zealand and Putra University in Malaysia. This proposal was supported by the Commission.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, representative of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, provided information on the six-monthly and annual reports received in 2010 from countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted their reports (or parts of their reports) and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Finally, Dr Weber-Vintzel emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Dr Zayat Batsukh proposed that additional information (e.g. vaccine strain) be included in the WAHIS notification form. Dr Weber-Vintzel indicated that this was already the case for immediate notification. Dr Batsukh further suggested that the notification of this information be made compulsory.

14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

Dr Abila presented the outcomes of the first meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (RAWS CG) which was held in Bangkok in April 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to improve understanding of OIE policies and priorities, review the RAWS Implementation Plan, make recommendations on future priority actions, and provide advice on the modus operandi of the RAWS CG and Secretariat. He explained that, during the first meeting of the RAWS CG, a series of recommendations were agreed upon in the areas of RAWS Implementation, Operational and Strategic Policy Issues, including items for the attention of OIE Headquarters and the Animal Welfare Working Group.

The Regional Commission endorsed the RAWS CG Recommendations.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Subhash Morzaria presented the support provided by FAO to control priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs) that continue to have a negative impact on food security, food safety, public health and the livelihoods of farmers in the Asia and Pacific Region. In addressing these diseases, FAO collaborates with member countries and regional organisations (OIE, WHO, SAARC, ASEAN), and a number of bilateral and multi-lateral donor partners. Dr Morzaria explained that FAO provides support to the region principally in the area of improving early warning and response capacity for the prevention and control of diseases, with a particular focus on HPAI, FMD, CSF and hvPRRS. This is achieved through strengthening laboratory and surveillance networks; developing broad surveillance capacity through training community animal health workers and providing field epidemiology training for veterinarians; improving national and regional disease information systems; understanding livestock sector value chains and strengthening regional cooperation. The implementation of activities is through the FAO core budget, funding for which comes from a number of donors, including USAID, JICA, AusAID, ADB, EU and WB.

Dr Musaddique Hossain asked if there was a shared vision between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal regarding animal disease control. Dr Morzaria explained that a common document had been developed and endorsed by SAARC regarding PPR, FMD and brucellosis.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Dr Ken Cokanasiga, from the Animal Health and Production Section of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), gave a presentation on activities that help fulfil the objectives of the strategic plan of the SPC's Land Resources Division. In line with its capacity building role, the Animal Health and Production Section of SPC has been organising several training programmes aiming at establishing competencies in early warning surveillance, disease investigations, routine surveillance, and emergency disease response. They also provided training for laboratory technicians and veterinary para-professionals. He also noted that SPC would continue to encourage its members, both OIE Members and non-Members, to report to WAHIS and attend WAHIS training workshops.

16. Other matters

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice-President of the Vet2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, promoted the Vet2011 Initiative.

Dr Marie Edan, representative of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the list of countries for which information regarding the activities implemented in the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway was missing.

The meeting officially ended at 6:20 pm.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)
3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts (Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the World Assembly of Delegates)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including focal point seminars, and update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
6. Report of the 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 Asia)
7. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
8. Organisation of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in Teheran, Iran from 19-23 November 2011 (Dr Seyed Mohsen Dastoor, Delegate of Iran)
9. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
10. Outcome of the 17th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Bali, Indonesia from, 7-11 March 2011 including the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)
11. Update of the new Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South East Asia (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)
12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)
 14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)
 15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- N.B.: SEAFDEC, ASEAN and SAARC will make a presentation in 2012
16. Other matters
-

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 participants, including Delegates and observers from 46 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories and representatives from 6 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

Observer countries/territories: Kosovo, United States of America

International/regional organisations: EU, FAO, FESASS¹, EuFMD², IFAH, Codex Alimentarius

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Nihat Padkil (Turkey), Secretary General.

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. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

¹ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

² EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

3. Council update - OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, informed Delegates from the region of the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. She also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

The Delegate of Russia, in his capacity as a Member of the Council, and then Dr Monique Eloit, provided additional clarifications.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, including focal point seminars

The President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative informed the meeting that, on 1 January 2011, Dr Nadège Leboucq had been appointed Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels and that there were no other changes in the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia.

Prof. Belev informed Delegates that the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe had supported and participated in the opening ceremony of World Veterinary Year 2011, in Versailles, France.

Prof. Belev gave a summary of the different meetings and visits he had attended during the "Grüne Woche" International Fair in Berlin between 26 and 31 January, as follows:

- Ms Ilse Aigner, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, together with Dr K. Schwabenbauer in regard to hosting and organisation of the next 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Germany;
- Prof. Martin Groschup, Head of the Institute for Novel and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Isle of Riems, and colleagues;
- Dr Gerhard Greif, President of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation.

Prof. Belev commented that a meeting was held on 22 February between the OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Mr Bernard Lozé. The meeting aimed to strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations. Prof. Belev also stated that he had attended the 58th General Assembly of the CIC in St Petersburg, Russia, 11-16 May 2011.

The President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe said that on 4 March he had attended, and welcomed participants to, a commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the "All-Russian Research Institute for the Control, Standardisation, and Certification of Veterinary Preparations" (VGNKI) in Moscow (an OIE Collaborating Centre) and that Dr Vallat had greeted them via teleconference from Paris.

Prof. Belev indicated that the Training Workshop on the Surveillance and Control of Brucellosis for countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was held from 14 to 16 March 2011 in Teramo, Italy, as part of a joint project with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZS).

Finally, he summarised the participation of the OIE Regional Representation in different FAO expert and coordinating meetings.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

The new OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, Dr Nadège Leboucq, stated that the Sub-Regional Representation (SRR) work programme for 2011 follows the previous programmes, with two main areas of intervention:

- Implementation of OIE regional activities in Europe, in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe. During the first semester of 2011, this activity consisted mainly of participating in regional meetings (13 meetings); the SRR organised 7 meetings, all within the framework of the ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) project, which has now entered the development phase. In the second semester of 2011, the focus will be on capacity-building activities in the region, with three workshops being organised for OIE Focal Points for: Disease Notification (June), Communication (September) and Food Safety (November).
- The work of interfacing with European institutions/organisations based in Brussels (Belgium) on dossiers that are essentially European but may also have a more global dimension. Within this framework, the SRR follows the activities of the European Commission (in particular, the process of developing the new Animal Health Law) through multi-stakeholder meetings (Animal Health Advisory Committee) or bilateral meetings (two working meetings with the Directorates General DG SANCO and DG TRADE) and is also involved in mobilising funds. In the second semester of 2011, the SRR will be on the steering committee for the CALLISTO project (FVE) and the Control Post project (EC / DG SANCO).

Dr Leboucq indicated that the SRR in Brussels also provides the secretariat for GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe and will provide support for the organisation of the 4th meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe, planned for the third quarter of 2011.

Lastly, Dr Leboucq indicated that the SRR participates in the work of the GF-TADs Working Group on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) which, in 2011, is tasked with developing the global FMD strategy, organising the Global Conference on FMD (Thailand, June 2012), and finalising the FMD-PCP (Progressive Control Pathway) tool and its implementation within the framework of the regional FMD roadmaps.

6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

“To review the value of the official meat controls in monitoring/assuring outcomes other than meat hygiene, such as animal disease surveillance and control, animal welfare, and in support of international trade”

7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2012

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 25th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

“The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases”

8. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010.

Dr Leboucq reminded the Commission that the two technical items chosen for the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, which was held from 20 to 24 September 2010 in Astana (Kazakhstan), were: (i) the dependence of effective border controls on appropriate resource deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange and (ii) early detection and contingency plans for African swine fever. Each resulted in a recommendation.

The OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels stressed the importance of turning these recommendations into concrete national actions and, in so doing: (i) using the arsenal of capacity-building tools that the OIE makes available to countries as part of the PVS pathway (OIE PVS evaluation mission, PVS gap analysis mission, veterinary legislation support mission, laboratory twinning programmes and seminars of OIE National Focal Points) and (ii) working within the regional intervention framework provided by GF-TADs Europe, which ensures consistency, synergy and complementarity among the activities of the various stakeholders in the region – particularly FAO and the European Commission. Dr Leboucq indicated that the aim of the forthcoming GF-TADs for Europe four-year action plan, which will be submitted for discussion during the fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe in Autumn 2011 (date to be confirmed), is to address the main recommendations arising from regional and sub-regional meetings in the past two years, by proposing concrete actions such as drawing up standard emergency plans and a model compensation scheme and holding regional/sub-regional meetings on priority diseases and issues for the region.

Dr Nigel Gibbens, Delegate of the United Kingdom to the OIE, expressed his concern about the lack of resources delivered to border controls. He highlighted the importance of having an appropriate framework for trade in animal and animal products, and of having good communication among countries through, for example, an integrated information system, as has been suggested before by the Delegate of Russia to the OIE, Dr Nikolai Vlasov.

Regarding the recommendation on African swine fever, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany to the OIE, recommended that the OIE post technical information about the disease on the OIE Regional website.

9. Date and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2012

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany, confirmed the offer of her country to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Fleesensee from 17 to 21 September 2012.

10. Election of two Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and a proposal of the Vice-President of the Council

Dr Patrick J. Rogan, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, informed the meeting about his retirement in June 2011, and about the departure from the Bureau of Dr Kasimiras Lukauskas. He requested that the Commission elect the new Vice-Presidents. Dr Lukauskas expressed his thanks to Dr Vallat, Prof. Belev, the other Members of the Bureau, and the Regional Commission for their support during his Vice-Presidency.

Dr Ivan Bisiuk, Delegate of Ukraine to the OIE, was unanimously elected as one of the new Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

Following the suggestion of Dr Rogan, Dr Ago Pärtel, Delegate of Estonia to the OIE, was unanimously elected as the second new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

The Regional Commission agreed to propose, to the General Assembly of Delegates, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany to the OIE, as the candidate for Vice-President of the Council.

Prof. Belev announced that he will be no more candidate next year for the Presidency of the Regional Commission.

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (105 in Europe) and Collaborating Centres (15 in Europe). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (4 in Europe), and provided with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel also commented on the “Reference Centre”, which is a new term that is used to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, support for designation as a Collaborating Centre will be sought as before, from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Simona Forcella, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2010 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted their reports (or parts of their reports) and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. A list of countries that have submitted their report but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation was also provided. Finally, Dr Forcella emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis.

13. Communication issues

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the Communication Unit, stressed that, in order to be effective, an animal health policy must include transparent and continuous communication between Veterinary Services and the public.

Crises such as those involving avian influenza, FMD, bluetongue or other emerging or re-emerging diseases arouse increasing concern and there is a growing demand for information on the part of the general public, the media and also decision-makers. Communication with the public must demonstrate that effective animal health systems protect countries from diseases, promote public health and help to reduce poverty, while allowing fair trade in animals and animal products.

The Head of the Communication Unit stated that the OIE puts a great deal of effort into its communication actions at the international level to make policy-makers and civil society more aware of the economic and social utility of all the activities that Veterinary Services throughout the world are carrying out on a daily basis.

14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC) presentation (including the GF-TADs mechanisms)**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Director for Veterinary and International Affairs of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers, highlighted the main activities of the EC linked with the OIE. One of the activities he mentioned was the joint EC / OIE "Vets in your daily life" communication campaign for World Veterinary Year 2011, which includes six video clips with accompanying leaflets highlighting the diverse role of veterinarians in society, stands at the Berlin and Paris agriculture fairs, and an international photographic competition, the overall winner of which having been announced during this year's OIE General Session. The other activities he mentioned were the EU Veterinary Week (this year's topic "Crisis management in the Food Chain" having been one of the six themes of the "Vets in your daily life" campaign), the financial support given to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, the BTSF (Better Training for Safer Food) programme for Africa, the regular support to various OIE activities (around 3 million euro per year in total) and the involvement of EC experts in regular OIE work.

Dr Van Goethem, who is chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe, stated that the Governance Mechanisms, adopted during the 3rd Regional Steering Committee, had been validated by the Global Steering Committee in September 2010, and he summarised the GF-TADs activities in Europe as regards the priority diseases in the region (namely foot-and-mouth disease [FMD], African swine fever [ASF], classical swine fever [CSF], rabies, highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI] and peste des petits ruminants [PPR]). Dr Van Goethem mentioned the four year regional action plan that is currently being developed, taking into account the outcomes of the various meetings on priority transboundary animal diseases held since the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, that will be presented at the 4th Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe, scheduled to be held hopefully during the second half of 2011.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The FAO Representative, Dr Keith Sumption, indicated that FAO's animal health programme in the European region is based on overall priorities set by the FAO governance procedures and on mechanisms to address requests of member countries for emergency response and capacity development. FAO is a partner with OIE in GF-TADs

and the European actions are organised in concert. Dialogue on new actions has increased as a result of the crises of ASF and FMD in eastern European countries, and in the first four months of 2011, with six meetings organised by FAO/EuFMD under GF-TADs.

Dr Sumption stated that FAO staff, from Rome, Budapest, Ankara and other offices, have assisted numerous countries in conducting national and regional risk assessments and evaluating management options for transboundary animal diseases (TADs). Assistance has been specifically provided to some countries for OIE accreditation of rinderpest freedom and for the development of revised national programmes for other TADs/zoonoses such as FMD, HPAI, PPR, rabies and brucellosis.

The FAO Representative stated that FAO hosts the EuFMD Commission, which is a semi-autonomous body working closely with EC/DG-SANCO and recognised under GF-TADs as a Regional Specialized Organization. The Global Early Warning System and Response for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses (GLEWS) provides support to the region through early warning messages and forecasting analyses. TADinfo was deployed in several countries of the region for better animal disease information management at national level.

The meeting officially ended at 6:00 pm.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)
3. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit and Dr Nikolay Vlasov, OIE Delegate for Russia and Member of the Council)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe including focal point seminars (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)
6. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)
7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in September 2012 (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
8. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010. (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)
9. Date and venue of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in 2012 (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany)
10. Election of one Vice President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission and one Member of the Council (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
13. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)
14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission (EC) including the GF-TADs mechanisms.
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 23 May 2011

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2011 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 36 participants including Delegates and observers from 15 Members of the Commission and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iran, Iraq and Cyprus.

Observer countries/territories: None

International/regional organisations: FAO, IFAH, ICFAW, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ali Al Sahmi (Oman), Vice-President.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Before adopting the agenda, Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, promoted the Vet 2011 initiative. The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was then unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any. The president added that member countries should also contribute, on a voluntary basis, in supporting the budget of the regional office in Beirut in order to ensure the expansion of the programme of activities.

3. Council update- OIE Basic Texts

After reviewing the nature of the OIE Basic Texts, Dr Nasser Eddin Al-Hawamdeh, Member of the Council and Delegate of Jordan, informed Delegates of the region on the objectives of the draft texts for modernising the OIE's operation. He also described the specifics of each option, as well as the majority-voting rules for adopting them, so that Delegates would be better informed in advance of the discussions at the Administrative Session on Friday, 27 May.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (RC-ME) reminded the principal objectives of the OIE Regional Commission, emphasizing mainly on issues concerning animal health situation in the region and on the importance of the improvement of the quality of veterinary services in accordance with the OIE standards.

Dr Al Qahtani highlighted the efficient and proactive cooperation between the Commission and the OIE Regional Representation in Beirut, mostly oriented at implementing programmes for the reinforcement of capacities of veterinary services and for the control and management of animal diseases, mainly of trans-boundary nature.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including focal point seminars and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the main objectives of the activities implemented by the Regional Representation during the last year.

Dr Yehia reminded that since 2006 the Regional Representation holds the secretariat of the OIE/FAO GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee as well as of the new established OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC). In this regard, Dr Yehia remarked that due to funding issues, the activities of this RAHC were suspended during the present year.

The Regional Representative emphasized the importance of strengthening the collaboration with other organisations such as the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO/MZCP) and AU-IBAR, AOAD.

Dr Yehia reported on the main relevant outcomes of the OIE national Focal Points seminars organised during the year and on the assistance given to countries requesting Twinning projects with OIE Reference Laboratories. The Regional Representative reminded the importance of capacity building activities among the core tasks of the OIE Regional Representation.

Dr Yehia informed on the forthcoming activities to be implemented in 2011 such as the 11th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held Kuwait, from 3 to 7 October 2011. The Regional Representative expressed the possibility that, on request from Kuwait, the event currently scheduled to take place in Kuwait be held in another country.

6. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 81st General Session:

“Detection of residues in food of animal origin including aquatic animals”

7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Kuwait in October 2011

The following technical items were adopted for the 11th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

With a questionnaire: “Preparation of veterinary strategic plan and cost and benefits analysis”

Without questionnaire: “Extension programs dedicated to the activities of the Veterinary Services”

It was also suggested that the Conference address the efficacy of drugs for bee diseases and the situation of glanders in the region.

8. Organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Kuwait in October 2011

Dr Nabeela Al Khaleel, Delegate of Kuwait, was absent and Dr Yehia informed the Commission that according to recent information received from Kuwait, some difficulties may impede the organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in that country. Dr Yehia informed that, should it be needed, Lebanon could hold this conference on the same dates in October 2011. The Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon has informally accepted, he reported.

9. Election of the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission

Dr Abdulghani Al-Fadhil, Delegate of Saudi Arabia to the OIE, nominated by the Delegate of Jordan and seconded by the Delegate of Qatar, was unanimously elected as the new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

10. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, informed the Commission about the next GF-TADs Steering Committee meeting, planned for January 2012, jointly with the regional conference on glanders. These meetings still need to be confirmed officially after consultation with the proposed host countries, Bahrain and Oman.

11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications

Dr Keith Hamilton, OFFLU Coordinator at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (3 in Middle East) and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections regarding the number of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, assuming that all the new proposals to be made during this General Session would be adopted by the Assembly.

The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme (5 in Middle East), along with an analysis of current trends. Three OIE twinning projects have been completed, 29 are underway, 6 have been approved by the relevant specialist Commission and are due to start.

Dr Hamilton also commented on the “Reference Centre” which is a new bridging term to mean either “Reference Laboratory” or “Collaborating Centre”. These two entities will continue to be managed separately. For the latter, according to the streamlined procedure, the support for new designation will be sought from a relevant Regional Commission before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

After this presentation, questions regarding details of the Twinning programme, from representatives of Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, were answered by Dr Hamilton and Dr Yehia.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara , Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Ahmed El Idrissi, from FAO, informed that FAO animal health programme in the Middle East provides a framework for the coordination and harmonization of prevention and control strategies on priority TADs/zoonoses using a concerted approach. Among the main activities, the FAO Representative mentioned the assistance given to countries to conduct national and regional TADs risk assessments and the support through the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS).

Dr El Idrissi also highlighted that FAO has revised the HPAI Strategy for Egypt, and that the “One Health” agenda, which vowed for a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to prevention and control of emerging diseases at the human-animal-ecosystem interface, is a key point for the animal health strategy developed for Middle East countries, as does the GF-TADs.

14. Other matters

Dr David Wilkins, from the WSPA proposed to include, as an item on the agenda of the upcoming Conference of the Commission, the establishment of a regional strategy for animal welfare. The Commission accepted.

Before closing the session, Dr Yehia reminded the upcoming OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes, to be held in Panama on 28-30 June 2011, and invited the Delegates to register online through the OIE website.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, Monday 23 May 2011

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
3. Council update-OIE Basic Texts (Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Deputy Director General, and Dr Nasser al Hawamdah, Delegate of Jordan and Member of the Council)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including focal point seminars and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
6. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 81st General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2013 (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
7. Selection of the two technical items (with questionnaire and without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Kuwait in October 2011(Dr G. Yehia)
8. Organisation of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Kuwait in October 2011 (Dr Nabeela Al Khaleel, Delegate of Kuwait)
9. Election of one Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission (Dr G. Yehia).
10. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
11. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory Twinning, taking into account the new process, proposed by the Council, for Collaborating Centres applications (Scientific and Technical Dept.)
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region. (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
 - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
14. Other matters