

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2005**

**endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 25 May 2006**

**8th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Manama (Bahrain), 26-29 September 2005

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Strengthening Veterinary Services: evaluation
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals
- [Recommendation No. 3:](#) Mitigation measures against Avian Influenza in the Middle East

Recommendation No. 1

Strengthening Veterinary Services: evaluation

CONSIDERING THAT

In order to gain access to international markets, improve public health and ensure early detection of animal diseases and zoonoses, as well as the safety of animal products, States must have quality Veterinary Services (VS) that abide by fundamental principles which guarantee their trading partners' confidence, particularly in international veterinary certificates,

Bringing VS into compliance with international standards is a priority in terms of public and private investment and calls for changes in organisation, structure, financial resources, responsibilities and interaction with the private sector,

A prerequisite for strengthening official VS is to evaluate the quality of their performance, whether for undertaking internal reforms, justifying the necessary investment or meeting the requirements of importing countries,

The Fourth OIE Strategic Plan introduces new key strategic guidelines for building the capacity of Veterinary Services to improve the safety of world trade in animals and animal products, as well as public health,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE OIE:

1. Guarantee the national and international transparency of VS evaluation by proposing that the International Committee adopt a new voluntary procedure for evaluating the compliance of Veterinary Services of Member Countries with the quality standards mentioned in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, requiring the intervention of independent international auditors under the auspices of the OIE's Director General and International Committee.
2. Continue to develop, improve and harmonise tools for evaluation of VS.
3. Mobilise appropriate international financial resources for strengthening the VS of countries that so request.
4. Organise training for regional and/or local trainers in evaluating quality of VS based on real demand to comply with international standards.

5. The OIE be urged to seek ways and means to advise regional and international organisations to harmonise efforts to strengthen the capacity building of VS.
 - B. THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:
 1. Consider as a top priority, the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 1.3.3 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services.
 2. Encourage and set up a continuous quality assessment system for Veterinary Services based on methods harmonised and recommended by the OIE.
 3. Mobilise the necessary national, regional or international, public or private financial resources to support Veterinary Services compliance, taking into account specific national and regional characteristics as well as international standards.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 2

Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals

CONSIDERING THE

Lack of a clear standard definition for the "Registration" of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals and the absence of international standards for the registration of these products,

Adverse effects of poor keeping and storage conditions on the efficacy of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals,

Absence of evaluation in some countries of the veterinary medicinal and biological products before release,

Abuse of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals in the field of animal production,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Efforts be made, with the support of the OIE Collaborating Centres and relevant international organisations, such as the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), to develop OIE standards and guidelines for the registration of veterinary biologicals and medicinal products within national or regional mechanisms.
2. The registration of these products be based on sound scientific principles to ensure the protection of animal and/or human health, as well as the environment, and not unnecessarily hinder free trade.
3. Emphasis be placed on the registration of the establishments used for storing and distributing veterinary medicinal products and biologicals.
4. Member Countries take appropriate actions to evaluate veterinary medicinal products and biologicals of national and international origin before release, using OIE standards, wherever applicable, and the expertise of OIE Reference Laboratories, if necessary.
5. Due consideration be given to the use of animal vaccines in conjunction with national disease control or eradication programmes.
6. OIE Delegates nominate a national focal point in order to develop technical exchanges with the OIE, VICH and other relevant organisations.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 3

Mitigation measures against Avian Influenza in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

The recent concerns caused by outbreaks of avian influenza in China, Russia and Kazakhstan and the possible risk of spread of the virus to other regions of the world by migratory birds should sensitise the OIE Member Countries in the Middle East to adopt mitigation measures against the disease,

The implementation of OIE international standards relating to the quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services is a priority,

Early detection of the first outbreaks and the rapid response to contain these outbreaks are the key tools to effectively control the disease once it infects a country,

The present concern about the spread of avian influenza confirms the importance of providing appropriate public resources for national Veterinary Services to manage the potential risk of the disease in birds,

Cooperation with public health authorities is important for the prevention of a possible human influenza pandemic,

Combating Avian Influenza and the prevention of a possible human pandemic should start with the control of the virus in the bird population,

A vaccination strategy could be used as an additional tool in controlling the disease in the region if stamping out policies cannot be effectively implemented,

The intensification of surveillance for Avian Influenza in the countries of the Near and Middle East is a priority, as these countries are located along the migratory routes of wild birds and the cross-roads of international transportation,

The role of migratory birds in transmitting the disease requires careful monitoring and study,

The FAO in permanent collaboration with the OIE is implementing Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) to control Avian Influenza,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services in countries that are at possible risk of the disease be vigilant and ready to make all efforts in order to prevent the introduction of the Asian H5N1 strain of the Avian Influenza virus. In case of outbreaks, these countries should be provided with means to carry out strategic vaccination of birds if stamping out measures cannot be effectively implemented.

2. National Veterinary Services in the region be provided with the necessary infrastructure and appropriate public resources for the early detection and rapid response to the outbreaks of the disease in animals.
 3. It is a priority to reduce/eliminate the virus in the animal source world-wide through strengthening the role of Veterinary Services in the prevention and control measures of the disease. This is considered to be the best approach to avoid a human pandemic.
 4. The OIE and FAO be requested by Member Countries in the region to provide assistance in the development of contingency plans including securing a source of vaccines to be used in case of emergency.
 5. Countries develop and enforce appropriate legislation to enable them to react promptly in case of suspicion of disease occurrence.
 6. A compensation fund be created and fully publicised at the national level to encourage farmers and veterinarians to notify the Veterinary Services in case of a disease suspicion.
 7. Education programmes on safe poultry husbandry, including the early recognition and notification of signs and symptoms of disease, as well as marketing be designed for farmers and other stakeholders in Member Countries of the region.
 8. The OIE Delegates be in permanent contact with the OIE Central Bureau and the Regional Representation for the Middle East by providing timely information on the national status of the disease and collecting epidemiological information published by the OIE. The OIE will publish as soon as possible the findings of the mission of OFFLU experts currently in Siberia and provide relevant warnings to countries that may be at risk by migratory birds.
 9. Member Countries be encouraged to participate in joint meetings to be held by the OIE and FAO relevant to the surveillance of the migratory birds in countries at possible risk.
 10. Inter-sectoral collaboration between the Veterinary Services and the public health authorities in countries of the region be improved to strengthen efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of Avian Influenza.
 11. A delegation from the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East composed of the President and the Regional Representative participate in the joint OIE/WHO/FAO international conference on Avian Influenza to be held in Geneva from 7 to 9 November 2005 to take part in discussions being held at the global level.
 12. The conference strongly support the strategy and the programmes adopted by the OIE and FAO and urge Member Countries to proceed in close association with the OIE, with the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs) related to HPAI in the region.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 September 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

**24th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Seoul (Republic of Korea), 15-18 November 2005

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Asia and the Pacific

Recommendation No. 1

Avian influenza and emerging animal diseases of relevance in Asia

CONSIDERING THAT

Highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia has caused far more damage in smaller farms or holdings with poor biosecurity conditions than in well managed industrial poultry establishments,

The increasing load of HPAI virus being excreted into the environment by poultry kept in the backyard and small holdings, which in consequence leads to close human contact, may increase the possibility of mutation of the virus and hence the threat of a human pandemic,

Although AI prevention and control measures exist in Member Countries of the Region, these vary considerably from country to country,

Networking with the private sector, including private veterinarians, farmers and other professionals, is an essential mechanism for early disease detection, surveillance, prevention and control in assisting the veterinary authority to tackle animal diseases at grass root levels,

Most of the emerging animal diseases included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases have zoonotic potential, but diagnostic techniques and notifications with respect to those diseases are currently not available in many countries of the Region,

Potential roles of wildlife including wild birds in the transmission of important emerging infectious diseases raise public health concerns,

The joint WHO/OIE/FAO/World Bank Conference on Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 7 to 9 November 2005, has recommended that the international community support the good governance and the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Biosecurity in native and backyard poultry and small farm production sectors be improved. This may require financial assistance from governments as well as donors if necessary, for the rehabilitation of poultry farms and education of all stakeholders including farmers and the general public.
2. Requests for technical assistance by Member Countries on the improvement of the quality of Veterinary Services and the proper management of HPAI outbreaks based on specific country needs be considered by the OIE. This form of assistance should be provided in consultation with the OIE Representation for Asia and the Pacific and whenever relevant,

developed in close collaboration with other international organisations, such as the FAO and WHO through the joint OIE/FAO network of expertise on avian influenza (OFFLU) and or the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) Secretariat in Tokyo, taking into account the SEAFMD Programme.

3. Non-infected countries of the Region be on a high level of alert in their preparedness plans including the availability of appropriate human and financial resources, such as compensation funds.
 4. If vaccination of poultry is considered in infected countries, it should be used as an adjunct to other control measures, such as stamping out, movement control, disinfection and biosecurity.
 5. Vaccination could be considered in zoo and other rare birds as a preventative measure depending on the risk.
 6. National mechanisms for adequate compensation to farmers be considered a priority by all Member Countries for the control of AI. External/international assistance may be explored by developing countries, if necessary, in this regard.
 7. Programmes and projects be developed to promote public awareness to ensure that all stakeholders and civil society at large know how to prevent the disease in animals and humans.
 8. Technical advice/assistance be provided to OIE national Focal Points responsible for reporting and managing disease information, to effectively diagnose and report diseases, which have been included in the new OIE list of reportable diseases.
 9. In order to minimise the possible impact of AI and other zoonotic diseases, significant resources and investments be allocated to national Veterinary Services in Asian countries using as a basis, OIE international standards on quality and evaluation of Veterinary Services.
 10. Member Countries appoint a Focal Point for wildlife diseases and be provided with technical assistance in this regard in order to be able to report those diseases.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 November 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Recommendation No. 2

**Prevention and control of bovine spongiform encephalopathy
in Asia and the Pacific**

CONSIDERING THAT

Although bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) had been initially confined to Europe, cases have recently been confirmed in other regions making the disease a world-wide concern,

BSE diagnosis based only on clinical signs is insufficient and surveillance using laboratory tests in compliance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, is required to detect or confirm the infection in cattle, in which clinical signs were not apparent,

Countries not having reported BSE cases are not necessarily free from the disease, and risk assessment and surveillance as well as appropriate laboratory tests are necessary to confirm the country status,

Further research is needed to fully understand the pathogenesis of BSE,

The OIE BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter contains recommendations on how countries can trade safely without the risk of transmitting BSE,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries should complete a risk assessment for BSE in accordance with the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, even if no case has been confirmed in the country.
2. Member Countries be encouraged to involve international experts and peer review in the development of the risk assessments.
3. The OIE assist in training Member Country officials on risk assessment and surveillance requirements in accordance with the *Terrestrial Code* and diagnostics in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, and promote global and regional technical cooperation in order to assist countries with limited resources.
4. The OIE facilitate the development of affordable BSE diagnostics for use by Member Countries.
5. The OIE review over time the surveillance requirements of the BSE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter with the objective of simplifying the requirements and taking into account the latest scientific/epidemiological information.

6. The OIE facilitate the networking of scientists working on BSE in the region in order to share experiences and information on BSE-related matters.
 7. With regard to trade in deboned skeletal muscle meat, Member Countries with non-negligible BSE-risk should certify removal of SRMs and avoidance of contamination during processing.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 18 November 2005 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2006)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 74th General Session
in Paris, 23 May 2006**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. The meeting was attended by 88 Delegates and observers from 37 countries member of the Commission and from 2 observer countries and representatives of 10 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observers: France and the Netherlands

Regional and International Organisations: AU/IBAR, CEBEVIRHA⁴⁹, CIRAD-EMVT⁵⁰, CIWF⁵¹, EC, EISMV⁵², FAO, ILRI, SADC⁵³, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr Hamadou Saïdou (Cameroon), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland) and Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was read and unanimously adopted.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The question of OIE Member Countries in arrears with their contributions was discussed at length. It was emphasised that this was a recurrent problem in spite of the efforts made by Member Countries during the past three years. The President of the Commission congratulated those Member Countries that had made a special effort to pay their contributions in full.

⁴⁹ CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)

⁵⁰ CIRAD-EMVT: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire (Department of Livestock and Veterinary Medicine of the International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development)

⁵¹ CIWF: Compassion in World Farming

⁵² EISMV: Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁵³ SADC: Southern African Development Community

3. Proposal of a Technical Item to be included on the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee, to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following Technical Item:

‘Strategies for better management of sanitary crises in the field of livestock production and international trade’

4. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Regional Seminar on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the Role of Livestock Breeders in the Surveillance of Animal Diseases, held in N'Djamena (Chad) from 13 to 15 February 2006

After a brief recapitulation of the recommendations by Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, the recommendations were adopted by the Commission, with two abstentions (Cote d'Ivoire and Togo).

5. Arrangements for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

On behalf of his Government, the Delegate of Eritrea confirmed his country's invitation to host the 17th Conference in Eritrea from 26 February to 1 March 2007. This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following technical items were adopted for the 17th Regional Conference:

- a) Strategy for strengthening national epidemiological surveillance systems in Africa.
- b) Harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Africa

President	:	Dr Robert Thwala (Swaziland)
Vice-President	:	Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda)
Vice-President	:	Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea)
Secretary General	:	Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania)

Administrative Commission

Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart K. Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Salah Hammami (Tunisia)

Dr Kebkiba Bidjeh (AU-IBAR)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Medhi El Harrak (Morocco)

Dr Tony Musoke (South Africa)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Eli Katunguka Rwashikaya (Uganda)

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan, 2006-2010

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, spoke about the essential points of the Fourth Strategic Plan and invited the Delegates to participate actively in the work of the OIE.

8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Sidibé reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. The complete report was distributed to the participants.

Following discussions and suggestions regarding the strengthening of the activities of the Regional Representation, the report was approved by the Members of the Commission.

9. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive⁵⁴ and the First Meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, held in Bamako (Mali) on 24 and 25 April and 28 and 29 April 2006, respectively

The recommendations were discussed and unanimously approved by the Commission.

10. Creation of an OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali

Dr Sidibé provided information on the objectives in setting up a Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali. He spoke about the role assigned to the Centre and stated that other centres were due to be set up in the various sub-regional economic areas in Africa.

11. Information on the emergency procedure for obtaining avian influenza vaccines

Dr René Bessin (AU-IBAR) described the procedure, set up in consultation with the OIE, for supplying vaccines to countries affected by avian influenza, using the emergency fund initially set up to provide financial support for rinderpest control (350 000 EUR available out of a total of 500 000 EUR).

12. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official Agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, FAO

- AU-IBAR: Dr Tiémoko Modibo Traoré reported on the activities of his organisation. He then raised the question of Africa's potential in terms of livestock, and its relatively weak contribution compared to animal production worldwide, and emphasised the need to realise this potential.
- CEBEVIRHA: Dr Gabriel Fio-Ngaïndiro, Deputy Director General of CEBEVIRHA, presented the activities of his institution that were focused on avian influenza. He supported the candidature of Chad to host the 18th Regional Conference for Africa, due to take place in 2009.

⁵⁴ ALive: Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth

- SADC: Dr Welbourne Madzima, representative of the SADC, presented the activities of his organisation and expressed satisfaction at the signing of the agreement between the OIE and the SADC in 2003, aimed at strengthening relations between the two institutions and capacity building for the Veterinary Services in the sub-region.
- FAO: Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the FAO Animal Health Service, spoke about the activities carried out by the FAO during the past two years, emphasising the work accomplished within the context of avian influenza. He also made reference to the creation of the OFFLU⁵⁵ network.

13. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region. Proposal of a workshop in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, gave a brief progress report on the implementation of WAHIS and its use by Member Countries.

The meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.

.../Appendix

⁵⁵ OFFLU : Joint OIE/FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of avian influenza

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Proposal of a Technical Item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
4. Recommendations of the OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Regional Seminar on Animal Health Policies, Evaluation of Veterinary Services and the Role of Livestock Breeders in the Surveillance of Animal Diseases, held in N'Djamena (Chad) from 13 to 15 February 2006
5. Arrangements for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Eritrea in February 2007. Confirmation of the following Technical Items:
 - a) Strategy for strengthening national epidemiological surveillance systems in Africa
 - b) Harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa
6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (activities and work programme)
9. Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee of ALive and of the First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Africa held in Bamako (Mali) on 24 and 25 April and 28 and 29 April 2006 respectively
10. Creation of an OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Centre for Animal Health in Bamako (Mali)
11. Information on the emergency procedure for obtaining avian influenza vaccines
12. Presentations of international or regional organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA, SADC, FAO
13. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region. Proposal of a workshop in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 am. The meeting was attended by 73 Delegates and observers from 22 countries member of the Commission and one observer country, as well as by representatives from five international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

Observers: Spain

Regional and international organisations: CARICOM⁵⁶, IICA, OIRSA⁵⁷, PAHO/PANAFTOSA and FE

The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter Fernández (United States of America), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil) and Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico). In the absence of Dr Hernan Rojas, Dr Luis Barcos, Regional Representative for the Americas, assisted with the duties of secretary.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), auditors of the Administrative Commission, reminded Member Countries that had not paid their dues to rapidly bring their contributions up to date, in compliance with Article 3 of the OIE General Rules. In spite of the fact that contributions were successfully collected last year, a number of countries in the region still have outstanding contributions, some dating back as much as three years.

⁵⁶ CARICOM: Caribbean Community

⁵⁷ OIRSA: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health

3. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) “Community involvement of small rural producers in animal health programmes”.
- b) “The impact of leptospirosis on animal and human health, as well as on the production of animal-derived foodstuffs”.

4. Proposal for a change of one technical item for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas – replacing ‘Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories’ with ‘Mechanisms for farmer compensation’

The Commission had proposed the following technical items:

- a) “Animal Welfare in the Americas”.
- b) “Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories”.

Following a brief discussion, the change of technical item b) was unanimously approved, and the item “Mechanisms for farmer compensation” was adopted. The Delegates were asked to nominate candidates to present the items. Dr Peter Fernández agreed to assist the speakers.

The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas has sent a questionnaire to all the countries of the Americas enquiring about various aspects of compensation mechanisms.

5. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Florianopolis (Brazil) from 28 November to 2 December 2006, followed by the meeting of the world network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Dr Jorge Caetano Junior reported on the preparations being made for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, and for the World Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which will be held immediately afterwards (Sunday, 3 December to Tuesday, 5 December 2006).

Both conferences will take place at the Costão do Santinho holiday complex at Florianopolis, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil.

6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

The methodology and procedures for the forthcoming elections were explained. The members of the Administrative Commission and the Bureau of the Regional Commission were unanimously elected, and candidates were nominated for the various Specialist Commissions.

Administrative Commission

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|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Vice-President | : | Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay) |
| Member | : | Dr Brian Evans (Canada) |

Regional Commission for the Americas

President	:	Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil)
Vice-President	:	Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico)
Vice-President	:	Dr Juan Alcides Santaella Gutiérrez (Colombia)
Secretary General	:	Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission)

President	:	Dr Alex Thiermann (United States of America)
Member	:	Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Vice-President	:	Dr Alejandro Schudel (Argentina)
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Biological Standards Commission

Vice-President	:	Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America)
Members	:	Dr Abraham Falczuk (Argentina) First Candidate Dr Peter Wright (Canada) Second Candidate

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Secretary General	:	Dr Ricardo Enriquez Saís (Chile)
Members	:	Dr Sharon McGladdery (Canada) First Candidate Dr Donald Lightner (United States of America) Second Candidate

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti and Dr Brian Evans explained in detail the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan.

8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities, work programme and website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, including the update of the *Terrestrial Manual*)

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation. The Delegates were handed a full report. The following areas were highlighted:

- The activities and meetings that had been carried out in the region to build the capacity of Veterinary Services.
- Activities to coordinate the actions of the various international organisations in the region.
- Participation in meetings and seminars held by the OIE and other organisations.

Dr Barcos also explained the need to improve coordination between the various international bodies to prevent duplication of effort, time and resources.

9. GF-TADs update

Dr Peter Fernández, President of the Regional Commission, explained in detail the regional and global situation regarding GF-TADs, describing activities such as setting up the Regional Steering Committee, the Sub-Regional consultations that had been held, the identification of priority objectives and diseases, as well as the various measures that were being carried out. He underlined the efforts made to coordinate the activities of international organisations.

10. Other matters

• Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, reported that the International Committee would be asked to endorse the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA) and the Buenos Aires Training Centre for Veterinary Service (CEBASEV Argentina) as OIE Collaborating Centres for emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and for veterinary training, respectively.

Three new Collaborating Centres were proposed, two by the USA and one by Canada:

- The USA proposed a Collaborating Centre for building Veterinary Service capacities, which would be based at the University of Minnesota and managed in conjunction with the University of Michigan and the IICA. They also proposed that there be a Centre for Research into Viral and Emerging Avian Diseases in the USA.
- Canada proposed a Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Diseases.

The relevant documents will be sent to the OIE and then submitted to the Member Countries for their comments and possible approval at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Brazil.

• Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases

Dr Sharon McGladdery made a presentation of the Ad Hoc Group's objectives and mode of operation. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, explained the items that will be submitted for adoption by the International Committee.

• Presentations of International or Regional Organisations that have an official agreement with the OIE:

OIRSA

Dr Luis Espinosa, Technical Director for Animal Health, provided information about the ways in which OIRSA supported its member countries in 2005 and he spoke about the organisation's cooperation activities with FAO, the OIE, PAHO and IICA.

PAHO-PANAFTOSA

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA proposals, the objectives and structure of the organisation, the principal actions and mechanisms it uses, its cooperation with international coordination bodies, and regional and subregional alliances. Dr Belloto also briefly described the status of rabies and foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the Americas.

IICA

Dr James Butler presented IICA activities in cooperation and coordination with other organisations in the region.

CARICOM

Dr Víctor Góngora explained that the Caribbean Community comprises 15 Member States (six of which are OIE Member Countries). He went on to describe its programme coordination activities and health activities in the region.

- **Proposals for a Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis (PRONABIVE⁵⁸, Mexico)**

Mexico will send the OIE an application for this laboratory to be designated a Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis.

- **Argentina**

Argentina reiterated the position regarding bovine spongiform encephalopathy which it had sent formally to the OIE (Categorisation of Countries and List of Products) and it will suggest to COPEA⁵⁹ that these issues be discussed at their next meeting.

Regarding FMD, comments were made on the note submitted to the OIE on strategies for eradicating outbreaks and procedures for recovering the previous FMD status following the application of stamping out measures. Argentina will convene a technical meeting with scientists to discuss this item and submit a proposal to the OIE.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.

.../Appendix

⁵⁸ PRONABIVE : Productora Nacional de Biológicos Veterinarios

⁵⁹ COPEA : Permanent Commission of the Americas on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in Animals

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
 3. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
 4. Proposal for a change of one technical item for the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas replacing 'Formation of networks of diagnostic laboratories' with 'Mechanisms for farmer compensation'
 5. Preparation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, which will be held in Florianopolis (Brazil) from 28 November to 2 December 2006, followed by the meeting of the world network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
 6. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
 7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
 8. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities, work programme and website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, including the update of the *Terrestrial Manual*)
 9. GF-TADs update (Peter Fernández)
 10. Other matters:
 - Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Luis Barcos)
 - Ad Hoc Group on Fish Diseases (Brian Evans/Sharon McGladdery)
 - Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: OIRSA, PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA, CARICOM
 - Proposals for a Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (PRONABIVE) (Mexico)
 - Argentina
-

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 62 Delegates and observers from 16 countries member of the Commission, 3 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam

Observers: Canada, France and Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

International and Regional Organisations: FAO, ILRI, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and WHO

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan), Vice-President, and Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted with the addition of two items:

- Avian influenza in Asia (Dr Joseph Domenech, FAO)
- Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Republic of Korea)

2. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, with special emphasis on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the report of his activities and work plan particularly relating to the control of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Asia. His report and work plan were accepted. The President, on behalf of the Commission thanked the Government of Japan for supporting the regional activities.

3. Avian influenza in Asia

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief, Animal Health Service, FAO, updated the Commission on the activities of his organisation in the control of avian influenza in Asia including the decentralisation of activities to regional offices and the future joint FAO/OIE activities. During the discussions, emphasis was laid on the support to Member Countries in diagnostics.

4. Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Dr Yiseok Joo from the Republic of Korea spoke on the concerns regarding the proposed amendment to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapter on bovine spongiform encephalopathy. A number of Delegates spoke in support of retaining the existing 30-month age limit in the existing Chapter. The President offered to pass on this view to the President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission.

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

Dr J. Gardner Murray, President of the Commission, presented his report on the activities of the Commission. He emphasised the need for the Commission to meet more frequently in the light of the large number of activities underway in the region.

6. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 15 to 18 November 2005

The Commission adopted the recommendations. On behalf of the Commission, the President thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting a very successful Regional Conference.

7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2005-2006

Dr Ronello C. Abila, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the FMD control programme. The President complimented him for the achievements of the SEAFMD Programme during the year. The recommendations were supported, but it was noted that there may be a need to make some changes to the work plan as the programme moves into the future. The Delegate of Australia encouraged countries and other donors to continue to provide funds to the programme beyond December 2007.

8. 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) from 27 February to 3 March 2006

Dr Abila gave a summary of the results of the 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand). The Commission supported the recommendations arising from the SEAFMD meeting as well as the donors meeting but noted that certain operating parameters may need to be adjusted in order to respond to work pressures. The Commission recognised that the donors meeting indicated that funds are available only until December 2007 and supported the governance arrangements proposed. It was also decided to write formally to the President of the Sub-Commission thanking him for his contribution.

In the discussions that followed the presentation, the need for support to Member Countries in training veterinary staff and disease simulations was emphasised. It was also suggested that the OIE clarify the status of countries where HPAI virus may be circulating in wild birds. Dr David Wilson, Deputy Director General (technical) of the OIE, explained that this issue would be discussed by the International Committee during the week.

9. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Practical implementation of compartmentalisation models that meet OIE standards.
- b) Vaccine developments for transboundary animal diseases and the importance of vaccine banks.

10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010)

Dr Barry O'Neil, Secretary General of the Commission, updated the meeting on the work plan of the OIE based on the directions indicated in the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan. Recalling that the plan was unanimously adopted by the International Committee last year, he urged countries to support it.

11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

President	:	Dr Gardner Murray (Australia)
Vice-President	:	Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan)
Vice-President	:	Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Taipei China)
Secretary General	:	Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka)

Administrative Commission

President	:	Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand)
Member	:	Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Secretary General : Dr Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Kenichi Sakamoto (Japan)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr S.K. Bandhopadhyay (India)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

President : Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth (Australia)

12. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that the issues of outstanding contributions and low rates of contribution from a number of countries are of concern to the Administrative Commission. The latter recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not settled their contributions for several years.

13. Date, venue and technical items of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The offer of New Zealand to host the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in November 2007 was unanimously accepted.

14. Presentations of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Dr Ken Cokanasiga, Representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), updated the meeting on the key programmes underway in the SPC.

15. Preparation for General Session

Dr O'Neil clarified the OIE election process that will follow on Friday. He also asked participants for feedback on the International Committee meeting, as a special Administrative Commission meeting will be held in September 2006 to discuss how such meetings can be improved.

16. Animal welfare

The Delegate of Australia updated the meeting on workshops on animal welfare organised by Australia in the Middle East. He proposed similar collaboration with Member Countries of the Commission.

17. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, updated the meeting on the implementation of the WAHIS within the region and called on Member Countries to take the necessary steps to ensure that the system is fully operational in the region.

- **The President presented the outcome of the recent APEC⁶⁰ Ministerial meeting in Vietnam and undertook to circulate a copy of the meeting's recommendations.**

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.

.../Appendix

⁶⁰ APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

**MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA
Paris, 23 May 2006**

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (activities and work programme, with special emphasis on highly pathogenic avian influenza)
3. Avian influenza in Asia
4. Comments on bovine spongiform encephalopathy
5. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
6. Recommendations of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 15 to 18 November 2005
7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2005-2006
8. 12th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia held in Chiang Mai (Thailand) from 27 February to 3 March 2006
9. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
12. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
13. Date, venue and technical items of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in November 2007
14. Presentation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
15. Preparation for General Session
16. Animal Welfare
17. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region (OIE)
 - Regional activities on avian influenza (including APEC)

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. The meeting was attended by 94 Delegates and observers from 46 countries member of the Commission, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Member countries: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldavia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom

International and Regional Organisations: Council of the European Union, European Commission, FAO, WHO

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania) and Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland), Vice-Presidents.

The President welcomed the Delegates and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted, with the following additional items under 'Other matters':

- Steering Committee of GF-TADs for Europe.
- New OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories.

2. Report on the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Patrick Rogan, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2005, laying emphasis on the structure and importance of Veterinary Services in accordance with the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan.

The Commission accepted the report.

3. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President urged OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe to increase their contributions to the OIE by upgrading wherever possible the category of their membership.

4. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, updated the Commission on the Fourth Strategic Plan. The Commission considered the Fourth Strategic Plan as a fundamental goal. The Plan incorporates and consolidates the policy directions of the Third Strategic Plan, and in particular:

- a) Transparency in the animal health situation.
- b) Strengthening of the role of the Veterinary Services of the European OIE Member Countries.
- c) Encouraging cooperation between official and private veterinary sectors. Private veterinarians, who are usually the primary link between farmers and veterinary authorities, are expected to apply the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
- d) Organisation by Regional Commissions of more frequent conferences and seminars covering a broader spectrum of topics.
- e) Promotion of the veterinary profession to increase its prestige and improvement of cooperation among veterinary schools.

The Commission also noted that safety and quality of food, and correspondingly public health and consumer protection, depend on a favourable epizootic situation, animal welfare and efficient veterinary controls.

5. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Monique Eloit, Delegate of France, on behalf of the Government of her country, confirmed arrangements for the organisation of the next Conference of the Commission in Lyon, France, from 25 to 29 September 2006.

The technical items retained for the Conference are the following:

- a) Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians
- b) Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools.

6. Seminars on 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe' in 2006

Significant improvement was achieved in joint activities with the European Commission under the programme 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe'. A total of 25 countries are participating in the programme.

In accordance with the implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan, the First Seminar for Europe for the period 2005-2008 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Georgi Parvanov.

Seminars have been organised in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Serbia-and-Montenegro. Experts from the OIE and the European Union DG SANCO⁶¹ and TAIEX⁶² have made presentations on topics of major importance.

7. Other seminars/conferences/meetings of the Regional Representation:

• **Conference on Rabies held in Kiev, Ukraine, from 15 to 20 June 2005**

The most important aim of the conference was to bring together veterinarians, scientists, wildlife experts, clinicians and public health officials, to share their experiences on modern methods of rabies control.

• **Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe held in Suzdal, Russia, from 12 to 14 September 2005**

The structure of national Veterinary Services of OIE Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Europe was identified as a key factor for achieving the OIE objectives, for the benefit of society.

• **Seminar on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 23 to 27 October 2005**

This seminar was attended by representatives of 33 countries. The First Vice-President of the Parliament of Georgia and the Director General of the OIE also participated in the seminar.

• **Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 27 and 28 February 2006**

The Commission regarded the implementation of all nineteen recommendations of the meeting as essential in order to ensure effective action in the control of avian influenza.

The Commission adopted the recommendations of all the above meetings/seminars.

8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical item:

‘The impact of climate change on animal health and welfare’.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for Europe

President	:	Prof. Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria) ⁶³
Vice-President	:	Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania)
Vice-President	:	Dr Patrick Rogan (Ireland)
Secretary General	:	Dr Evgueny Nepoklonov (Russia)

⁶¹ Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General

⁶² TAIEX: Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit

⁶³ Prof. Nikola Belev was proposed as President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe and member of the OIE Administrative Commission by Dr Tulegen Omarov (Uzbekistan), on behalf of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Administrative Commission

Prof. Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria)⁶³
Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Wolf Arno Valder (European Commission)
Dr Nikolay Vlasov (Russia)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

President : Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (Italy)

Biological Standards Commission

President : Prof. Steve Edwards (United Kingdom)
Member : Dr Vladimir Drygin (Russia)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Vice-President : Prof. Barry Hill (United Kingdom)
Member : Dr Franck Berthe (Canada)

10. Creation of an OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for Europe

The Commission noted that an OIE Sub-Representation for Europe will be created in Brussels, Belgium, soon. An intern from Lithuania will help to establish the website for the Region by October 2006.

11. Other matters

• Coordination of animal welfare

Mr Georges Adelbrecht, of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, spoke of the need for the coordination of animal welfare issues, by strengthening the relationship between the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the OIE. A meeting under the aegis of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe organised by the European Commission and the Council of Europe will be held in Strasbourg, France, in November 2006. The meeting will involve animal experts from 51 countries.

• First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 13 and 14 October 2005

Dr Keith Sumption, Secretary of EUFMD⁶⁴, updated the Commission on the activities of the Steering committee for GF-TADS for Europe.

• OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories

The OIE Biological Standards Commission has recommended the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Isle of Riems, Germany, as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses in Europe. This recommendation has been approved by the Regional and Administrative Commissions and is awaiting endorsement by the International Committee during the week.

⁶⁴ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (established under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – not to be confused with the European Commission in Brussels)

The Commission noted that the following laboratories will be proposed for approval as Reference Laboratories during the week:

- OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies: Zoonoses Group, Virology Department, VLA-Weybridge, United Kingdom
- OIE Reference Laboratory for *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra): Institut de médecine tropicale, Antwerp, Belgium
- OIE Reference Laboratory for avian tuberculosis: Veterinary Research Institute, Czech Republic
- OIE Reference Laboratory for contagious agalactia: Department of Exotic Diseases, VLA-Weybridge, United Kingdom
- OIE Reference Laboratories for equine influenza and equine rhinopneumonia: Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The Commission also noted that the meeting on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters on 27 and 28 February 2006 has recommended the establishment of an OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza in Vladimir, Russia. The European Union was requested to support the project.

The meeting ended at 10.00 a.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Report of activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (activities and work programme)
3. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
4. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
5. 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Lyon (France) from 25 to 29 September 2006
6. Seminars on 'Dialogue and Common Activities between the OIE Member Countries of the European Union and the other OIE Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe' in 2006
7. Other seminars/conferences/meetings of the Regional Representation:
 - Conference on Rabies held in Kiev, Ukraine, from 15 to 20 June 2005
 - Seminar on the Structure of National Veterinary Services of Member Countries in Europe held in Suzdal, Russia, from 12 to 14 September 2005
 - Seminar on the new OIE World Animal Health Information System held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 23 to 27 October 2005
 - Meeting on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 27 and 28 February 2006
8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008
9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
10. Creation of an OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for Europe
11. Other matters
 - Coordination of animal welfare (European Commission)
 - First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for Europe held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (France) on 13 and 14 October 2005
 - Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories.

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 23 May 2006 at the Maison de la Chimie from 8.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 31 Delegates and observers from 15 countries member of the Commission, one observer country and as well as one international organisation and one observer country.

Member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observers: France

International Organisations: FAO

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan), Vice-President, and Dr George Khoury (Syria), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

2. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities and the proposed programme of work for the years 2005-2006, which was distributed to the participants.

Amongst the seminars/workshops held, Dr Yehia highlighted the First meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee and the Workshop on Avian Influenza, both held in Beirut in April 2006.

Dr Yehia also spoke on the Regional Representation Web website, indicating that some important documents, such as the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* were already in Arabic and that translation of other major documents into Arabic would continue. He mentioned the links with the OIE, FAO, WHO and other organisations related to animal health. A second website Web site on Bird avian influenza Flu is in the process of being established and countries can log in to provide their own information on avian influenza.

The Plan of activities was adopted by the Regional Commission.

3. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President mentioned the need for certain Member Countries to settle their outstanding contributions as soon as possible and requested that Delegates remind their appropriate Ministry to make the payments.

4. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions

Regional Commission for the Middle East

President	:	Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain)
Vice-President	:	Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)
Vice-President	:	Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait)
Secretary General	:	Dr Faris Al haj Mohamad Al Bakhit (Jordan)

Administrative Commission

Dr George Khoury (Syria)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Prof. Ali Abdul Maged (Sudan)

5. Recommendations of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005

The Recommendations already approved at the 8th Conference in Manama were presented to the participants and endorsed/adopted.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, stressed the importance of the recommendations on the evaluation of Veterinary Services and on avian influenza in the Middle East. He added that many countries have already implemented the relevant recommendations.

6. Recommendation of the First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the Middle East held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006

The President of the Commission explained the objectives of the GF-TADs programme and announced the establishment of the Middle East Regional Steering Committee, which will include the OIE-FAO and representatives of specialised regional organisations, as well as specific regional donors. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006.

The Regional Commission approved the Recommendation made during the meeting.

7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010

The Director General had already presented the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 to the International Committee at the General Session in May 2005 and it has since been presented at various meetings. Each Region has established its own Plan and different countries of the Middle East region have implemented various actions. Dr Yehia indicated that the Strategic Plan has been translated into Arabic and that it is available on the website of the Regional Representation for the Middle East.

8. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- Intersectoral collaboration for presentation prevention and control of zoonoses
- Socio-economic impact of avian influenza on the poultry industry
- Equine disease-free zone/compartment: a tool to facilitate movement of competition horses

The first two items were retained for 2008 by the Commission.

9. 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (venue, date and technical items)

The Delegate of Syria confirmed that his country is willing to host the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Damascus during the first week of September 2007.

The Commission proposed the following two technical items:

- The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services.
- The Global Geographic Information System (GIS) system used for animal disease control.

10. Other matters

• World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department of the OIE Central Bureau, gave a brief description of the situation since launching the system in April 2006.

Many countries have already provided information using the system, the majority in paper form. Dr Ben Jebara encouraged countries to access directly into the system, giving information in an electronic form. He added that Delegates can designate focal points (e.g. for terrestrial and aquatic animals), acting under their responsibility.

• Creation of an OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre in Beirut (Lebanon)

The Regional Commission welcomed the announcement of the establishment of this Centre and urged the OIE and FAO to set up the centre as soon as possible.

At the request of the Delegates to clarify the objectives and role of this Centre, the President stressed that the centre is a coordinating mechanism.

Other countries can assist in implementing the objectives of this Centre by organising training courses and workshops related to animal health in the Middle East. They can also benefit from the list of experts available at this centre.

• Animal welfare

Dr Yehia indicated that following the international conference on animal welfare held in 2004, the Middle East is the first region to organise a regional meeting on this topic in Bahrain, which was followed by a meeting in Oman. Another one will be held in the United Arab Emirates in June 2006 to discuss the proposal of a common strategy concerning animal welfare in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

- **Avian influenza in the Middle East (Status and Preparedness)**

The Commission reviewed the situation of avian influenza in the region and noted that in some countries, this situation is beyond the capacities of their Veterinary Services, and urged the international organisations to give more support and assistance to countries at risk in the region.

- **Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**

The Commission welcomed the signing of this Memorandum during the GF-TADs meeting in Beirut in April 2006, which will reinforce regional activities.

At the end of the meeting, the Delegate of Somalia made an appeal to the Commission to provide support to the Veterinary Services in controlling the major animal diseases in his country. He mentioned that livestock plays a major role in national resources.

The Delegates of Iran and Sudan responded by offering to provide training courses on laboratory diagnosis for Somali technicians.

The meeting was closed ended at 10.45 a.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 23 May 2006

Agenda

1. 1. Adoption of the Agenda
1. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
4. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Administrative Commission and the Specialist Commissions
5. Recommendations of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Manama (Bahrain) from 26 to 29 September 2005
6. Recommendation of the First meeting of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) for the Middle East held in Beirut (Lebanon) on 6 and 7 April 2006
7. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2006-2010
8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 76th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2008 (see “Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1997”)
9. 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (venue, date and technical items)
10. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – progress in its implementation in the Region (OIE)
 - Creation of an OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre in Beirut (Lebanon)
 - Animal welfare
 - Avian influenza in the Middle East (Status and Preparedness)
 - Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)



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