

# *Reports*

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions  
held during the 78th General Session  
in Paris, 24 May 2010**

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**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.

78 SG/11B/AF

Original: English

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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 107 Delegates and observers from 41 Members of the Commission and 1 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 7 international and/regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, , Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA<sup>51</sup>, ECOWAS<sup>52</sup>, FAO, PANVAC<sup>53</sup>, SADC<sup>54</sup>, WAEMU<sup>55</sup>, WB<sup>56</sup>

The meeting was chaired by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), President of the Commission supported by Dr Abdoulay Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

## **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated electronically in advance as well as during the meeting.

## **2. Council update**

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Algeria, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

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<sup>51</sup> CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)

<sup>52</sup> ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

<sup>53</sup> PANVAC: Pan African Vaccine Control

<sup>54</sup> SADC: Southern African Development Community

<sup>55</sup> WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

<sup>56</sup> WB: World Bank

Dr Bouguedour referred to the candidature of Dr Bernard Vallat for the election of Director General, which was unanimously supported.

### **3. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Olaho-Mukani, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged them to promptly settle their arrears.

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

Dr Olaho Mukani, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa highlighting that the voice of Africa is now stronger thanks to the support of the OIE Headquarters, the OIE Regional Representation and Sub Regional Representations, AU IBAR and the RECs.

He also introduced new Delegates of the region and welcomed them to the Commission.

The report was approved.

### **5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) of Bamako**

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa accomplished during 2009 as well as the financial and human resources situation of the Representation.

Among the activities developed in the region he highlighted, the BTSF programme covering activities in 53 African countries; capacity building within the framework of the SPS Agreement; OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis, as well as the signature of an agreement between the OIE and the WAEMU.

He commented on the successful launch of activities in the new OIE Sub Regional Representations in Tunis and Kenya.

Dr Niang listed the core activities of the Representation such as implementation and support to the RAHC, the participation in the reactivation and operation of RESEPI in West and central Africa and the establishment of RESOLAB.

Regarding the RAHC in Bamako he commented on the positive development of the work carried out by the OIE, FAO and IBAR.

He commented on the fruitful collaboration between the regional Representation and the OIE's partners, including FAO (GF-TADs programme), AU-IBAR (ALive programme), SADC and ECOWAS.

Dr Niang briefly mentioned the objectives of the GF-TADs Africa and the principal activities developed in order to fight against major animal diseases including zoonoses.

He also mentioned the audit training visit from the OIE Headquarters to Bamako and Tunis at the beginning of 2010.

The report was approved.

**6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre of Gaborone**

Dr Mtei commented that the OIE Sub Regional Representation for Southern Africa Development Community (OIE SRR SA) covers 15 OIE member countries from this region , including Seychelles which has recently become a Member of the OIE, and has, during the four years of existence, accomplished significant activities such as:

- Setting up a fully functional office environment;
- Improved national disease surveillance systems and reporting;
- OIE PVS Evaluations;
- OIE Twinning programmes;
- Numerous capacity building activities in the form of training seminars, workshops and conferences for national veterinary services personnel and stakeholders.

He mentioned the positive outcome of an independent evaluation of the SADC-EU Grant Contribution Agreement with OIE through which an action was constituted to establish the OIE SRR-SA.

He commented on the key work of the OIE SRR SA in launching and updating the OIE Africa website: [www.rr-africa.oie.int](http://www.rr-africa.oie.int) which serves as an excellent way of sharing useful information and documentation on OIE activities in Africa.

Dr Mtei thanked the Government of Botswana, the SADC Secretariat (Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) for their support and encouragement to the OIE SRR-SA as well as the voluntary contributions that it receives from the European Commission and the French Cooperation.

Dr Mtei informed the participants that the OIE SRR SA is heavily involved in capacity building and networking of the OIE Focal Points through resources made available by the EU under the BTSF. The OIE SRR SA also benefits from the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to carry out OIE capacity building activities. Other avenues for mobilizing resources are being explored to implement the 5th OIE Strategic Plan running from 2011 – 2015 including the upcoming USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threats project, the ongoing regional indicative programme of the (10th) EDF (EU) for the SADC region and voluntary contributions from the African continent to carry out OIE activities in Africa.

Finally Dr Mtei mentioned the recruitment of Dr Neo Mapitse from Botswana as the new Deputy OIE Sub Regional Representative for Southern Africa since 1st August 2010.

The report was approved by the Commission.

**7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis**

Dr Kechrid, OIE Regional Representative for North Africa, informed the participants about the activities and work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa inaugurated on January 2010 to establish and to serve the OIE Members in the Sub-Region, i.e. Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, in cooperation with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Arab-Maghreb Union (AMU). Egypt is also associated in certain activities related to the GF-TADs Platform, the Regional Animal Health Centre and the REMESA Project, in collaboration with FAO.

The various activities carried out during the first year of the Sub-Regional Representation were:

- to set up the office;
- to help Members improve the utilization of WAHIS in collaboration with the OIE Animal Health Information Department;
- to continue the implementation of the OIE-PVS Pathway in all countries of the AMU;
- to take part in events and conferences organized by the OIE;
- to support the preparation of the OIE twinning programmes.

Dr Kechrid thanked the Tunisian government and particularly the Ministry of Agriculture as well as, the bilateral and multilateral partners such as Italy, the European Commission, donors of the OIE World fund and France for the support to the establishment of the office.

Finally, he commented on the first World Conference on veterinary legislation which will take place in Djerba, Tunisia, from 7 to 9 December 2010.

#### **8. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa**

Dr Masiga started his presentation mentioning the advancement of negotiations with the Government of Kenya regarding the host of the Sub Regional Representation.

He informed the participants that, in the meantime the office is hosted by AU-IBAR in the AU premises. The office set up and all administrative procedures are successfully ongoing.

He stated that a communication has been sent to the CVOs of the sub-region informing them about the establishment of the office. Also, contacts have been made with IGAD and EAC, regarding agreement with OIE, and draft agreements have been prepared accordingly.

The Representative of the SRR has undertaken the following missions:

- CVOs training seminar in Gaborone (March 2010)
- Focal point training in Wildlife Diseases in Arusha (March 2010)
- IRCM meeting in Nairobi (March 2010)
- GF-TAD, SPINAP, ALIVE meetings in Addis Ababa (April 2010)
- USAID-EPT meeting in Kampala (April 2010)
- CVOs and Ministers 'biannual' meetings Entebbe (May 2010)

#### **9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012**

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session:

Bees and Fish health, an important contribution to food security

**10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda**

The following technical item, without questionnaire, was selected for the 19th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda:

Main Pathologies of camels, Breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives.

**11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011**

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda, confirmed his country's invitation to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011 (to be confirmed soon).

The government of Rwanda has already established an organising committee for the preparation of this Conference.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission that a mission to Rwanda for a preparatory meeting is planned and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

**12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Dr Olaho-Mukani informed participants that the two Vice Presidents must be elected because Dr Douba Bangoura must leave his current position as Delegate of Guinea and Vice President of the Commission because he was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister and the Delegate of Mauritania got a promotion. On the other hand, due to his retirement soon, Dr Olaho-Mukani will have to be replaced.

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia, was nominated as President of the Commission, Dr Saley Mahamadou, Delegate of Niger, as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz, Delegate of Sudan, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

**13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms**

Dr Margaret Phiri, representative of FAO, informed the participants that the World Bank, FAO and OIE have drafted a final report: "Integrated National Action Program (INAP) on Avian and Human Influenza in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for the Future - Project Completion Report (March 2010)" (currently examined by AU-IBAR for final comments). The associated programs and projects were required to prioritize animal health activities, to consider the danger of spread of infection to humans, potential pandemic spread, and the socio-economic impacts for all stakeholders.

Dr Phiri commented that joint rapid assessments missions (JRAM) were launched in early 2007 by the ALive Secretariat with objective of providing technical assistance to Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries to:

- Assess their current avian and human influenza (AHI) prevention and response capacity
- Develop a national medium term integrated programme for the prevention and control of AHI and the implementation of the OIE guidelines for the strengthening of the veterinary services

- Develop a financing plan to implement the above programme and identify funding gaps through OIE PVS-GAP Analysis.
- Provide Governments with a fund raising and monitoring tool for AHL.

Finally she mentioned that a total of 73 experts were involved:

- 30 AH specialists (FAO/12; OIE/12; IBAR/6)
- 11 Human health specialists
- 10 Operation specialists
- 10 Communication experts
- 12 Financial Analysts

#### **14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region**

Dr Daniel Bourzat, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Bourzat also described in detail the specific status of the Africa Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 45 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 41 missions have been done and 31 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.
- As of the 17 May 2010, 27 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 14 missions have been done and 10 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.
- As of the 17 May 2010, 15 Legislation missions have been requested and 5 missions have been done.

#### **15. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars**

Dr Daniel Bourzat reported on the activities planned under the OIE/EC programme BTSF in Africa, financed by the European Commission.



He commented that, the program has funded OIE PVS evaluation missions and PVS Gap Analysis as well as legislation missions and the laboratory twinning programme in the region.

Dr Bourzat explained that activities are focused mainly on the training of delegates and OIE focal points. He also mentioned the high rate of participation in such seminars as well as the very positive feedback, encouraging the continuation of this successful Programme.

He concluded that during this year the evolution of the program was rich in learning and an excellent opportunity to set up the proceedings.

#### **16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning**

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 and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Finally, Dr Knopf encouraged Delegates of the three countries that are not yet officially recognised as free of Rinderpest to do their best to get this recognition. She also invited all countries of the region to answer the questionnaire on Rinderpest Virus Stocks sent by the OIE Headquarters.

#### **17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region**

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 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. A list of countries, which have submitted their reports but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation, was also provided.

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

#### **18. Communication issues**

Maria Zampaglione, Head of the Communication Unit, reminded participants of the capacity building activities of the OIE in terms of communication. She mentioned the successful outcome of the OIE seminar on communication that was organised in Gaborone, Botswana in September 2009 for the English speaking African countries. The seminar was a real success. Ms Zampaglione also stressed the recommendation that media training sessions on relevant animal health issues should be organised on a regular basis by the national Veterinary Services, with the assistance of the OIE.

Ms Zampaglione took the opportunity to inform participants that a seminar on Communication will be organised for French speaking African countries in Morocco on 7-8 October 2010. The exact location still needs to be confirmed with the OIE Delegate of Morocco.

#### **19. Update on ALive activities**

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR informed the participants that the ALive Secretariat, now housed by AU-IBAR, has finalised the strategy for the platform and an action plan for the 3 coming years, which were adopted by the Executive Committee.

The major programme for the coming years is the project on “governance of veterinary services”. This project, implemented in partnership with the RECs, OIE and FAO, will cover the 47 African ACP countries. It will support capacity building in the animal health area, by (i) conducting advocacy and awareness raising, (ii) supporting policy, strategy and legislation formulation, and (iii) building capacities for their implementation.

## **20. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**

- **AU-IBAR**

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR commented on the activities of the organisation and informed that during the last year, AU-IBAR has drafted its new strategic plan for the period 2010-2014. The new strategy marks a significant shift in IBAR approach by taking better into account the drivers, challenges and opportunities for the African Animal resources sector (Globalization, Climate Change, re-emerging diseases...), and by shifting from a thematic approach to a programmatic one.

The “new AU-IBAR” is now organized in six strategic programmes which are: (1) TADs and zoonoses (2) Natural Resources Management (3) investment & Competitiveness (4) Standards & Regulations (5) Knowledge Management (6) Policy & Capacity Building.

- **CEBEVIRHA**

Mr Bouba Khalidou, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation.

He recalled that this is now a specialised institution of CEMAC in charge of promoting economic and social development in the sub-region in the field of livestock and fisheries.

He informed the participants that the PER which is the French acronym for “Regional Economic Programme” is the answer to CEMAC to alleviate poverty and for the improvement of economical situation.

Five pillars for growth have been identified: including Agro-industry, livestock and Fisheries. Among the six regional economic poles the agro-industrial poles of savannas and the continental fishing pole are managed by CEBEVIRHA.

The fundamental objective is to contribute to the reinforcement of food security in the sub-region through the development of these two technological poles.

Finally Mr Bouba Khalidou mentioned that a special transboundary economic zone should be created in order to attract livestock breeders, traders, small and medium enterprises in order to facilitate trade and value livestock products and to limit the increase of meat cost.

- **WAEMU**

Dr Issoufo Dare, representative of WAEMU, informed participants about the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) activities.

Dr Issoufo Dare indicated that 20 market authorisation applications for veterinary medicines are now processed by its administration.

He mentioned that WAEMU has initiated a new strategic plan and several programs to improve animal health and livestock production. These programs are mainly focused on: Harmonization of veterinary medicine legislations and inspection of veterinary medicines; capacity building of Veterinary Services and free movement of veterinarians

- **ECOWAS**

Dr Vivian Iwar, representative of ECOWAS, reminder that ECOWAS is a regional grouping of 15 member countries.

She explained that ECOWAS is developing an animal health policy/strategic plan as well as supporting the regional laboratories and the epidemio-surveillance units and harmonized SPS regulation and will support member states to implement sensitization activities in order to disseminate this information for understanding of the issues at the local level.

She also stated that ECOWAS is at an advanced stage of the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process with 13 Member States that have signed their contracts plus the signing of the regional contract with stakeholders and partners. There is a component for livestock value chains of meat, dairy and poultry. ECOWAS is presently at the level of developing livestock plans.

Dr Iwar commented that ECOWAS supported the celebration of the level of developing livestock plans as well as the celebration of the world veterinary day this year with the Nigerian veterinary medical association on the One World One Health theme. ECOWAS continues to collaborate with its partners, particularly AU-IBAR on several programs including IRCM, PAN-SPSO etc, and with the EU/AUC on BTSF.

Finally, Dr Iwar said that with the support of ECOWAS Member States, of which 14 are OIE members, ECOWAS would like to benefit from an OIE Sub-Regional coordinator for the ECOWAS region.

- **SADC**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, made several comments supporting the compartment concept and the work regarding Commodity – Based Trade, which the OIE has carried out.

Additionally, Dr Hulman mentioned that SADC Member states does not agree with the proposal to delete “Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)” of pigs from the OIE list of diseases.

Finally he stated that taking into consideration that SADC Member States are still included in the category: “undetermined BSE risk” for trade in deboned muscle meat and the OIE should, if possible, revise the code concerning surveillance and tests for BSE in order to prove freedom from the disease.

## **21. Other matters**

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.

Vet 2011 slogan is « Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet »: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security, food safety and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian..., among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site [www.vet2011.org](http://www.vet2011.org). Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

The Delegate of Ghana informed about the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference that will be host in his country in March 2011.

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Paris, Monday 24 May 2010**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
2. Council update (Dr Rachid Bouguedour)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Bamako.(Dr A. Bouna Niang)
6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre of Gaborone (Dr Bonaventure Mtei)
7. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis (Dr Faouzi Kechrid)
8. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Dr Walter Masiga)
9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Dr A.Bouna Niang)
10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011 (Dr Niang and Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda).
12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms. (Dr Margaret Phiri)
14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
15. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning (Dr Lea Knopf)
17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Francesco Berlingieri)

18. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)

19. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

20. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
- Economic Community of west African states (ECOWAS)
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

21. Other matters

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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 92 Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations.

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

International/regional organisations: ALA<sup>57</sup>, CAN<sup>58</sup>, CVP, CaribVET<sup>59</sup>, EU<sup>60</sup>, FAO, IDB<sup>61</sup>, IFAH<sup>62</sup>, IICA<sup>63</sup>, OIRSA<sup>64</sup>, PAHO-PANAFTOSA<sup>65</sup>,

The meeting was chaired by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, and seconded by Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez (Cuba), Vice-President of the Regional Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, and expressed his support for the natural disasters in Haiti and Chile, which was endorsed by all the members of the Regional Commission. He also congratulated Dr Emerio Serrano for the Gold Medal, given by the OIE as recognition for its professional trajectory.

## **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

At the request of the Delegate of Panama, the proposal to hold the OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture in Panama was posted on the agenda for the meeting, given in the Appendix. Afterwards the Agenda was unanimously adopted and the annexes mentioned in the agenda were circulated to all participants on paper and in electronic form prior to the meeting.

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<sup>57</sup> ALA: Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)

<sup>58</sup> CAN: Andean Community

<sup>59</sup> CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network

<sup>60</sup> EU: European Union

<sup>61</sup> IDB: International Development Bank

<sup>62</sup> IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

<sup>63</sup> IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

<sup>64</sup> OIRSA: International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health

<sup>65</sup> PAHO: Pan American Health Organization / PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

## **2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Brian Evans, member of the Council, reported that the number of Members with outstanding contributions was a matter of concern and asked the Delegates of countries in arrears to do their utmost to ensure that these contributions were paid to the OIE. He added that, while the Council was aware of the current economic difficulties facing countries, their failure to pay contributions impacts significantly on the budget of the OIE and the Regional Representations. He stated that three countries in the Americas owed more than two years of contributions but that none had lost their voting or other rights.

## **3. Council update**

Dr Brian Evans, member of the Council and Delegate of Canada, reported on the most relevant matters discussed at Council meetings.

Dr Evans spoke of the election of the Director General and mentioned Dr Bernard Vallat's candidature, which was given unanimous support.

Dr Evans also encouraged Members to increase their level of contributions because, at present, 25% of the funding for OIE activities comes from ordinary contributions from Members and 75% from extraordinary contributions.

## **4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, presented a summary of the Regional Commission's activities.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza commended the excellent coordination being achieved as a result of meetings between the Bureau and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas to discuss and plan activities.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza also said that the Regional Commission had sent a set of comments and proposals for inclusion in the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan, which had been tabled for discussion and adoption by the Assembly during this General Session.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza proposed that the region's activities in 2011 should focus on such aspects as continuing and strengthening training for OIE focal points, and continuing the work of the various Regional Committees such as the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (IAC-AAH) and any others that might be appointed in the future.

He proposed that the Regional Commission should adopt the decision to establish a Regional Committee for Animal Welfare at the Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Santiago de Chile, from 29 June to 1 July 2010. He also proposed that the Regional Commission should adopt the decision to establish a Network of Veterinary Service Laboratories of the Americas. Both proposals were adopted unanimously.

## **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**

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).



Dr Barcos presented the 2010-2011 programme, which focused on continuing and strengthening training activities for OIE focal points and continuing with the work of the Regional Committees, the cost-benefit studies and the coordination of GF-TADs activities in the Americas.

The report and work programme were approved.

**6. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in May 2012**

The Regional Commission proposed that the following Technical Item be discussed at the 80th General Session of the OIE Assembly (based on a prior questionnaire sent to Member Countries):

The sustainability of extensive livestock production and its relationship with the environment and climate change, analysed on a scientific basis.

**7. Organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010**

Dr Carlos Correa described the practicalities of organising the next Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas. He also detailed a few important points concerning Uruguay and logistics for the conference.

**8. Proposed technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010**

The Regional Commission proposed to include the following Technical Item (without questionnaire):

OIE Strategy for the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease at regional and global levels.

Dr Gideon Bruckner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission, and a person to be appointed by PAHO-PANAFTOSA were proposed as speakers.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

**9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission**

The Regional Commission decided unanimously to nominate Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles, Delegate of Guatemala, as Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

**10. GF-TADs**

Dr Luis Barcos reported on the activities of GF-TADs in the Americas, which had held a meeting in Buenos Aires in December 2009 at which the mechanisms for coordinating the activities of all international organisations operating in the Americas were strengthened. At the December meeting, each organization had presented its action plan and satisfactory coordination of activities in the Americas was achieved.

## **11. Update on missions to the region on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-Gap Analysis and legislation**

Dr José Joaquín Oreamuno reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He went on to explain the four-stage PVS process: (i) the PVS evaluation of a country's Veterinary Services (referred to as the "diagnosis") is a qualitative evaluation to ascertain the performance of Veterinary Services and their compliance with OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (the "prescription") is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative economic study of the needs and priorities stated by the country itself; (iii) stage three comprises a variety of possible technical missions/activities (the "treatment") in order to guarantee good governance of the country's Veterinary Services; and (iv) to complete the OIE process, regular follow-up missions on the PVS evaluation are made to monitor how the situation evolves and improvements achieved after implementing the measures taken to strengthen the Veterinary Services.

Dr Oreamuno pointed out some special features of the OIE PVS process, such as: the voluntary nature of each stage; a harmonised approach by means of standardised procedures; and confidentiality of the results, which are the exclusive property of each country, although the OIE does encourage each country to share their reports with organisations that have an agreement with the OIE and with donors, if necessary to complete the process.

In addition to presenting the Programme's current status at global level, Dr Oreamuno detailed the specific status of the Americas on 17 May 2010.

- Nineteen OIE PVS Missions had been requested, 17 PVS Missions had been carried out and 15 reports were available.
- Eight OIE PVS Gap Analysis Missions had been requested, two PVS Gap Analysis Missions had been carried out and one report was available.
- No Legislation Mission has been requested.

## **12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning**

Following a brief review from Dr Brian Evans on the joint application for appointment as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Aquatic Animal Epidemiology and Risk Assessment from the Centre for Aquatic Health Science of the Atlantic Veterinary College (University of Prince Edward Island), Canada and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo, the application was approved unanimously.

Dr Kate Glynn, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented a summary of the activities and current status of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Collaborating Centres nominated by the Regional Commissions would be proposed for adoption by the 78th OIE Assembly, together with new applications for OIE Reference Laboratories. For information, Members were shown a transparency with the list of diseases for which there was still no OIE Reference Laboratory. An update of the procedure and current state of laboratory twinning projects was also presented.

## **13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the region**

Dr Mariela Varas, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the status of weekly and annual reports from countries/territories in the region in 2009. She mentioned the countries/territories of the region that had still not submitted all or some of their reports, and urged them to submit the reports as soon as possible.

Dr Varas also provided a list of countries in the region that had submitted their reports but were still awaiting responses prior to finalising and validating the reports.

Dr Varas concluded by stressing the importance of countries sending regular information to the OIE.

#### **14. Proposal for the improvement of OIE procedures for the declaration of the disease status of countries**

Following an exchange of views concerning OIE procedures for studying each country's applications for official disease status recognition, the Regional Commission proposed that an evaluation should be made of these procedures with a view to improving them. This should include giving consideration to the possibility of consulting the applicant country prior to sending the country's proposal to the Member Countries for comments, in case the status decided upon were to differ from the status requested.

The Delegate of Colombia suggested that OIE Members should respect official OIE declarations on disease status and not return to request information after the OIE had made its declaration.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

#### **15. Proposal for the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status**

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas proposed that two new diseases should be included in the list of diseases for which the OIE officially recognises the disease status: classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Regional Commission considers them to be diseases with a heavy impact on international trade and believes that Member Countries, especially the poorest ones, would benefit from this OIE work and, furthermore, there is sufficient scientific knowledge to do so.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

A member of the delegation of Colombia suggested that OIE Members should respect OIE official recognitions regarding sanitary status of countries and to avoid the request of supplementary information, once the OIE has officially recognized a sanitary status.

#### **16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language**

Dr Mara González reported on OIE activities relating to the OIE Steering Committee for promoting the correct use of the Spanish language in veterinary scientific and technical matters in animal health and related scientific fields. She said that updating of the Terrestrial Manual was complete and that work was continuing to develop a multilingual terminology database to serve as a useful consultation tool for OIE translators. She also stated that the cooperation agreement with the Kingdom of Spain had been renewed, under which it would continue to provide financial support for the work on the correct use of the Spanish language, adopting a speedier approach in line with the updating and development of OIE international standards.

#### **17. Communication issues**

Ms Maria Zampaglione (Lic.), Head of the OIE Communication Unit, reminded participants that capacity-building activities in communication-related aspects was one of the important points in the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan, which Delegates would be adopting during this week.

The regional seminar on communication held in the Americas in 2007 was a very important step in the OIE's communication activities. The seminar had recommended the OIE to set up an Ad Hoc group on Communication.

Lic. Maria Zampaglione summarised some of the Ad Hoc Group's recommendations, in particular those to raise the awareness of senior government officials on the importance of proper communication to an appropriate target group on the most important animal health aspects.

National communication plans relating to animal diseases, including zoonoses, do not tend to include animal health-policy aspects.

For coherent disease prevention and response, it is very important for comprehensive communication to be established, for example for diseases like H5N1 avian influenza and foot and mouth disease.

#### **18. Presentations from regional organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:**

- **Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO)**

Dr Otorino Cosivi presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives, structure, main activities and mechanisms used, as well as its alliances and partnerships with international, regional and subregional organisations.

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA's Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities being conducted by the IICA in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level and highlighted the training activities for Veterinary Services.

- **International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)**

Dr Abelardo de Gracia presented the activities of OIRSA, in particular those aimed at building the capacity of the region's Veterinary Services and the regional gap analysis project in conjunction with the OIE, based on the OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis conducted in countries of the region. He also detailed the most important activities that OIRSA had carried out jointly with the OIE.

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

Dr Eduardo Echaniz, Technical Secretary of the CVP, representing CVP President, Dr Jorge Amaya, described the Committee's activities, which related chiefly to improving the region's foot and mouth disease status. He also reported on the development and online uploading of the CVP website.

- **General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN)**

Dr Oscar Domínguez Falcón described the activities of the Andean Community, in particular the regional programme to improve foot and mouth disease control being implemented jointly with FAO, with donations from Italy and Spain.

- **CaribVET**

Dr Max Millen presented CaribVET and asked the OIE to sign an agreement to reinforce their joint work. This agreement would need to be signed with CaribVET, which is a network composed by Chief Veterinary Officers of the Caribbean Countries. The proposal was approved unanimously.

- **FAO**

Dr Julio Pinto, from FAO Rome, presented the most relevant FAO activities in the region and referred in particular to the foot and mouth disease activities being conducted in the Andean region thanks to donations from Spain and Italy. He also referred to the status of classical swine fever control and eradication activities in Central and South America.

- **IDB**

Dr Yann Brenner, informed on the activities of the IDB in the region, in particular on the programme for the reinforcement of the Veterinary services of Central America and the Caribbean.

## **19. Other matters**

- **Venue for the 21st OIE Regional Conference for the Americas**

Barbados was proposed and unanimously approved. It was decided that the conference would be held from 19 to 23 November 2012. Dr Trotman, Delegate of Barbados, reported that the decision was subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Barbados, and that further information would be provided at the next Regional Conference in Uruguay.

- **OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture**

Panama reported that it had decided to propose to the OIE the venue for holding the OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture: The Contribution of Aquaculture Health activities to Food Safety (Panama, 28-30 June 2011), for which it had committed the necessary financial and logistical resources in accordance with OIE requirements.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

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.../ Appendix

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

**Paris, Monday, 24 May 2010**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Brian Evans).
3. Council update (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti).
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).
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 (Dr Luis Barcos).
6. Proposed technical item (with questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2012 (Dr Luis Barcos).
7. Organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos y Dr Carlos Correa).
8. Proposed technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos).
9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).
10. GF-TADs (Dr Luis Barcos).
11. Update on OIE-PVS evaluation, PVS-Gap Analysis and legislation missions in the region (Dr José Joaquín Oreamuno).
12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning
  - Joint application for appointment as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Aquatic Animal Epidemiology and Risk Assessment from the Centre for Aquatic Health Science of the Atlantic Veterinary College (University of Prince Edward Island), Canada and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo. (Dr Kate Glynn)
13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the region (Dr Mariela Varas).
14. Proposal for the improvement of OIE procedures for the declaration of the disease status of countries (Dr Carlos Correa).

15. Proposal for the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (Dr Luis Barcos).
16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language (Dr Fernando Crespo y Dr Mara González).
17. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)
18. Presentations from regional organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
  - Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO)
  - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
  - International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)
  - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
  - General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN)
  - Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)
  - Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET)
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
19. Other matters.





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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:15 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 participants including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, P.R China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Rep Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: Canada, France, Hong Kong

International/regional organisations: EuFMD, FAO, IFAH, SCP<sup>66</sup>

At the request of Dr Zhongqiu Zhang (China), Vice-President, the meeting was chaired by Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia), Secretary General. Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), President of the Regional Commission and Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines), Vice-President were not present at the meeting, their apologies were conveyed by the Chairman.

Dr Sen Sovann 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 except for a number of small amendments concerning the names of presenters. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated electronically in advance as well as during the meeting.

## **2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Sen Sovann reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle any existing arrears.

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<sup>66</sup> SCP: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

### **3. Council update**

Dr Tenzin Dendhup, member of the Council and Delegate of Bhutan, reported on matters discussed at the Council. He noted that very few comments were received from the Region regarding the 5th Strategic Plan.

He informed the participants about the election procedure for the Director General of the OIE on the following day and about the discussion on the Basic Text with no major concerns except for the “member country and territory” issue. Dr Tenzin Dendhup suggested that Dr Zhang express the support of all the Delegates of the Region to the current Director General during the Tuesday morning election.

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

Dr Zhang presented the report on the activities of the Commission on behalf of Dr Kawashima, President.

In particular, he presented the recommendations issued at the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items presented:

- “Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1”
- “The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases including the example of China”.

The Delegate from India requested clarification on issues related to equine disease free zone. Dr Gardner Murray, former President of the Regional Commission and former Delegate of Australia, explained the past discussion between the OIE and China in preparation of the Asian Game and clarified that China must have a procedure and make a self-declaration for safe movement of horses. He also suggested that such an arrangement would be relevant to other events.

The report was accepted.

### **5. Progress of the regional activities for the new OIE strategic plan**

Dr Shimohira, on behalf of Dr Kawashima, gave a comprehensive presentation on the new OIE strategic plan. Since the OIE developed its draft 5th Strategic Plan, and following the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, China in November 2009, the Regional Commission started to establish a Regional Strategic Plan.

Considering the challenges faced by the Region in terms of human and animal population, the diversity of environments, cultures, political systems and economic situations and animal disease status, the Regional Strategic Plan will be developed through the following procedures:

- The President of the Regional Commission will set up a small Working Group which consists of the Bureau of the Commission, Members wishing to contribute and the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. They will hold a meeting to draft the Plan.
- The draft will be circulated and comments from Members will be gathered.
- The final draft will be considered approved as the Regional Strategic Plan for Asia and the Pacific.

The Delegate from Iran reminded the participants that his country was now part of the Region and therefore should receive the draft Regional Strategic Plan.

Dr Carroll, the Delegate of Australia to the OIE, congratulated the work already done under the mandate of Dr Kawashima.

## **6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific**

Dr Itsuo Shimohira succeeded Dr Terruhide Fujita on 1 January 2010 as the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation.

He described the extensive activities and wide-ranging programmes managed by the Regional Representation. He referred particularly to activities related to specific animal diseases, such as aquatic animal diseases, HPAI, FMD, Brucellosis and BSE, and good governance of the Veterinary Services.

Dr Shimohira also presented the priorities of regional activities on animal health improvement; on strengthening Veterinary Services compliance with OIE International Standards; on capacity building, in particular in the area of legislation, diagnosis and surveillance.

For 2010, OIE Asia-Pacific plans for further regional activities will include OIE Focal Points Training Workshops on Wildlife and on Food Safety, together with many other regional meetings/workshops planned for the control of HPAI, Brucellosis, FMD, Prion diseases, Blue tongue and Feed safety.

The Delegate from India suggested the need to consider social aspects in planning capacity building activities. He also highlighted the importance of surveillance in wild birds. Dr Shimohira appreciated the suggestion.

A participant from Hong Kong appreciated the surveillance activities of the Regional Representation

## **7. Report on 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, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Sub-Representation.

In particular, he presented the three programmes managed by the Sub-Regional Representation:

- The South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign continues to implement the programme based on the 2020 Roadmap. The main strategy pursued is a progressive zoning approach. The activities implemented include studies on detailed cross-border animal movement, on the distribution of FMD outbreaks and on the quantification of economic benefits of the AusAID support to the SEAFMD campaign from 1997 to 2009; various trainings, in particular on outbreak investigation; and organisation of important meetings such as the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 15-19 March 2010.
- The three year OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) to combat avian influenza and other transboundary animal diseases in South-East Asia continued throughout 2009. The most significant activity was the AusAID mid-term independent progress report that identified that the programme should be refocused on OIE PVS initiatives, including PVS Gap Analysis. Other activities included the organisation of Sub-Regional Workshops and Seminars on various topics

such as animal health communication, veterinary legislation, governance and emergency preparedness and response and OIE standards for Veterinary Services. This programme also provided, in collaboration with AAHL in Australia, capacity building in HPAI laboratory diagnosis with a focus on Quality Assurance and Proficiency Testing.

- The Highly Pathogenic Emerging and Re-Emerging Animal Diseases (HPED) Programme was signed in December 2009. This new European Union Regional Cooperation Programme has the following key objective: “Strengthening Veterinary Services in Asia, Regional Vaccine Bank and Capacity Building for surveillance, early detection and eradication of highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging animal diseases.”

The report was accepted without comments.

#### **8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012**

Dr Bayvel from New Zealand, proposed the following technical item based on the outcomes of the meeting in Bangkok, its coherence with the 5th OIE strategic plan, the existence of three collaborating centres supporting the Animal Welfare area. The survey title proposed was “A study of Animal welfare training and research activities and needs within the five OIE regions”.

This proposal was accepted without comments.

#### **9. Presentation of Vet 2011 initiative**

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.

Vet 2011 slogan is « Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet »: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security, food safety and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian, among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site [www.vet2011.org](http://www.vet2011.org). Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

**10. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Shanghai, P.R. China from 16 to 20 November 2009**

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the outcomes of the discussions related to the following two technical items:

- Technical Item I (with questionnaire): “Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1” presented by Dr Hiroshi Kida, The Research Center for Zoonosis Control and Graduate school of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University. The main recommendations were related to the surveillance of influenza in swine in countries where H5N1 influenza virus is still circulating and to considering vaccination as a complementary activity to the stamping out policy.
- Technical Item II (without questionnaire): “The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases including the example of China”, presented by Dr Gardner Murray, Special Advisor of OIE with complementary information regarding the establishment of the Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ) for 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou in PR China. The main recommendations were related to the self-declaration of zone freedom from relevant equine diseases for specific situations in accordance with the disease specific provisions of the Terrestrial Code. The OIE will provide Expert Missions to support Members in establishing equine disease free zones (EDFZ) upon the request and financial support of host Members.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

**11. Outcome of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, P.R. China on 16 November 2009**

Dr Itsuo Shimohira presented the outcomes of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, P.R. China on 16 November 2009, attended by 110 participants from 24 OIE Members. The purpose of this seminar was to improve the awareness of all Members from the Region regarding the OIE Global Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services, including such activities as Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool as well as complementary steps, such as the PVS Gap Analysis and the PVS Follow-Up missions.

The main recommendations of the Seminar were related to the implementation of National PVS Pathways, the identification of candidate laboratories for twinning projects and the identification of the OIE National Focal Points

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

**12. Outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Laos) from 15 to 19 March 2010**

Dr Abila started by presenting the actual situation of FMD outbreaks in the different sub-regions.

He then presented the outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Lao PDR) from 15 to 19 March 2010. One of the highlights of the meeting was the confirmation of support to China’s application to be an official member of SEAFMD. The programme should therefore be named “The South East Asia and China FMD Campaign”.

The main recommendations were related to international coordination and support; programme management, resources and funding; public awareness and communication; disease surveillance, diagnosis reporting and control; policy, legislation and standards to support disease control and zone establishment; regional research and technology transfer; livestock sector development including private sector integration; monitoring and evaluation.

The main challenges concern cattle and buffalo movement. Some critical points were identified at the border between different countries, which clearly match FMD outbreaks.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

Dr Abila finally presented the 2010-2011 activities of the Sub-Regional Representation.

On this occasion, the Delegate from Japan and South Korea updated the recent outbreak of FMD in these countries.

Dr Juan Lubroth supported the risk analysis approach in the SEAFMD road map and posed specific questions on public-private partnerships and vaccination coverage. Dr Abila clarified the on going review of the vaccination campaign implemented to the ASEAN region.

### **13. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan**

On behalf of Dr Gardner Murray, Dr David Bayvel, president of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare provided a comprehensive report on the key issues arising from a workshop held in Bangkok from 28-29 April 2010 which considered the Regional Animal Welfare Implementation Plan (RAWS-IP) and future direction. The workshop followed a recommendation of the Regional Commission Conference in Shanghai in November, 2009, which endorsed the RAWS-IP.

Dr Bayvell put forward recommendations from the workshop on future coordination, representation and funding. He also welcomed the designation of OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point and their training in Bangkok from 28-29 April 2010.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from the RAWS-IP Workshop.

### **14. General aspects on public (OIE) and private standards**

Following the Resolutions of the 76th OIE General Session, an ad hoc group on private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare was convened in June 2009 to examine the current, problems, overlapping and possible benefits presented by private standards.

Dr Yamato Atagi, Deputy Head of the International Trade department at the OIE, presented the outcomes of the work of the ad hoc group presented to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission in February 2010. Noting the information presented on the OIE website which is updated regularly and the current discussion at the SPS committee, he recommended to improve the coordination among representatives in the relevant forum in each OIE Member.

### **15. Update on OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services in the region including PSVS programme activities**

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative of South-East Asia, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS

mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Abila also described in detail the specific status of the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 16 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 13 missions have been done and 11 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors
- As of the 17 May 2010, 10 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 1 missions have been done and 1 report has been made available to OIE partners and donors
- As of the 17 May 2010, 3 Legislation missions have been requested and 3 missions have been done

#### **16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and update on Laboratory twinning**

Dr Yong Joo Kim, chargé de mission at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (34 in Asia) and Collaborating Centres (7 in Asia). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Dr Kim also informed the following application for a new collaboration centre: OIE Collaboration Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Disease and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia: National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH and National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL), Japan).

The Regional Commission supports the proposal of OIE collaborating centre and reference laboratories (including application from NIAH and NVAL from Japan)

#### **17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region**

Dr Alessandro Ripani, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 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. A list of countries, that have submitted their report but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation, was also provided. Dr Ripani finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

## **18. Progress of GF-TADs in the region**

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the activities of the GF-TADs Programme in the region. In particular, he presented the generic and regional recommendations raised during the Sub-regional meetings for South Asiatic Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in June 2009; and for ASEAN in December 2009.

The Third Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs was convened in Tokyo, Japan on 23-24 July 2009. The Meeting recognized the GF-TADs as a unique coordinating mechanism which adds significant value to global and regional approaches to TADs and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) control. Several important recommendations emerged from the meeting which will serve as guidelines for further improvement of TADs control in the Region.

Dr Shimohira also presented the planned activities for 2010, including the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting to be organised in July 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr Sovann welcomed the collaboration of FAO and OIE on this issue.

## **19. Presentation from regional organisations in Asia, the Far-East and Oceania that have signed an official agreement with the OIE**

Dr Ken Cokanasiga from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) gave a comprehensive report on the organisation, the context and the activities of the SPC. He also presented the animal health status of the pacific region highlighting that the region is free from major animal diseases.

No representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) or the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) were present

## **20. Other matters**

Iran proposed to settle a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Iran based in Teheran for Central Asia. The Regional Commission suggested that this proposal be passed to the Director General for consideration.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

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.../Appendix



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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda ( Bureau of the Regional Commission)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Bureau of the Regional Commission)
3. Council update (Dr Tenzin Dhendur)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Zhang, Vice-president in the Bureau of the Regional Commission)
5. Progress of the regional activities for the new OIE strategic plan (Dr Shimohira, Bureau of the Regional Commission)
6. Report on the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
7. Report on the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including launching of HPED Programme (Dr Ronello Abila)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
9. Presentation of Vet 2011 initiative (Dr Joseph Domenech)
10. Recommendations of the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, P.R. China from 16 to 20 November 2009 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
11. Outcome of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China on 16 November 2009. (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
12. Outcome of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Laos) from 15 to 19 March 2010.(Dr Ronello Abila)
13. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan (Dr David Bayvell)
14. General aspects on OIE private and public standards (Dr Yamato Atagi)
15. Update on the OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services in the region including PSVS programme activities (Dr Ronello Abila)
16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Including the application from NIAH and NVAL from Japan) and update on Laboratory twinning (Dr Yong Joo Kim)
17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Alessandro Ripani)
18. Progress of GF-TADs in the Region (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
19. Presentations from regional Organisations in Asia, the Far East and Oceania that have signed an official agreement with the OIE Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
20. Other matters



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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 111 Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission and representatives from 6 international/regional organisations:

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

Observer countries/territories: None

International/regional organisations: EC<sup>67</sup>, EU Council Secretariat<sup>68</sup>, FAO, FAO-EUFMD<sup>69</sup>, FESASS<sup>70</sup>, IFAP.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland), and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-Presidents of the Commission 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 and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

## **2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Prof. Nikola T. Belev,, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, reported that Members of this region regularly paid their contributions. He also commended Members of Europe providing additional voluntary contributions to the OIE.

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<sup>67</sup> EC: European Commission

<sup>68</sup> EU Council Secretariat: European Union Council Secretariat

<sup>69</sup> EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

<sup>70</sup> FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

### **3. Council update**

Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro, Vice President of the Council, presented an update on the work of the Council. He informed the participants that the Council met three times since the last General Session, in October 2009, February 2010 and May 2010. The topics addressed included the preparation of the 5th OIE Strategic Plan and the approval of the OIE annual budget. The proposal of the DG to freeze Members' contributions to the OIE due to the global financial crisis was accepted by the Council. Other topics included the proposals of new Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, future issues of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review, the election of the DG to be held during this General Session (GS), OIE awards and the review of the DG's report on activities.

### **4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. He started by expressing his sadness for the death of the former CVO of Ukraine and past Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe last February, Dr Petro Verbitskiy. He then mentioned the meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in September 2009 where implementation of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010) and preparation of the 5th one, amendments of OIE basic texts, as well as some technical issues -animal welfare, education, food safety, notification of diseases among others- were discussed.

He mentioned his official visits to the Government authorities and Parliament in Russia, Bulgaria, France, Ukraine and Serbia.

### **5. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe**

Prof. Nikola T. Belev continued with the presentation of the objectives, staff, and activities carried out by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (RR) from May 2009 until May 2010.; the implementation of the capacity building programme including the training of focal points for animal welfare and for wildlife (the training for aquatic animals focal points had to be postponed in November). Besides, a project targeting 9 CIS countries, managed by the IZS A&M 'G.Caporale', OIE Collaborating Centre, was launched in March 2010. The RR was also involved in various meetings, namely the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe, EUFMD Executive Committees and West Eurasia FMD control, and TAIEX workshops. The programme for the end of 2010 includes the organisation of the next Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe in Kazakhstan, as well as training workshops for new Delegates and focal points (aquatic animals and veterinary products). The RR will maintain continuous contact with the media and communicate on OIE priorities at a high political level.

The Commission accepted the reports.

The Delegate from Norway thanked Prof. Belev for having sent in advance his presentation and took this opportunity to inform the Commission that the Norwegian Reference Laboratory on Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) would organise an international workshop on diagnosing and handling ISA from 13 to 15 September 2010 in Oslo and invited all interested persons to participate.

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

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation (SRR) in Brussels from May 2009 until May 2010. The SRR supported the RR in all its regional capacity building activities. The regional website has been continuously updated and provides all relevant information pertaining to OIE Regional activities as well as key international information, some of which are available in Russian, namely the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE-PVS Tool and the OIE guidelines on veterinary legislation. An important part of SRR activities were devoted to the representation of the OIE in various technical meetings. With regard to the European Union, the SRR has been, in particular, involved in the work on the new EU Animal Health Strategy, participating as stakeholder in the Animal Health Advisory Committee and some Working Groups; attended the Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel meetings of EFSA; participated in training activities such as those of BTSF and TAIEX; and communicated on OIE activities during the EU Vet Week. The SRR maintained its activities in the frame of the OIE programme on good governance, carrying out Gap Analysis missions and working on the outcome of PVS evaluations in a region. It was also involved in a CMC mission. Besides, the SRR continued to manage the 4-year project financed by the EC, aiming at developing the informatic prototype for the new Animal Disease Information System of the EU (ADIS). This activity will be pursued.

The Commission accepted the report.

## **7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80<sup>th</sup> General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012**

Two technical items were proposed on:

- 1) “trends in the distribution of responsibilities and in the collaboration between private sector and veterinary authorities on disease prevention and control” by the Delegate from Denmark, and
- 2) “is there a role for the OIE in facilitating greater co-ordination of research effort on animal health and welfare at the global level and getting more efficient use of already generated evidence?” by the Delegate of UK

Technical item 1 was accepted by the Regional Commission to be presented to the Assembly for consideration.

## **8. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010**

Two technical items were proposed on:

- 1) “Early detection and contingency plans for African Swine Fever” by the Delegate from Spain, and
- 2) “Strategies for controlling bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) infection in multiple domestic and wild animal species including the application of vaccination” by the Delegate of UK.

The proposed technical item 1 was accepted by the Regional Commission.

## **9. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010**

This topic was not addressed as Dr Akhmetzhan Akievich Sultanov, Delegate of Kazakhstan, was not present at the meeting.

## **10. GF-TADs**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Head of Animal Health and Welfare Directorate of DG Sanco presented the situation regarding the GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) activities in Europe, starting by recalling the outcome of the 3d Regional Steering Committee (SC) that was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels on 24 and 25 February 2010. He commented that great steps had been taken since 2005 and that most of the provisions of the recommendations of the two previous SC held on 13-14 October 2005 and 18 December 2007 had been addressed. He informed the participants that the situation and activities regarding priority diseases in the region had been presented by the EC, FAO and the OIE during the meeting ; Members of the Steering Committee have also been designated for a period of four years. He recalled that all new initiatives, whether regional or sub-regional, like the Western Balkans or Black Sea initiatives, were to be developed under the umbrella of the GF-TADs for Europe. He presented the content of the recommendations endorsed by the SC on i) Governance Mechanisms of GF-TADs for Europe, referring among others to the new Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe and ii) Enhancing prevention and control of priority diseases in Europe. They will be presented for validation to the Global Steering Committee of GF-TADs in September 2010. He added that a meeting would be held in the margin of the OIE General Session in order to start working on a regional action plan. He concluded by emphasising that control of classical swine fever and rabies were possible and that particular efforts should be made regarding these diseases in the region.

The Delegate of Austria, in his position of President of the EUFMD Commission, proposed to hold discussions on Western Balkan countries during the GS as there would be an interest for those countries and the European region as a whole to benefit from the experience and structure of EUFMD. Dr Van Goethem mentioned that this should be possible.

## **11. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region**

Dr Caroline Planté reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. She explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

She highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Planté also described in detail the specific status of the European Region:

- As of 17 May 2010, 12 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 12 missions have been done and 7 reports have been made available to donors and OIE partners;
- As of 17 May 2010, 5 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 3 missions have been done and 3 reports have been made available to donors and OIE partners;
- As of 17 May 2010, 3 Legislation missions have been requested and 1 mission has been done.

## **12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on Laboratory Twinning**

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an update on OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres at global and regional levels as well as the situation regarding Laboratory Twinning. Out of 186 Ref. Labs and 35 Col. Centres present in the world in 2009, 93 and 15 are respectively located in Europe in 19 countries. She recalled that the Laboratory Twinning programme started in 2006 and that 3 Twinning with European Candidate Laboratories had been implemented on: AI (completed), rabies and brucellosis (underway). She underlined that the greatest contribution to the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme had been made by OIE Reference Laboratories in the European region, the United Kingdom (6), Italy (5), and Germany (2) accounting for the largest contribution within Europe.

She then presented the joint application from Canada and Norway for a Collaborating Centre (CC), to be proposed for adoption by the Assembly on :

- Aquatic Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Atlantic Veterinary College Centre for Aquatic Health Science, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada and Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo).

The proposal was accepted by the Regional Commission.

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

Dr Simona Forcella, from the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those that had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. She also informed the participants about the WAHIS Wild web application. Dr Forcella finally emphasised the importance for countries/territories to submit sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

Dr Paddy Rogan commented that as some countries faced difficulties in completing their reports, they should take advantage of the GS to solve some problems. He stressed the fact that due to the increasing visibility of the OIE, in particular the sanitary situation provided through the WAHID website, any incorrect information would be reflected broadly and would affect the credibility of the whole system.

The Delegate from Denmark commented that the extension of WAHIS for wildlife was very valid and epidemiologically justified but still had some shortcomings which needed to be addressed such as the inability to report on the absence of susceptible wild species and reporting on the absence of occurrence of diseases in wildlife when present in domestic

animals. This was supported by the Delegate from the Netherlands. The Delegate from the UK added that gathering information on wildlife from various structures was challenging. Dr Rogan concluded by proposing that the Regional Commission should ask the OIE to review the 'WAHIS Wild' system after being in operation for one year.

**14. Presentation from regional Organisations in Europe that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**

- **European Commission (EC)**

Dr Bernard Van Goethem highlighted the main activities of the EC linked with the OIE, mentioning the ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) project, the financial support given to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, the BTSF programme for Africa (for which OIE activities account for 5 million Euros), the EU Vet Week (recalling the topics of this year 2010 on identification and traceability along the food chain, to be held on 14 and 15 June with more than 500 participants expected), the Vet Year 2011, the regular support to various OIE activities (around 1 million Euro per year) and the involvement of EC experts in OIE regular work, giving the example of Dr Howard Batho who just received a Meritorious Award.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

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.../Appendix



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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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**Agenda**

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
4. Council update (Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro)
5. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Caroline Planté)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
9. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010. (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
10. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Kazakhstan (Dr Nikola T. Belev and Dr Akhmetzhan Akievich Sultanov, Delegate of Kazakhstan)
11. GF-TADs (Dr Bernard Van Goethem)
12. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-GAP Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region (Dr Caroline Planté)
13. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on Laboratory Twinning  
Joint application for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres for Aquatic Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Atlantic Veterinary College Centre for Aquatic Health Science, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada and Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo)  
(Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel)
14. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Simona Forcella)
15. Presentations from regional Organisations in Europe that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
  - European Commission (EC)
16. Other matters



78 SG/11B/ME

Original: English

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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 38 Delegates, observers from 17 Members of the Commission, 1 observer and 4 international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observers: Merial

International/regional organisations: AOAD<sup>71</sup>, FAO, ICFAW<sup>72</sup>, IFAH

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

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

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

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

**2. Contributions of Members to the OIE**

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

**3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East**

The President of the Commission underlined the close collaboration that exists between the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation based in Beirut. He reminded the meeting of the Terms of Reference of the OIE Regional Commissions, adopted during the 74th OIE General Session in May 2006 (Resolution XVIII). He stressed the importance of increasing collaboration at regional level.

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<sup>71</sup> AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

<sup>72</sup> ICFAW: International Council for Farm Animal Welfare

He mentioned that last year the Regional Commission organised its Conference in Doha, Qatar, and clarified that the recommendations of this Conference would be presented for final adoption later at the Assembly. He also stated that an update of the regional animal health situation was presented and discussed, according to countries six monthly reports and the animal health reports prepared for the Conference, and that, as part of the democratic process on which the OIE is based, the draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan of the organisation was also discussed.

The President, thanked countries holding regional conferences, seminars or workshops last year: Lebanon, Cyprus, Qatar, Syria, Kuwait, Tanzania and Oman.

#### **4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East**

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities implemented over the last year. He reminded the Regional Commission of the themes, conclusions and recommendations of the technical workshops that had taken place, which had focused on the main issues affecting the region.

He mentioned that activities were particularly focused on encouraging Members to improve their Veterinary Services by using the OIE PVS process, on promoting the capacity building of Veterinary Services and on strengthening collaboration with international and regional organisations and agencies in order to implement programmes for the surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses.

He noted that in 2010/2011 staff training will be a large part of the programme of the OIE Regional Representation and will mainly focus on the training of national OIE focal points.

He also said that as well as this specific training, networks of OIE focal points are being set up on the website of the Regional Representation.

Dr Yehia also reported that cooperation and collaboration with FAO through the Regional Animal Health Centre will also be strengthened to implement adapted and concerted regional strategies to control animal disease in the region.

He also informed the meeting that the translation into Arabic of all documents of importance will continue in order to make this information more accessible to all Members.

The report on the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation were adopted by the Regional Commission.

Dr Ahmed El Edrissi (FAO) described the activities and programmes that have been implemented or will be implemented by the FAO in the region and he described in detail those activities that had been developed in collaboration with the OIE through the OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre, within the framework of the GF-TADs.

#### **5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 80th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates to be held in May 2012.**

The OIE Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Members) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session:

"Extension programmes dedicated to the activities of Veterinary Services".

## **6. Election of a Member of the Council and a Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

The Regional Commission proposed Dr Mohammad Elgarhy, newly appointed OIE Delegate of Egypt, as first Vice-President.

## **7. Recommendations of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October 2009**

Dr Ziad Namour (Syria), secretary of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October, was attended by participants from a large number of Middle Eastern countries and Regional and International Organizations.

He then presented the Conference recommendations related to the two technical items that had been discussed, namely, the capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region and an approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis.

Recommendations were adopted by the Regional Commission.

## **8. Update on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions in the region**

Dr Pierre Primot, from the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, which is based on the use of the OIE-PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained the PVS Pathway, which is organised in four steps: (i) the first stage is the PVS Evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of a country; this is known as “the diagnosis” and it, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance of VS and their compliance with OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the second step is the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”); this analysis is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities, as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists of a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE regularly carries out PVS Follow-up evaluation missions with the aim of continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements made since the implementation of strengthening measures.

Dr Primot highlighted some of the features of the OIE-PVS Pathway, such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; and the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides describing the PVS programme and the progress made at global level, Dr Primot also described in detail the specific status of the Middle East Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 12 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 10 missions have been completed and 3 reports have been made available for donors;
- As of the 17 May 2010, 2 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 2 missions have been completed and 1 report has been made available for donors;
- As of the 17 May 2010, 4 Legislation missions have been requested and 2 missions have been completed.

## **9. Proposal for new OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories – Update on laboratory twinning**

Dr Keith Hamilton, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Several issues were raised during the discussion that followed Dr Hamilton's presentation, many of which related to the eligibility of laboratories, the feasibility of pre-assessment missions and ongoing programmes in the region.

## **10. 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 situation on six-monthly and annual reporting for 2009 of countries/territories in the region. He pointed out those countries which have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. He also provided a list of countries that have submitted reports which lack some information but which will be finalised and validated as soon as this information is provided. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasized the importance of countries /territories submitting animal health information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Answering questions of the attendees, Dr Ben Jebara also clarified the procedures for transmitting the results of OIE Reference Laboratories.

## **11. Communication issues**

Ms Zampaglione thanked those who had attended the seminar on communication which was held in Muscat, Oman, on 20-22 April 2010. She particularly acknowledged the support of the Government of Oman and that of the OIE RR for the Middle East in the organisation of the seminar. She apologised for not having been able to attend the Seminar in person; she had been unable to travel because of air traffic problems at that time.

She said that communication is a major strategic issue for the OIE, as highlighted in the 5th Strategic Plan that has been put forward for adoption by Delegates at the end of the General Session.

She also re-emphasized the role of communication in augmenting and improving the effectiveness of prevention activities, preparedness, early detection, rapid response, and recovery phases of animal disease occurrences. She concluded by stating that there is a need to ensure that strategic communication is integrated into veterinary infrastructure and policy response at country level, and that private sector and international support for this be obtained where required.

## **12. Presentation from regional Organisations in the Middle East that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE**

Dr Enaam M. El Sanousi explained that AOAD is a specialised Arab organisation, operating in the field of agricultural development, which aims to develop natural and environmental resources for the plant, animal and fisheries sectors. Arab summits have followed up on the important regional and international developments which have enabled the achievement of sustainable Arab agricultural improvement. Accordingly, these summits have called upon the organisation to carry out the following assignments: (i) Preparation of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy for the Upcoming Two Decades 2005-2025, which was

prepared and then endorsed by the Riyadh Arab Summit in 2007 and (ii) the launching of the Arab Emergency Food Security Program by the Economic, Developmental and Social Summit which was held in Riyadh during January 2009. The main developmental work plans, programmes and activities of AOAD are directed by these strategies.

### 13. Other matters

- Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.

Vet 2011 slogan is « Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet »: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian, among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site [www.vet2011.org](http://www.vet2011.org). Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

- Dr Ghazi Yehia informed the attendees that a specific mission will be conducted by the OIE to assess the situation of glanders in the region and suggested that a dedicated meeting to tackle this issue be organised with the support of the equestrian federation of the Middle East.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.

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Appendix

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

**Paris, 24 May 2010**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
  2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
  3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
  4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut (Dr Ghazi Yehia)
  5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 80th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates to be held in May 2012. (Dr G. Yehia)
  6. Election of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
  7. Recommendations of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October 2009 (Dr Ziad Namour)
  8. Update on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions in the region (Dr Pierre Primot)
  9. Proposal for new OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning (Dr François Diaz)
  10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region. (Dr Karim Ben Jebara)
  11. Communication issues (Maria Zampaglione)
  12. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Middle East that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
    - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
  13. Other matters
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