

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 72nd General Session
Paris, 25 May 2004**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

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

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 25 May 2004 at the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters, from 8.45 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. The meeting was attended by 88 Delegates and observers from 37 OIE Member Countries, and representatives of 8 international or regional organisations:

Countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Dem. Rep. of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observers: France

International Organisations: AU-IBAR⁴¹, CEBEVIRHA⁴², CIRAD-EMVT⁴³, DFID⁴⁴, EISMV⁴⁵, FAO⁴⁶, ILRI⁴⁷ and the World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr Hamadou Saidou (Cameroon), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland) and Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission. The Chairman opened the session by welcoming the Delegates, particularly those from the new Member Countries of the OIE and of the Regional Commission for Africa (Gambia and Guinea-Bissau).

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was read and adopted with the addition of three items under 'Other matters':

- PATTEC (Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign) programme
- AU-IBAR Pan-African Vaccine Centre
- Submissions of additions to the Agenda

41 AU-IBAR: African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

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

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

44 DFID: Department for International Development (United Kingdom)

45 EISMV: Ecole inter-Etats des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School for Veterinary Sciences and Medicine) (Senegal)

46 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

47 ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The question of OIE Member Countries in arrears with their contributions was discussed at length. It was emphasised that this was a recurrent problem and needed to be dealt with as a priority.

3. Proposals for technical items to be included on the Agenda for the 74th General Session of the International Committee, to be held in May 2006

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Challenges to Veterinary Training and Practice in the New Millennium.
- b) Management of animal health information in the framework of international trade and the control of transboundary animal diseases through vaccination.

4. Preparation of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Khartoum (Sudan)

The Delegate of Sudan, Dr Ahmed Mustafa Hassan, informed the Delegates that the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa will be held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 8 to 12 February 2005. He provided information on arrangements made by the government to ensure that the Conference is a success.

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical items and speakers:

- a) Socio-economic and animal health impact of transhumance (proposed speaker: Prof. François Adébayo Abiola from Senegal).
- b) The implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for the livestock industry in Africa (proposed speaker: Dr S. Moephuli from South Africa).

5. Preparation of the OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar with the Regional Commission for the Middle East, to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004

The President of the Commission informed the participants of the Joint OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar on the 'Implementation of animal health standards: the quest for solutions', which will be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004. This seminar will be organised jointly between the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

The representative from Egypt stated that his country was prepared to host the Seminar.

A document presenting the Seminar has already been sent by fax and e-mail to the Delegates of the two regions.

6. Fourth Strategic Plan 2005-2010

The President of the Commission presented the suggestions of the Regional Commission for Africa for the preparation of the Fourth Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which is to be submitted to the International Committee in May 2005 after a synthesis of the proposals from the various Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

The Delegates were invited to submit their suggestions to the Regional Commission before the meeting of the Administrative Commission due to take place in Dakar next November.

7. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative, congratulated Gambia and Guinea-Bissau on their accession to the OIE and stated that, apart from the Seychelles, all the African countries were now Members of the OIE.

He then reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa. He drew attention to the fact that animal health reports were indeed submitted to the OIE, but were often very late.

It was also stressed that a last remaining outbreak of rinderpest continues in the Somali ecosystem and that all efforts must be made, from a country as well as from an international institutional level, to eradicate this outbreak.

Discussions then took place on the animal health status of countries referred to in the report and meetings that had taken place in the region in which the Regional Representative had participated. The subject of two OIE Sub-Regional Offices in Africa, one in the SADC⁴⁸ zone and the other in the UAM⁴⁹ zone, was raised. The creation of the bureau in the SADC zone is imminent whereas the one in the UAM zone is under discussion.

Dr Sidibé stated that the Regional Representation was keen to strengthen its capabilities in the following areas:

- quality control;
- disease surveillance and epidemiology;
- organisation of Veterinary Services.

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

8. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Sidibé noted that communication between the Member Countries and the OIE Regional Representation was essential and that for this purpose it was vital to create a Web site.

Dr Guillaume Kondolas, who has been working at the OIE Central Bureau since 12 May 2004 on a Web site for the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, presented the objectives and the methodology of his work. The Regional Representation Web site is due to become operational in September 2004.

9. Suggestions and plan of procedure for setting up the GF-TADs programme

Dr Jean Boyazoglu, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, stated that the OIE and the FAO considered the problem of transboundary diseases to be crucial and that the two Organisations were seeking to address the issue rapidly through the GF-TADs⁵⁰ programme, which he then went on to outline. Dr Joseph Domenech, Head of the FAO Animal Health Service, provided additional information on the programme and stressed the need for a regional approach, to supplement actions taken at the national level to contain this major problem.

48 SADC: Southern African Development Community

49 UAM: Arab Maghreb Union

50 GF-TADs: FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of FMD and Other Transboundary Animal Diseases

Carrying on from the previous speakers, the Representative of the World Bank, Dr François Le Gall, explained the contents of the ALive programme (Partnership for Livestock Development Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Growth), and stated that partnership was indispensable at all levels: national, regional and continental. The document describing the programme will be distributed once it has been finalised.

10. Other matters

Dr Haile-Marian Solomon of the AU-IBAR presented the PATTEC (Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign) programme. He stated that the programme would be launched first in East Africa and subsequently in the other regions. The participants emphasised the importance of this programme.

Dr René Bessin of the AU-IBAR informed the Delegates that the Pan-African Vaccine Centre had reopened in March 2004 and that an animal health information system had been created within the AU-IBAR.

Before bringing the session to a close, the Chairman stated that any regional organisation wishing to make a presentation during the annual General Session must submit a request to the Director General of the OIE and the President of the Regional Commission so that, where appropriate, the item can be placed on the Agenda.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
 3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998')
 4. Preparation of the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Khartoum (Sudan), during the first half of February 2005 (dates, confirmation of host country, proposed technical items)
 5. Preparation of the Joint OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar with the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004
 6. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010
 7. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa (activities and work programme)
 8. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
 9. Suggestions and plan of procedure for the GF-TADs programme
 10. Other matters
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 25 May 2004

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 25 May 2004 at the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters, from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The meeting was attended by 62 Delegates and observers from 21 OIE Member Countries and one observer country, as well as by representatives from three international or regional organisations, as follows:

Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela

Observers: Spain

International or regional organisations: ICA, OIRSA and PAHO/PANAFTOSA⁵¹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Peter Fernández (United States of America), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Hernán Rojas Olavarría (Chile), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted with the addition of four items, namely:

- Reports from International Organisations
- Election of Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
- Translation into Spanish of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans and Dr Correa Mesutti, the auditors of the Administrative Commission, reminded Member Countries that had not paid their dues to rapidly bring their contributions up to date, in compliance with Article 3 of the OIE General Rules. In spite of the fact that contributions were successfully collected last year, some countries in the region still have outstanding contributions dating back several years. The Central Bureau is aware of the political and economic problems of certain countries and is prepared to discuss these with Member Countries.

51 PAHO/PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization/Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2006

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Guaranteeing public and consumer confidence: the critical role of effective risk communication to Veterinary Service officials in animal health emergencies.
- b) Animal welfare as an instrument for guaranteeing production quality.

4. Preparation of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

There was a vote to select the host country for the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. Panama, Venezuela and Mexico offered to host the Conference.

It was finally decided to hold the Conference in Panama from 15 to 19 November 2004.

The Regional Commission confirmed the following technical items:

- a) Risk communication (Speaker: Dr Zepeda Sein, Mexico)
- b) Veterinary education: meeting the needs of Veterinary Services (Speaker: Dr Recaredo Ugarte Mortola, Uruguay)

5. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (2005-2010)

The President of the Commission presented the proposals of the Regional Commission for the Americas for the preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which will be submitted to the International Committee in May 2005 following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission. The importance of this Strategic Plan was highlighted as a useful tool for achieving the objectives of the region's Veterinary Services.

The remarks made by a number of Delegates and representatives of international organisations will be incorporated into the final document.

6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Dr Ángel Flores Hernández, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation. The Delegates were handed a full report.

The following key areas were highlighted:

- Participation in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Americas for Animal Transmissible Encephalopathies (COPEA).
- Follow-up of the agreements of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CAMEVET)
- Holding joint Seminars between the Latin American Poultry Farming Association (ALA) and the OIE, as well as regional seminars on the WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Meetings on the 4th Strategic Plan 2005-2010
- Participation in various congresses, meetings and other seminars.

The work programme and planned activities were described.

The Delegates praised the work that Dr Flores Hernández had achieved so far and wished him luck with his future work.

Dr Emilio Gimeno (Argentina) was congratulated on the work he had accomplished.

7. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Dr Flores Hernández invited the Member Countries to use the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas as a communication tool and urged Member Countries to cooperate in its development.

8. Suggestions and plan of procedure for the GF-TADs (Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases)

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, presented a brief overview of the GF-TADs, an agreement between the FAO and the OIE, and urged Member Countries to collaborate in this venture.

9. Other matters

a) Reports from International Organisations

Dr Kevin Walker presented the activities of the IICA. Dr Luis Alberto Espinoza Rodezno highlighted the objectives of the OIRSA and described the activities carried out to date.

Dr Albino Belotto described the key activities of the PAHO.

b) Election of Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr Jorge Caetano Junior (Brazil) was elected First Vice-President and Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Second Vice-President.

The Delegates praised the work of outgoing members of the Bureau, namely, Dr João Cavalléro (Brazil) and Dr Manuel González Cano (Panama).

c) Translation into Spanish of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*

Dr Fernando Crespo León (Spain) commented on the current status of the translation into Spanish of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, which will be edited for the Regional Conference in Avila (Spain), before being presented to the Regional Conference in Panama in November 2004.

d) Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease

The President of the Regional Commission, a number of Delegates and the PAHO urged Member Countries to cooperate with the initiatives of the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease, mandated by the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Veterinary Services of the countries of the region in Houston in March 2004.

The meeting was closed at 11.30 a.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
 3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998')
 4. Preparation of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas which will probably take place in November 2004 (dates and host country to be confirmed)
 5. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010
 6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)
 7. Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
 8. Suggestions and plan of procedure for the GF-TADs
 9. Other matters
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 25 May 2004

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 25 May 2004 at the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters, from 8.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. The meeting was attended by 59 Delegates and observers from 23 OIE Member Countries, 3 observer countries, and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations, as follows:

Countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand, the United States of America and Vietnam

Observers: Canada, Hong Kong and Switzerland

International organisations: FAO, SEAFDEC⁵², Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and WHO

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Shubh Narayan Mahato (Nepal) and Dr José Q. Molina (the Philippines), Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

- Report from the SEAFDEC
- Report from the SPC Representative

2. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

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

52 SEAFDEC: South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre

3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2006

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Use of vaccination and immune enhancement for disease control
- b) Applied approaches to regionalisation

4. Candidates for the election of the Administrative Commission

The Delegate from Nepal, Dr Shubh Narayan Mahato, was nominated by the Delegate from Bangladesh, and seconded by the Delegates from Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

In the event that Dr Mahato is elected to the Administrative Commission and decides to resign as Vice-President of the Regional Commission, nominations were called for the position of replacement Vice-President of the Regional Commission. The Delegate from Taipei China, Dr Tien-Jye Chang, was nominated by the Delegate from Korea and seconded by the Delegate from Sri Lanka.

5. Preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The accredited Delegate of the Republic of Korea, Dr Ki Yoon Chang, gave a short presentation on the preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, which will be held in his country in November 2005.

The following technical items for the conference were proposed:

- a) Avian influenza and emerging diseases of relevance in the region
- b) Epidemiological analysis of BSE cases in Asia

6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Teruhide Fujita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the report of his activities, which was distributed to the participants.

7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2003–2004

Dr John Edwards, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the FMD control programme and the paper was distributed to the participants.

8. Recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia

The recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia were accepted, and on behalf of the Regional Commission, Dr Gardner Murray, President of the Commission, formally thanked Dr Edwards for his work as Regional Coordinator of the SEAFMD programme.

9. OIE Standards

Dr Norman Willis, Past President of the OIE International Committee, presented observations on OIE standards and urged all Member Countries to participate in the OIE process, express opinions on the development of standards, and once standards have been agreed to and accepted, he urged all members to operate in accordance with these guidelines. Respecting and defending the principles and processes of the OIE must be a priority for everyone concerned.

10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan (2005-2010)

The President of the Commission presented the proposals of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania for the preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which will be submitted to the International Committee in May 2005, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

Dr Murray further highlighted two particular issues for emphasis:

- Support for actions as highlighted in the paper of Dr Willis
- Greater funding certainty and support for the OIE

11. Avian Influenza

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE Central Bureau, Dr Joseph Domenech, Head of the Animal Health Service (AGAH) of the FAO and Dr F-X. Meslin, Coordinator of the Zoonoses, Food-borne Diseases and Kinetoplasdidae Team of the WHO, gave short presentations on the avian influenza situation.

Following discussions, the members:

- Noted the progress of joint OIE, FAO and WHO programmes to control avian influenza
- Re-affirmed the importance of ready access to experts and diagnostic facilities
- Confirmed their support for the GF-TADs programme
- Re-affirmed the need for the OIE to provide advice on vaccination for avian influenza
- Agreed their support for ongoing attention to global rinderpest eradication, and urged countries in the region to submit their dossiers for recognition of freedom from rinderpest to the OIE.

12. Endorsement of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for New and Emerging Diseases

The Regional Commission endorsed the application of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for New and Emerging Diseases, and noted India's concern about the laboratory's restriction on receiving foot and mouth disease virus samples.

13. Other matters

a) Report from the SEAFDEC

Dr Junichiro Okamoto reported on the activities of the South-East Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), plans for future international meetings and the desire of SEAFDEC to contribute to the establishment of regional fish disease surveillance in collaboration with the OIE and other international organisations.

b) Report from the SPC Representative

Dr Steven Angus, representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), reported on the activities of the SPC and highlighted concerns about the declining numbers of veterinarians in the South Pacific and emerging zoonotic diseases (leptospirosis, trichinellosis, angiostrongylosis).

He advised members of the SPC to work to develop the Pacific Animal Health Information Service (PAHIS) and their initiative to undertake import risk analysis for aquatic animals in the South Pacific.

Two further points were discussed:

- The Delegate from Afghanistan advised participants of the difficulties of controlling FMD (type O) in his country and the risks of the introduction of avian influenza. Dr Domenech and Dr Sibartie advised members of the FAO and OIE programmes aimed at addressing these disease problems.
- The Delegate from Japan offered to share with members the results of the Japanese study of the occurrence of BSE in Japan and Japanese comments on the draft BSE chapter of the *Code*.

The meeting closed at 11.00 a.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
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3. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006 (see 'Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998')
4. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Administrative Commission
5. Preparation of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, November 2005
 - Venue and dates of the Conference
 - Proposal of topics for the technical items
6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (activities and work programme)
7. Report on the activities of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2003-2004
8. Recommendations of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia
9. OIE Standards (Dr Norman Willis)
10. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan
11. Avian influenza (AI) (Dr Dewan Sibartie)
12. Endorsement of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) as an OIE Collaborating Centre for New and Emerging Diseases
13. Other matters

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 25 May 2004 at the OIE headquarters in the René Vittoz Conference Room, from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. The meeting was attended by 86 Delegates and observers from 45 OIE Member Countries, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations, as follows:

Countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (FYR), Malta, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom

Observer: United States of America

International or Regional Organisations: Council of Europe, European Union and FVE⁵³

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania) and Dr Isabelle Chmitelin (France), Vice-Presidents, and Dr Petr Ivanovitch Verbytsky (Ukraine), Secretary General of the Commission.

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

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

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, President of the Commission, presented the annual report of the activities of the Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe.

53 FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

Activities in 2003 focused mainly on the following points:

- Contacts, on a regular basis, with the Governments and Parliaments of different countries in order to promote OIE policies and activities;
- Increasing awareness and availability of the OIE information system in the National Veterinary Services, among private veterinarians and graduates in veterinary medicine;
- Drastic improvement of contacts with the mass media;
- Informing the Governments of OIE Member Countries about OIE activities;
- Fruitful collaboration with the European Commission and the FAO in the implementation of the tasks included in the Third OIE Strategic Plan;
- Cooperation with the OIE Central Bureau to fulfill the work plans of the Regional Representations and to arrange meetings with the Governments of Member Countries;
- Payment of contributions.

3. Preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010

Following a brief overview of the main accomplishments of the Third Strategic Plan over the past few years, Dr Isabelle Chmitelin, President of the Working Group, presented the proposals of the Regional Commission for Europe for the preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010. The Plan will be submitted to the International Committee in May 2005, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

The Working Group has met on four occasions over the past year, namely, in Kiev, Vilnius and Paris (two meetings) and has sent the draft plan to all the Delegates of the region for comments.

The new initiatives proposed by the Regional Commission for Europe for the future are as follows:

- Strengthening the official Veterinary Services
- Improving animal health information and training
- Animal welfare
- Developing awareness of the OIE and its activities
- Reinforcing relations with other international organisations
- Developing an effective communication plan
- Other issues in the control of animal diseases: the environmental impact of animal health control measures; measures to implement identification and registration systems to ensure the traceability of animals in case of diseases.

In conclusion, Dr Chmitelin mentioned the first technical item of the present General Session, which deals with emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, and underlined that the Regional Commission for Europe could contribute significantly in supporting the resolution of this technical item.

Dr Belev thanked the members of the Working Group for their valuable input and asked for questions or comments from the floor.

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate from Germany, proposed that a further point be added to the Fourth Strategic Plan, namely, that Member Countries should be committed to contribute financially to the OIE according to the size of their livestock and that they should not have a choice of categories.

Dr Belev stated that Dr Schwabenbauer's proposal would be submitted to the Administrative Commission, and that further comments could still be submitted before the regional conference in Avila (Spain) in September 2004.

4. 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Avila (Spain) from 28 September to 1 October 2004

Dr Arnaldo Cabello Navarro, Delegate from Spain, gave a power point presentation on the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Avila from 28 September to 1 October 2004.

The technical items for the Conference are the following:

- a) Contingency planning and simulation exercises for the control of epizootics (Dr Dietrich Rassow)
- b) Structure and organisation of Veterinary Services to implement the concept of 'from the stable to the table' (Dr Véronique Bellemain)

On behalf of his Government, Dr Cabello Navarro confirmed that all relevant information on the Conference had been sent to the participants.

Dr Cabello Navarro, on behalf of the European Union, proposed a short presentation for the conference, namely, 'Avian influenza and control measures'.

Dr Schwabenbauer made a further proposal for a short paper, 'Vaccination of wild boars as a measure of controlling classical swine fever'.

Dr Belev agreed to these two proposals.

5. Seminars

The President of the Regional Commission requested Dr Dejan Krnjaić and Dr Piotr Kolodziej to give details of the two seminars that are being organised by the OIE in their respective countries.

- Seminar on Food Safety in Europe, to be held in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro) from 19 to 23 June 2004

Dr Krnjaić briefly outlined the arrangements made for the seminar. He added that the topic of the seminar was of major importance in southern and eastern Europe and that a great deal could be learnt from developed countries in Europe to improve production.

Dr Belev stressed that the countries concerned should ensure that their Ministries have been informed of the seminar.

- Seminar on Environmental Protection in relation to Veterinary Service Activities, to be held in Warsaw (Poland) from 1 to 5 September 2004

Dr Piotr Kolodziej gave a few details on the organisation of the seminar and Dr Belev added that invitations would be sent out shortly.

Dr Belev proposed that the European Union participate in these two seminars.

6. OIE/FAO/WHO Conference on Rabies in Europe, to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) from 6 to 10 December 2004

The President of the Commission asked Dr Piotr I. Verbytsky to provide information on the OIE/FAO/WHO Conference on Rabies in Europe, to be held in his country from 6 to 10 December 2004.

Dr Verbytsky confirmed that the Conference would be held in Kiev and that the programme would be prepared together with the joint organisers and Dr Belev and subsequently sent to all the participants.

7. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2006

The Commission proposed the following technical item, which had already been proposed in 2003:

- Veterinary medicines: international harmonisation to secure the food chain and animal health and to facilitate trade

8. Preparation of the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Lukauskas informed participants that a Web site for the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe would be installed shortly and read out the list of proposals for the site, namely:

- Structure of the OIE
- Conferences and meetings
- Seminars and workshops
- OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Europe
- Fourth OIE Strategic Plan and Europe's contribution
- Animal health status world-wide and in Europe in particular
- OIE awards
- Updated news from Europe
- OIE and the mass media
- Outstanding state and private veterinarians
- Veterinary education and profession

The Delegate from Ireland, Dr Michael Sheridan, voiced concern over the risk of duplication with the general OIE Web site.

Dr Guiseppe Facelli, representative from Italy, proposed that a link be established with all the national Veterinary Services of the 50 Member Countries of Europe to familiarise Delegates with the structure of the different veterinary authorities.

9. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The Secretary General of the Commission, Dr Verbytsky, reported that a number of Member Countries in the Region do not regularly pay their contributions to the OIE. He stressed the importance of settling outstanding contributions as soon as possible. The Administrative Commission recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not paid for several years.

10. Other matters

OIE Collaborating Centres

Dr Chmitelin informed participants of the following:

- The OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Organisation of Veterinary Services in Developing Countries, Teramo, Italy, had requested that its title be changed to OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare.
- The Biological Standards Commission had received an application for an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of Official Veterinarians from the Ecole nationale des services vétérinaires in Lyon, France.

Dr Chmitelin indicated that the Administrative Commission had approved these two applications in March 2004.

The meeting was closed at 9.30 a.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Report of activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe
 3. Preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010
 4. 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in Avila (Spain) from 28 September to 1 October 2004
 5. Seminars:
 - 5.1. Seminar on Food Safety in Europe, to be held in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro) from 19 to 23 June 2004
 - 5.2. Seminar on Environmental Protection in relation to Veterinary Service Activities, to be held in Warsaw (Poland) from 1 to 5 September 2004
 6. OIE/FAO/WHO Conference on Rabies in Europe, to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) from 6 to 10 December 2004
 7. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006 (see "Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998")
 8. Preparation of the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Easter Europe
 9. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
 10. Other matters
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 25 May 2004

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 25 May 2004 at the OIE headquarters in the Salon Ramon, from 8:30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. The meeting was attended by 27 Delegates and observers from 15 OIE Member Countries and 2 observer countries, as well as 1 regional organisation as follows:

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

Observers: Algeria and France

International or Regional Organisations: The Red Sea Livestock Trade Commission

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Salman A. Nabi (Bahrain) and Dr Nihat Pakdil (Turkey), Vice-Presidents, and Dr George Khoury (Syria), Secretary General of the Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was adopted.

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

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities and the proposed programme of work for the years 2004–2005, which was distributed to the participants.

The main points included: information about conferences, workshops and meetings organised during 2003-2004, their recommendations and a list of the proposed programmes for 2004-2005.

3. Recommendations of the FAO/OIE Technical Advisory Group meeting, held in Beirut (Lebanon) in December 2003 (TCP⁵⁴ proposal)

A full document on the final report of this meeting, including the recommendations, was distributed to the participants. In addition, a document, edited by the GREP⁵⁵ secretariat, on a proposal for strengthening national capacity and regional coordination to ensure that all countries obtain timely accreditation of freedom from rinderpest, was also distributed.

54 Technical Cooperation Programme

55 Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme

4. Recommendations of the Second Round-Table on FMD held in Cairo (Egypt) in October 2003

All the recommendations of the meetings held in 2003-2004 were included in a document that was distributed to and reviewed by the participants.

5. Preparation of the Joint OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar with the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004

The President of the Commission informed the participants of the Joint OIE/AU-IBAR⁵⁶ Seminar on the 'Implementation of animal health standards: the quest for solutions', which will be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004. This seminar will be organised jointly between the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

6. Activities of the Regional Emergency Veterinary Committee (REVC)

Dr Yehia listed the activities of the Regional Emergency Veterinary Committee (REVC) within the framework of the Regional Commission:

- Establish together with IRI⁵⁷, a model to prevent potential Rift Valley fever (RVF) virus activities.
- Quarantine measures and harmonisation of certification.
- Establish an ad hoc group together with WHO/MZCP⁵⁸ and WHO/EMRO⁵⁹.

7. Date and venue of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2005

During the 7th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission, which was held in Istanbul (Turkey), from 23 to 26 September 2003, the Delegates of three countries, on behalf of the Government of their countries, offered to host the 8th Conference in their country during the last week of September 2005. These were: Syria, Yemen and Bahrain.

The President of the Commission asked the three Delegates concerned to say a few words.

On behalf of his Government, the Delegate from Bahrain expressed his country's wish to host the 8th Conference in Manama from 18 to 22 September 2005. The Delegates from Syria and Yemen endorsed the request of Bahrain.

The following technical items for the conference were proposed:

- a) Capacity-building in the Veterinary Services of Middle Eastern countries
- b) Registration of veterinary medicinal products and biologicals
- c) Food-borne diseases in products of animal origin

The participants proposed three additional subjects to be discussed in the conference:

- Control of horse movements in Middle Eastern countries
- Follow-up of the FAO/OIE project for recognition of freedom from rinderpest in the Middle East
- Follow-up of the RVF climate modelling system.

56 African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

57 International Research Institute for Climate Prediction

58 Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme of the World Health Organization

59 Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean of the World Health Organization

8. Suggestions and plan of procedure for the GF-TADs programme

The President of the Commission gave the broad outlines of the GF-TADs programme and announced the establishment of the Middle East Regional Steering Committee, which will include the OIE-FAO and representatives from the MZCP and EMRO (for zoonoses and food-borne diseases), AOAD⁶⁰ and other specialised regional organisations, as well as specific regional donors.

9. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries

The President mentioned the need for certain Member Countries to settle their outstanding contributions as soon as possible and requested the Delegates to remind their appropriate Ministry to make the payments. The Administrative Commission recently decided to no longer grant the 'per diem' to Delegates of countries that have not paid for several years.

10. Use of Arabic in the OIE (outcome of the decision taken at the Regional Conference held in Istanbul in September 2003)

Dr Yehia gave an update on the use of Arabic in the OIE and reminded participants that additional funds for translation into Arabic were added to the annual contributions for the Arabic-speaking countries, as recommended at the 7th Conference of the Regional Commission in Istanbul in September 2003.

11. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010

The President of the Commission presented the proposals of the Middle East Commission for the preparation of the Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010, which will be submitted to the International Committee in May 2005, following a synopsis of the proposals of the different Regional Commissions and the Administrative Commission.

12. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006

The Commission proposed the following technical items:

- a) Brucellosis control and eradication programmes for livestock
- b) The importance of developing veterinary education for improved future capacities

13. Other matters

- a) OIE Collaborating Centre

The Delegate from Egypt presented an application for recognition of an OIE Collaborating Centre for 'Training on the policies of animal disease control and vaccine evaluation' in Cairo.

The Commission approved this request.

- b) Web site of the Regional Representation for the Middle East

The Regional Representative gave an update on the Web site of the Regional Representation for the Middle East and invited participants to consult the information provided. The address of the site is: www.oieme.org

60 Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

c) Translation into Arabic of the OIE *Code*

A CD-Rom of a draft OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* in Arabic was distributed to the participants for reviewing.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 25 May 2004

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Plan of Activities of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
 3. Recommendations of the FAO/OIE Technical Advisory Group meeting, held in Beirut (Lebanon) in December 2003 (TCP proposal)
 4. Recommendations of the Second Round-Table on FMD held in Cairo (Egypt) in October 2003
 5. Preparation of the Joint OIE/AU-IBAR Seminar with the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 11 to 13 October 2004
 6. Activities of the Regional Emergency Veterinary Committee (REVC)
 7. Date and venue of the 8th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in September 2005 (Technical items to be discussed)
 8. Suggestions and plan of procedure for the GF-TADs programme
 9. Outstanding contributions of certain OIE Member Countries
 10. Use of Arabic in the OIE (outcome of the decision taken at the Regional Conference held in Istanbul in September 2003)
 11. Fourth OIE Strategic Plan 2005-2010
 12. Proposal of technical items to be included in the Agenda of the 74th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2006 (see "Technical items proposed to the International Committee or to Regional Commissions since 1998")
 13. Other matters
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