



Organisation
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Animal

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES

Paris, 25 May 2007

A meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 25 May 2007. Dr Gideon Brückner, Head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat and indicated the main purpose of the meeting which was to identify priority issues for the Commission, discuss the draft working schedule for 2007/2008 and identify issues that emanated from the 75th General Session that should be added to the program of activities of the Commission.

The Agenda and List of participants are presented at [Appendices I and II](#).

1. Review of the work plan and activities for the period 2007 to 2008

The Bureau took note of the program of scheduled meetings for the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups for 2007 and 2008. It was noted that following the decision of the Commission to establish a more even spread of meetings to prevent an overloaded program after the vacation period in Europe, meetings of *ad hoc* Groups have already been scheduled for June and July 2007.

2. Priority issues that was identified for the attention of the Commission following the report of the President of the Commission to the International Committee at the 75th General Session

The Bureau took note of the report of the President of the Commission and the interventions by Member Countries and identified the following issues for further attention of the Commission:

2.1. Foot and mouth disease Chapter 2.2.10 of the *Terrestrial Code*

Following the adoption of the revised chapter by the International Committee and the discussion that followed on issues related to the need for further defining the application of the concepts of containment zone and buffer zone, the Commission identified the urgent need for further discussion and debate. This relates especially to the application or not of stamping-out in a containment zone, the possibility of applying the concept to other diseases and also the scientific rationale for the application of a buffer zone for separating areas or populations of different disease status.

2.2. The application of compartmentalisation for bluetongue and African horse sickness

The Bureau took note of the discussions and interventions by Member Countries and would once again discuss and confirm the scientific justification for the application of compartmentalisation for not only these two diseases but also for vector-borne diseases in general.

2.3. The need to define the concept of *herd* for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*

The need for a clear definition which currently does not exist for the *Terrestrial Code* was identified during discussions on the revised chapter for Brucellosis. However, the need for a clear definition of herd is also applicable to other diseases such as bovine tuberculosis and will thus be further discussed by the Commission.

2.4. Surveillance guidelines for wildlife and wildlife diseases

The Bureau took note of the report of the Working Group on Wildlife diseases and the interventions by the President of the Commission following the presentation of the report of the Working Group to the International Committee. The Commission will request the Director General to convene an ad hoc Group consisting of members of the Wildlife Working Group and the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology to commence work on preparing surveillance guidelines for wildlife and wildlife diseases.

2.5. Proposed *ad hoc* Group on the effect of climatic changes on the occurrence of animal diseases

The Bureau took note of the request of the President of the Commission for considering the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group to discuss this topic. It was also noted that the Director General in his intervention at the 75th General Session indicated that climatic changes also closely relate to the occurrence or re-occurrence of vector-borne diseases and that the Commission should consider to take this on the agenda of the proposed *ad hoc* Group for surveillance for vector-borne diseases.

2.6. The establishment of guidelines for epidemiological modelling

Following the presentation of Technical Theme I on *The use of epidemiological models for the management of animal diseases* and Resolution XXXIII requesting the OIE to develop general guidelines on the application of epidemiological modelling, the Bureau decided to request the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to discuss the need for a separate *ad hoc* Group or to undertake the development of such guidelines within the existing *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.

2.7. The role of wildlife reservoirs of disease relative to the application of compartmentalisation and international standards for trade

The Bureau noted the need identified by the President of the Commission for a discussion on the role of wildlife in formulating international standards in the *Terrestrial Code*. This followed the observation that apparent diverging approaches are currently applied based on the scientific information available for specific diseases i.e. the approach used for identifying disease free areas for foot and mouth disease vs. the requirements applied for disease free areas for avian influenza. The Bureau acknowledged that this concept needs further discussion and debate and will be itemised on the agendas of both the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology and the Commission for further discussion.

2.8. The scientific justification for listing deboned mature beef as a safe commodity for foot and mouth disease for the purpose of international trade

Following a request by a Member Country and the Regional Commission for Africa during the 75th General Session, the Commission will request a background paper on aspects related to viral inactivation in deboned matured beef to render it as a safe commodity for trade.

3. Issues identified for attention by the Commission in the report of the President to the 75th General Session

The Bureau took note of additional issues identified in the report of the President of the Commission to the 75th General Session that will be incorporated into the working program of the Commission:

- Evaluate the scientific justification of the current requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on scrapie and BSE in view of the alleged atypical cases of scrapie and BSE.
- The development of a handbook for Animal disease surveillance similar to the OIE Handbook on Risk Analysis.
- Propose recommendations to the Director General on the application of networks for OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases.
- A follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations by the Commission for applying a regional approach for foot and mouth disease control and surveillance in the southern cone Countries.

.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES
Paris, 25 May 2007**

Agenda

1. Report of the President of the Commission: 75th General Session
 2. Overview of priority issues for the Scientific Commission for 2007/2008 following the Resolutions of the 75th General Session
 3. Review of the work plan and activities for the period May 2007 to 2008
 4. *Terrestrial Code* chapters that need revision
 5. Additions to agenda
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Paris, 25 May 2007**

List of participants

MEMBERS

Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (*President*)
Director
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
dell' Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale'
Via Campo Boario
64100 Teramo
ITALY
Tel: (39.0861) 33 22 33
Fax: (39.0861) 33 22 51
E-mail: direttore@izs.it

Dr Alejandro Schudel (*Vice-President*)
(*Invited but could not attend*)
Chorlo 290 (Esq. Paraiso)
(7167) Carilo
Partido de Pinamar
Provincia de Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA
Tel/Fax: (54 2254) 572747
E-mail: alejandro.schudel@gmail.com

Dr Preben Willeberg (*Secretary General*)
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Mørkhøj Bygade 19
DK-2860 Søborg
DANEMARK
Tel.: (45) 3395 6000
Fax: (45) 3967 5248
E-mail: pw@fvst.dk

OIE CENTRAL BUREAU

Dr Gideon Brückner
Head, Scientific and Technical Department
E-mail: g.bruckner@oie.int

Dr Lea Knopf
Scientific and Technical Department
E-mail: l.knopf@oie.int
