

Perspectives for moving towards the global control of Foot and Mouth Disease



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
External Relations



-Contribution-



Alain VANDERSMISSEN, DVM
Coordination Avian Influenza
“One Health” - Emerging Diseases - Health Security
Directorate Asia
Directorate General for External Relations
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

OIE/FAO Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease, Asunción
24-26 June 2008



Contents

1. Introduction.
2. AI: an unprecedented global response.
3. Underlying principles of the AI external response.
4. Positioning of the European Commission.
5. Securitization of the AI crisis and response.
6. Underlying determinants for securitization.
7. « Flu fatigue »: has A/H1N1 been a booster?.
8. Can the global response to AI be replicated for the global control of FMD?
9. « One Health »: a major opportunity.
10. Vision promoted inside the European Commission.
11. Regional integration as a major justification for FMD control.
12. Conclusion.



Introduction

- Over the past 40 years: 39 new infectious diseases.
- Last 5 years alone: 1100 epidemics, 20 drug-resistant diseases, old diseases have reappeared.
- BSE, SARS.
- Since 2005, an unprecedented process of global mobilization against AI.
- A/H1N1 in 2009.
- Providing recipe -or lessons- to progress towards global control of FMD?



AI: an Unprecedented Global Response

- Step 1: the coordinated response to the AI crisis.
 - Ministerial conferences and SOM: Beijing, Vienna, Bamako, New Delhi, Sharm El Sheikh, Hanoi.
 - More than 3 billion USD in grants and loans; remarkable commitment rate.
 - Unprecedented partnership and dynamic.
- Step 2: 2007-2010 regional cooperation programmes on Highly Pathogenic, Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases (European Commission with ASEAN and SAARC: 20 million €).
- Step 3 : 2011-2013 putting the « One Health » approach into practice.



Underlying Principles of the Influenza Global Response

- Sanitary major crisis prevention and management in line with the Commission political decision: EU as a major global actor in crisis prevention and response.
- Linking crisis prevention and response to long-term capacity building and improvement of livelihoods.



Positioning of the European Commission

- Addressing the problem at source: animal health and production.
- Prevention and mitigation of a possible pandemic.
- Enhance structural capacities to cope with any future crisis caused by high-risk or high-impact pathogens.
- Improve livelihoods.
- Multilateral, cross-sectoral and multi-level response.



Securitization of the AI Crisis and Response

- Securitization in international relations -*Ole Waever, Copenhagen, 1995*-: a given area of interest is politicized or the area is considered essential for survival. It was constructed as an essential problem. Inductive factors:
 - Status of given actors.
 - Similar issues generally perceived as security threats.
- Security is a “speech act”; securitization is not an objective but an intersubjective process; securitization of the subject depends on the audience accepting the securitization speech act.



Securitization of the AI Crisis and Response (2)

- Makes possible to legitimize extraordinary means to solve the perceived problem.
- Different from “Human Security (-*UNDP 1994 definition*- seven areas: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. Freedom for Fear versus Freedom from Want).
- AI and SARS were labelled by the UN security council (2004) as a threat to global health security.



Underlying Determinants for Securitization

- Human casualties, huge incidence, high mortality rate.
- Economic chaos, financial losses, social impact.
- Political considerations originating in previous crises: SARS, Katrina, HIV-contaminated blood, heat wave 2003...
- Specificity of European Commission: maintaining a focus on agricultural economics, communication, livelihood, food security, development (a reasonable balance between securitization and development).



“Flu Fatigue”: has A/H1N1 been a Booster?



- Public concern goes parallel to perceived level of securitization.
- Mild symptomatology of A/H1N1 → “media paranoia”.
- Pandemic alert level 6.
- New: a pandemic “life”. Epidemics and pandemics of the 21st century can start anywhere anytime. We have to live -again- with the infectious risk.



Can the Response to AI be Replicated for the Global Control of FMD?

- No. The context is different. No perceived risk to global health and global security. No securitization of FMD. FMD is not “securitizable”.
- FMD control is a complex issue. The timescale is long.
- Need for a constantly actualized ranking of burden and cost of FMD, including:
 - Impact on poverty and livelihoods.
 - Impact of MDG.
 - Comparative advantage of prevention and eradication in economic and social terms.
- Need for a constant advocacy at political level on these issues.
- Valid also for other neglected zoonotic diseases.



“One Health”...

- Rudolf Virchow 19th Century (German physician and politician): interdependence between human, and animal health.
- His disciple Osler (1849-1919): father of the “One Medicine” concept?
- Calvin Shwabe (1960s): coined the expression “One Medicine” and called for a unified approach between human and veterinary medicines (against zoonosis).
- Wildlife Conservation Society in New York September 2004: the “One World, One HealthTM” concept and the 12 “Manhattan Principles”.
- Various follow-up events, New Delhi, SES...



... and the European Commission

- PACE was the first programme to systematically include a wildlife facet of veterinary activities...
- Recent initiatives:
 - The new EU animal health strategy: focuses on all issues linked to animal health, including public health, research and sustainable development; importance of preventative measures like vaccination, disease surveillance and emergency preparedness; reliance on cross-sector support and cooperation.
 - Research: joint infectious diseases programmes, key areas for cooperation: vector-borne diseases, novel integrated surveillance methods, vaccine development and “neglected zoonosis”.
 - Regional programme Asia: HPED.



The Vision Promoted inside the European Commission

- COM welcomes and encourages the evolution of the AI response towards a concept of a more integrated and global approach to Health.
- Intersections between human health, animal health and ecosystems are multiple: ecology of diseases, relation between health and availability of RNR, sanitary aspects of environment, food safety, food security, animal-human interactions.



- Source: intervention of Director James Moran "Global Health: a policy framework for an integrated approach against serious hazards -and towards development- at the animal, human and ecosystems interface.
- Acknowledgments to Drs Karcher, Brouw, Steinmetz and to Mrs Soukupova for contributions.

The Vision Promoted Inside the European Commission (2)

- Emerging and re-emerging diseases including those at the interface human/animal/ecosystems are a threat, together with climate change, natural disasters, deforestation and armed conflicts. They affect human security. Therefore they should be part of the EU policies for crisis prevention.
- “One Health” is linked to livelihood and equity: no resignation vis-à-vis the existence of different health standards across nations.



The Vision Promoted Inside the European Commission (3)

- Diseases affecting animal production or labour force have negative economic and social impact.
- “One Health” fits with EU objectives: promote global security, social justice, international cooperation, multilateralism and fight poverty.



Regional Integration: a Major Justification for Global FMD Control

- High-impact diseases are traditionally a vector for regional integration.
- ASEAN / SEAFMD-RCU as a key example.
- Strong point to obtain political support for FMD control.
- AU-IBAR is another example.
- ... regional poles of excellence in regional integration around animal health, including FMD.



Conclusions

- Global control of FMD will not benefit from securitization.
- Momentum has been created.
- Interrelationship between prevention and control of animal diseases and human well-being, updated for 21st century; infectious uncertainty.
- Urgent need for in-depth and regularly updated burden and cost-ranking analysis of animal diseases including FMD. Socio-economic arguments needed to sustain investments of IC.
- SEAFMD-RCU has demonstrated that FMD control is a powerful vector of regional integration.
- Advocacy for global FMD control should constantly integrate regional political objectives of IC and policy-makers.



**Gracias por su
atención!**

**Merci de votre
attention!**

**Thank you for
your attention!**

