

The role of the OIE animal welfare standards in bilateral agreements

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This presentation will highlight the contribution of OIE animal welfare standards in facilitating the bilateral negotiation of agreements related to this area. For this purpose, the successful relationship obtained within the framework of the Association Agreement between Chile and the European Union in 2003 will be explored. The latter has not only been successful from the point of view of the flow of goods, services and investment, but also in the development of animal welfare standards. The presentation will focus on how scientific, clear and transparent information provided by OIE standards, and the organization's status as the world's principal reference on animal health, has facilitated the understanding and adoption of such standards. It will include an overview of the different steps that have been taken in the implementation of animal welfare standards with regard to regulations and present conditions in Chile, and how this process has been supported both by the EU and the OIE, through the training and mutual cooperation activities set out in the agreement.

Those strategies that have been adopted and the different challenges that have arisen from the implementation of each of the respective regulations (in terms of production, transport and slaughter) will also be discussed. It is anticipated that the above will make a contribution to other countries on what is implied by the implementation of standards, encouraging their inclusion in bilateral negotiations.

The presentation will conclude by highlighting how the existence of animal welfare regulations can be used as a differentiating and competitive characteristic of national livestock, and not only in the eyes of domestic consumers, but also as a stimulus in terms of exports; taking into account the public interest in issues related to the handling of animals in production, transport and welfare processes, without forgetting their relationship with the concept of animal health.

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