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Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Final Report 2004

72nd General Session
Paris, 23-28 May 2004



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List of abbreviations

AFSSA	Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU-IBAR	African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
CEBEVIRHA	Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources humaines (Economic Community of Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources)
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences
CIRAD-EMVT	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement - Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
EC	European Commission
EISMV	Ecole inter-Etats des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School for Veterinary Sciences and Medicine) (Senegal)
EITB	Enzyme-linked immuno-electrotransfer blot
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEI	Fédération Equestre Internationale (International Equestrian Federation)
FPA	Fluorescence polarisation assay
FVE	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GF-TADs	FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of FMD and Other Transboundary Animal Diseases
IABs	International Association for Biologicals
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
IDF	International Dairy Federation
IFAH	International Federation for Animal Health
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IMS	International Meat Secretariat

INTA	Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health
PANAFTOSA	Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
RIOPPAH	Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEAFDEC	South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre
SENASA	Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria
SPS Agreement	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
UAM	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations
VICH	International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
WAVLD	World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WVA	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 72nd General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held at the OIE headquarters¹, 12 rue de Prony, Paris (France) from 23 to 28 May 2004 under the chairmanship of Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (Senegal), President of the International Committee. Dr Brian Evans (Canada) chaired the second plenary session and Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) chaired the third plenary session.
2. Delegations from 139 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from 3 non-member countries or territories and 36 international or regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the General Session.
4. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.
5. Dr Lonnie J. King (United States of America) and Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos (Argentina), the Rapporteurs for the Technical Items, also participated in the General Session.
6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of certain Ad hoc Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.
7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Dr Norman G. Willis and Dr Romano Marabelli, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, and Dr Louis Blajan, Honorary Director General of the OIE, were also present.
8. Four Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 23 MAY 2004 ≡

Opening Session

9. President Niang welcomed and thanked the following participants for honouring the OIE with their presence during the opening ceremony: Dr Mirta Roses Periago (Director General of PAHO²), Dr Abdulaziz Bin Saad Al Shathry (Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Saudi Arabia), Mr Saïd Bin Mohamed Al Raqbanî (Minister of Agriculture, United Arab Emirates), Mr Gatluak Deng Garang (Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Sudan) and Dr Adel Safar (Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Syria).
10. Following the President's address, Dr Roses Periago took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Dr Bin Saad Al Shathry, Mr Al Raqbanî, Mr Deng Garang and Dr Safar.

International Responsibilities of Member Countries

(Doc. 72 SG/28)

11. Dr Barry O'Neil, Vice-President of the International Committee, reminded the Delegates of the international obligations of Member Countries.

1 The sessions that took place during the first three days were held at the Salons Hoche (Paris)

2 PAHO: Pan American Health Organization

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

12. Dr Niang reminded the participants that in 1985 the International Committee decided to grant honorary awards to members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE. He then presented the persons selected by the Administrative Commission to receive the awards: Dr Alex Donaldson (United Kingdom) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Petr I. Verbitskiy (Ukraine) for the Meritorious Service Award.
13. The Director General stated that the Administrative Commission would have to review the procedure for the Meritorious Service Award granted to Dr Gavin R. Thompson (Kenya), who was unable to be present.
14. Dr Niang commended Dr Donaldson and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding service to veterinary science. After a speech in praise of the recipient, the Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Dr Verbitskiy. The recipients thanked the President and the International Committee.
15. Following the ceremony, Dr Niang declared the 72nd General Session of the OIE International Committee open.

≡ MONDAY 24 MAY 2004 ≡

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

16. The President welcomed the Delegates, especially those participating at the General Session for the first time as members or observers.
17. President Niang welcomed Mrs Louise Fresco, Assistant Director General of FAO³ and Head of the Agriculture Department, and handed her the floor.
18. Mrs Fresco underlined the importance of the development of livestock production, the need to have a health surveillance system, more efficient control and emergency response systems, and the importance of the Veterinary Services and their proper organisation and training. The FAO invited the OIE to continue working in even closer collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the field of biotechnology.
19. Mrs Fresco emphasised the importance of, and warmly welcomed, the new agreement between the OIE and FAO, which was due to be signed that morning and had already been adopted by the FAO Council in November 2003. She also underlined the excellent spirit of collaboration between the OIE and the FAO, which had allowed an agreement to be reached on the GF-TADs (FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Progressive Control of FMD and Other Transboundary Animal Diseases) programme.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

20. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda.
21. In the absence of any comments, the Committee adopted the agenda and the timetable of the General Session.

3 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda of the 74th and 75th General Sessions

22. The Committee appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 74th and 75th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), is composed of the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Commission

23. The Committee appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) to prepare the list of Delegates of countries that were up to date with the payment of their contributions and who were accredited by their Governments to participate in the deliberations and to vote.
24. In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Commission, they communicated the list of Delegates who were ineligible to be paid the Delegates' per diem for their participation in the current General Session.

Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/1)

25. The Director General stated that the work carried out by the OIE in 2003 had consisted of continuing and consolidating the policies set out in the Third Strategic Plan and implementing the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the International Committee, in liaison with the Administrative Commission.
26. Modernisation of the equipment and methods used by the Central Bureau and the Regional Representations, as well as internal re-organisation and reforms, continued. A new master plan for computer systems had been prepared and would be launched in 2004. The OIE Web site was improved, and communication activities with regard to the media were developed.
27. Animal health information continued to improve in terms of Member Country transparency, active search for information, comprehensiveness of information and responsiveness to animal health emergencies. A reform of the lists of animal diseases and animal health events notifiable to the OIE was prepared.
28. Activities relating to the development and updating of international standards accelerated. Standard-setting activities were extended to new areas, such as animal welfare, animal production food safety and conditions for using veterinary paraprofessionals in the Veterinary Services.
29. An international conference on bluetongue was organised and two international conferences were prepared for 2004, one on animal welfare and the other on the control of infectious animal diseases by vaccination.
30. A scientific and technical examination of applications from countries seeking to be recognised as free or provisionally free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was carried out. A draft text will be submitted for four countries.
31. A new procedure for the official validation of diagnostic tests was developed and will be implemented in 2004.
32. Relations between the OIE and other international organisations were clarified. New Agreements were prepared, notably with the FAO (general agreement and agreement on the GF-TADs programme) and with international professional organisations representing the dairy, meat and equestrian sectors.

33. The OIE proposed three projects aimed at strengthening the Veterinary Services of developing Member Countries within the framework of the STDF⁴ mechanism, in the hope that these projects can be launched in 2004.
34. Two new countries (Brunei Darussalam and Gambia) joined the OIE bringing the number of Member Countries to 167.
35. The recovery of Member Countries' contributions and contribution arrears showed a marked improvement in 2003. Moreover, several countries agreed to change contribution category.
36. Work began on preparing the Fourth Strategic Plan 2005–2010. A summary of the contributions of the Regional Commissions has been presented during the current General Session. The work will continue with a special session of the Administrative Commission in Senegal and its conclusions will be submitted during the 2005 General Session.
37. The OIE's activities in the field included the organisation of 16 international meetings and participation in 90 scientific meetings in 30 different countries.
38. The President once again welcomed the new OIE Member Countries and emphasised the need for transparency and dialogue between the Delegates of Member Countries. He also underlined the efforts made by the OIE to promote the participation of the 120 developing countries in international negotiations. He stressed the need for a continued effort to pay contributions and arrears and for all countries to play an active part in the development of the Strategic Plan 2005–2010.
39. The Delegate of India requested that the efforts made to promote the role of the Veterinary Services in developing countries in Africa also be applied to other regions with developing countries. The Director General replied that the OIE would make every effort to ensure that the ALive (African Livestock) initiative could be applied in the other regions. She also asked whether there would be an update on the information presented in the technical item in 2003 on avian influenza. The Director General replied that the work carried out since then was included in the documents provided during the current General Session (draft chapter for the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* submitted for discussion).
40. The Committee noted the report of the Director General.

Composition of Working Groups

41. The Director General reported on the composition of the Working Groups:
 - Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
 - Dr Marc Artois (France)
 - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
 - Dr Chris Bunn (Australia)
 - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
 - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
 - Dr Michael H. Woodford (United Kingdom)

4 STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility

- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Dr Isabelle Chmitelin (France)
 - Dr Hélène Coulibaly (Côte d'Ivoire)
 - Dr Karen Dodds (Canada)
 - Dr Pavlos Economides (Cyprus)
 - Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
 - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
 - Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO⁵)
 - Dr Stuart Slorach (Chairman of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand)
 - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
 - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (EC⁶)
 - Prof. Tore Håstein (Norway)
 - Dr Walter N. Masiga (Kenya)
 - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
 - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)

42. The International Committee approved the composition of the Working Groups.

Planned Working Programme for 2005

(Doc. 72 SG/6 – Appendix I)

43. The Director General stated that during the previous General Session the International Committee had examined the annual work programme aimed at implementing the recommendations of the Third Strategic Plan of the OIE.
44. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2005, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Delegates elected to the Administrative Commission.
45. The Planned Working Programme for 2005, submitted for approval by the Delegates, is presented at Appendix I of Document 72 SG/6. The Director General laid particular emphasis on:
- the importance of reforming the animal health information system, given the new possibilities offered by the system that will be introduced;
 - the importance of compiling a world-wide mailing list, with Member Countries being asked to complete a questionnaire to identify veterinary educational institutions, veterinary research centres and veterinary associations in their country, to enable OIE publications to reach a wider audience;
 - the importance of translating the OIE standards into the three official languages of the OIE and into non-official languages (translation of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* into French and Spanish and translation of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* into Russian and Arabic); the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual* have already been translated into Chinese;
 - the continuous strengthening of the International Trade Department so as to improve its capacity to update standards in line with developments in scientific knowledge;

5 WHO: World Health Organization

6 EC: European Commission

- the importance of the international network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and the dedication of this network working for the OIE free of charge;
 - the importance of seeking donors in order to promote the scientific development of developing countries (training of officials and organisation of reference laboratories in these countries);
 - the forthcoming creation of a programmes and projects unit working in liaison with the Regional Activities Department to manage the specific programmes to be financed by bilateral or multilateral contributions.
46. The President stressed the importance of Member Countries actively contributing to the various activities of the OIE, including within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

TECHNICAL ITEM I

Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities (Doc. 72 SG/9)

47. Dr Brian Evans, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr Lonnie King.
48. Dr King presented his report, which was principally based on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire that had been sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
49. There are a number of factors and trends that have converged to create a new era of emerging and re-emerging diseases. This era is likely to continue for some time with profound implications for both human and animal health. As approximately 75% of the emerging human diseases over the past several decades have been zoonotic, this era is also characterised by a greater convergence of animal and public health programmes, officials, and organisations. This growing inter-dependence presents animal health officials and the OIE with significant challenges and opportunities. The responses to the questionnaire distributed to OIE Member Countries revealed that animal health officials world-wide are experiencing more emerging and re-emerging diseases, finding more antimicrobial-resistant pathogens, experiencing a growing number of factors that will be the origin of future zoonoses, and are increasingly concerned about the introduction or re-emergence of zoonotic pathogens either through natural or intentional means. Clearly, OIE Member Countries are anticipating a closer working relationship with their public health counterparts and many are initiating closer collaboration. The responses to the questionnaire also indicated almost unanimous support for the OIE to become both more engaged in training and public awareness programmes for emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, and to create an Ad hoc Group to address the contemporary and global issues created by these diseases and the growing need for more attention to surveillance, detection, response, and prevention strategies.

Discussion on Technical Item I

50. Dr Evans thanked Dr King and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He then opened the discussion on this topic.

51. The Representative of the Indian delegation congratulated the speaker for his comprehensive and eloquent presentation, but wished to make clear that the epidemic of plague that was supposed to have occurred in India in 1994 was later proved by the WHO not to be a plague epidemic.
52. The Delegate of South Africa remarked that there was a tendency for Member Countries to consult the OIE on issues relating to animal diseases or trade in animals and animal products, but to consult the WHO on issues relating to human diseases, including zoonoses. However, for several zoonoses, such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, the first line of action to control the disease in animals lies with the Veterinary Services. He therefore suggested that veterinary authorities be more involved in the control of zoonotic diseases. Dr King agreed that veterinarians were better prepared than medical doctors to handle zoonoses, although this involvement should be further improved. He stated that in North America veterinary students receive better education on epidemiology and zoonoses than their medical counterparts. He again stressed the need for inter-sectoral collaboration, especially between veterinary and public health authorities.
53. The Delegate of Italy agreed that the OIE should be more actively involved in the control of and response to zoonoses. He regretted that some governments only become involved when there is a re-emergence of or terrorist activity linked to a zoonosis. He suggested that public administrators be made more aware of these problems so that they are able to provide more resources to Veterinary Services to confront the problem of emerging zoonoses. Dr King replied that Veterinary Services should better communicate with policy makers to gain their confidence so that necessary resources are put at the disposal of the veterinary profession.
54. The Delegate of the United Kingdom stressed the leadership role played by the OIE and the need to further develop the diagnostic capabilities of Member Countries with respect to emerging zoonoses. She stated that the United Kingdom would support the OIE in setting up an Ad hoc Group of experts to further study the problem and develop strategies, but urged that the strategies to be developed should be sustainable. She also suggested that the Group include sociologists and environmentalists. Dr King agreed that social and ecological aspects are important considerations that the Ad hoc Group should take into account.
55. The Delegate of France stated that so far the OIE has produced standards, guidelines and recommendations primarily to promote the safe trade of animals and animal products. She remarked that trade is only one of the factors involved in the emergence of zoonoses, and suggested that the OIE extend its activities to provide further guidelines to Member Countries to enable them to consolidate their diagnostic capabilities and their disease surveillance systems.
56. The Delegate of Botswana believed that the OIE could play an active role in creating world-wide awareness of the negative impact of emerging zoonoses. He mentioned the situation in SADC⁷ countries where inadequate assistance is available to combat animal diseases. He suggested that, in line with its Strategic Plan, the OIE urge Member Countries to be proactive and prepared to act swiftly and promptly to animal diseases. He agreed with Dr King that the time had come for Member Countries to “think locally but act globally”.
57. The representative of the WHO expressed surprise that the results of the survey conducted amongst OIE Member Countries revealed that the Veterinary Services of some 60% of countries have an integrated surveillance system and that over 80% shared disease

7 SADC: Southern African Development Community

information with public health officials. He believed that this is not evident at the level of individual countries. He stated his preference for the creation of a Working Group to that of an Ad hoc Group, which tends to be too short lived. The OIE Director General replied that the GF-TADs programme to be jointly implemented by the OIE and the FAO, will ensure better cooperation between the OIE, the FAO and other international organisations in the control of animal diseases. The GF-TADs programme includes a component called GLEWS (Global Early Warning System) to be implemented in collaboration with WHO. This programme will further reinforce the obligation of Member Countries to notify the occurrence of animal diseases, including zoonoses, more rapidly and transparently. He added that the zoonotic importance of animal diseases will be a major criterion in deciding the new disease listing that will be adopted by the OIE in May 2005, but consideration will also be given to the other criteria mentioned by Dr King in his presentation. He also informed the meeting that some of the problems linked with zoonoses are already being considered by the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, for example those concerned with food-borne zoonoses, and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, which deals with zoonoses originating from wildlife. He added that the OIE does not hesitate to contact the highest authorities whenever necessary. He mentioned the role played by the OIE during the recent avian influenza crisis in South-East Asia, when the OIE urged governments to be more transparent in their notification of animal diseases and to invest more in the official Veterinary Services, indicating that such investments are insignificant when compared with the benefits likely to be achieved. He therefore urged OIE Delegates, especially those of developing countries, that they too should convince national policy makers of the need to have a strong and efficient Veterinary Service.

58. The Delegate of Swaziland stated that public awareness and political will were still lacking, particularly in developing countries. Considering that Dr King is of the opinion that the major factors contributing to the emergence of zoonoses were not likely to abate, he requested the OIE to allow Member Countries to use Dr King's presentation to convince policy makers of the threat that emerging zoonoses can pose to public and animal health. Both Dr King and the OIE Director General welcomed this proposal.
59. The Delegate of Togo congratulated the OIE for sending out the questionnaire to Member Countries. He added that the questionnaire helped Member Countries to identify certain shortcomings. He rejoiced at the fact that Member Countries were almost unanimous in urging the OIE to strengthen its role in the field of zoonoses.
60. The Delegate of Russia observed that different approaches were in place at the national level in individual Member Countries as regards control of zoonoses. He suggested that the OIE coordinate its activities with other international organisations to propose more stringent recommendations and further impose its authority in the implementation of those recommendations. The Chairman agreed to this suggestion.
61. Dr Evans again congratulated Dr King for the quality of his presentation and his willingness to answer the different questions. At his request, representatives of the following countries agreed to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution: France, Russia, South Africa, Togo and the United Kingdom.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

TECHNICAL ITEM II

Animal Identification and Traceability

(Doc. 72 SG/10)

- 62. Dr Romano Marbelli, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos.
- 63. Dr Barcos presented his report, which was based mainly on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.
- 64. Animal identification and traceability have become issues of increasing interest, closely related to disease control procedures. They are epidemiological tools that have a major impact on matters such as public health and trade. A questionnaire was sent to OIE Member Countries to obtain information on their situation and to analyse, at an international level, the following subjects: competent authorities and regulations, registration systems, mandatory animal identification, the purposes of animal identification, elements used in animal identification, documentation used for animal movements, harmonisation and standardisation procedures applied by Member Countries, the relationship between animal identification/traceability and public health, animal health, trade, bioterrorism and economics, and, finally, the role of the OIE in the above. Most of the Member Countries replied that the OIE should propose the creation of international standards and guidelines.

Discussion of Technical Item II

- 65. Dr Marabelli thanked Dr Barcos and congratulated him on his excellent presentation, saying that traceability is an issue closely related to animal production and the safety of food for human consumption. He went on to open the discussion on this item.
- 66. The Delegate of Germany congratulated the speaker on the quality of his presentation on the concept of traceability and identification. She added that traceability and animal identification are essential for the process of regionalisation proposed by the OIE.
- 67. A member of the Italian delegation congratulated Dr Barcos, and stressed that there were enormous differences in animal identification procedures, especially for cattle, which form the most important species concerned. He added that there were also differences between countries with respect to species, the age of animals, the documents used for transport, and labelling. He said that, owing to these differences, the OIE should lay down guidelines in addition to specific standards.
- 68. The Delegate of Chile congratulated Dr Barcos on his presentation. He stated that his country benefits from a high level of animal health and exports and has been applying traceability for many years, not only as an animal-health tool, but also to support the certification of its exports. He stated that due to the importance of the principles of traceability in disease prevention and control, the emphasis should not be placed solely on safety or the requirements of importing markets. Finally, it was his view that the OIE should give priority to traceability as a fundamental animal-disease control tool.
- 69. Dr Vincenzo Caporale, President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, congratulated Dr Barcos for his clear presentation of such a complex issue. He asked Dr Barcos whether, after carrying out the survey, it was his view that the role of the OIE should be to try to make traceability applicable in the context of regionalisation and compartmentalisation. Dr Barcos answered that the OIE's role should be to improve the

basic aspects of traceability, in other words to develop basic standards and guidelines. He went on to add that it is important to build the Member Countries' capacity in order to ensure that traceability is defined using a uniform terminology and that it is used correctly for operating prevention and early warning systems.

70. The Delegate of Australia congratulated the Rapporteur, stressing that countries had been using animal identification systems for many years. He added that, at present, there is a very rigorous and accurate product labelling system and so animal identification had to be more accurate, especially with regard to products. He reported that the Codex Alimentarius Commission would very shortly be defining the concept of traceability for food products. The OIE, through the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, therefore had to endeavour to define a concept that is consistent with the Codex definition and provides the necessary uniformity throughout the food chain. Dr Barcos replied that it was necessary to establish a uniform definition of traceability that accords with the Codex. Dr Vallat said that these activities are coordinated within a joint OIE/Codex Working Group. The OIE will be responsible for the procedures during the phase from production to slaughter, and the Codex will be responsible for the processing phase. This would ensure that procedures are consistent in both phases.
71. The Delegate of Ghana congratulated Dr Barcos on his comprehensive presentation and asked him whether the standpoint of the Working Group on Animal Welfare had been taken into account, specifically as regards hot branding of animals. Dr Vallat said that hot branding was not a priority of the Working Group and that, for the time being, it would not be considered as such because other priority issues had been defined by the International Committee. This issue would therefore be addressed at a later date, along with all the methods for improving animal welfare.
72. The Delegate of Uganda said that at the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, held in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003, traceability had been identified as an important subject, and that the Commission had recommended holding regional workshops to promote the process of animal identification and the control of animal movements region-wide. The OIE should play a fundamental role in harmonising and implementing the concept of traceability, taking into consideration the issue of animal welfare, and also the important economic implications of traceability. It is an important issue in Africa as many countries in the region do not practise animal identification in spite of growing awareness of its importance, especially for animal disease control.
73. The Delegate of Spain pointed to the need to define traceability not only in terms of food safety, but also in terms of improving animal health. He concluded by saying it was impossible to apply the concept of regionalisation without traceability.
74. Dr Marabelli once again congratulated Dr Barcos on his presentation and on his willingness to reply to the questions from the floor. At his request, he invited the Delegates of Australia, Chile, Germany and Uganda and a member of the Italian delegation to meet with Dr Barcos to form the group that would draw up the draft resolution on this Technical Item.

Presentations by International Organisations having signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE or with which Agreements are in preparation

75. The Director General stated that the Administrative Commission had decided that presentations at the General Session should be made only by intercontinental international organisations and by regional organisations making their first presentation after having recently signed an agreement with the OIE. The other regional organisations would give their presentation within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

76. The President stated that the order of presentations should be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional international organisations.

World Bank

77. Dr François Le Gall, Representative of the World Bank, thanked the OIE for inviting him to present his institution.
78. He stated that the key mission of the World Bank is the fight against poverty. As livestock farming is one of the rare resources available to the poor, it is important to diminish the risk of exposure to numerous animal diseases resulting from a heavy disease burden and a low capacity for surveillance and control.
79. There is an ever-present need to invest in strengthening the technical, scientific and operational capabilities of developing countries. At the current time, transboundary diseases, whether transmissible to humans or food-borne (priority diseases), are a very serious threat to poor populations, national economies and the economies of neighbouring or importing countries.
80. Strengthening the technical, scientific and operational capabilities of the control system for animal diseases and zoonoses must be seen as an international public good and placed under the responsibility of the official Veterinary Services.
81. Three years ago, at the initiative of the OIE, the World Bank and the OIE signed a cooperation agreement with a view to coordinating their animal disease control activities. At Doha, the Bank undertook to support, along with its partners, national capacity building programmes for developing countries. This undertaking is due to take effect within the framework of the STDF mechanism, of which the OIE is a member of the Steering Committee.
82. The OIE and the World Bank have made joint proposals aimed at reviving investments in animal health in Africa (STDF, ALive) and then, if this partnership model proves effective, extending it to include all developing countries.

World Health Organization

83. Dr François-Xavier Meslin, the Coordinator for Strategy Development and Monitoring of Zoonoses, Foodborne Diseases and Kinetoplastidae, Communicable Diseases Programme of WHO, presented that organisation's activities for the past year.
84. He stated that the Director General of WHO, Dr Lee Jong-wook, paid very great attention to the work of the OIE, and that the OIE-WHO Agreement had been ratified on 21 May 2004 during the General Assembly of WHO, subject to minor amendments.
85. **Emerging zoonoses:** during the past 12 months, WHO has been dealing with a number of public health emergencies of animal origin, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which is of hypothetical zoonotic origin. WHO has set up an international network of laboratories working on animal coronaviruses. WHO invited FAO and OIE to be part of a group that visited the People's Republic of China in August 2003 to investigate the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of SARS. Additional WHO visits to China on this issue took place in January and April 2004. A major meeting of Chinese research institutions and international experts involved in the animal-related aspects of SARS will be held in August 2004 in Beijing. The WHO response to the unprecedented multi-country outbreak of avian influenza in Asia was particularly significant from early January onwards. When the first human case occurred in Vietnam, WHO, together with OIE and FAO, responded immediately to the situation. The WHO regional office in Manila, Philippines, responded

promptly and posted staff, including veterinary public health specialists, in key countries from February 2004. WHO participated in FAO/OIE emergency meetings held in February 2004. WHO organised an international conference on influenza pandemic preparedness planning on 16 and 17 March 2004 with OIE participation.

86. **Food-borne disease surveillance and control:** WHO has continued to strengthen national and international capacities for food-borne disease surveillance and response and to promote regional and global networks of expertise in this field. Assessing and managing human health risks from non-human use of antimicrobials has remained an important subject for WHO. Two WHO/FAO/OIE workshops on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage were organised by WHO at the request of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The process has resulted in suggestions for a way forward in this area, for the Codex, as well as for OIE, WHO and FAO.
87. **Other zoonotic diseases:** WHO has continued to promote rabies prevention and control in Asia and conducted a re-assessment of the burden of rabies in Africa and Asia. Following the publication of a WHO report, a Recommendation was issued by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, on rabies control and prevention in Asia and the Pacific. WHO is associated with OIE and FAO in the publication of new Guidelines on Cysticercosis/Taeniosis.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

88. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the FAO Animal Health Service, reported on the activities of that organisation, following on from the presentation made by Mrs Fresco, Assistant Director General of the FAO. The Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative prepared in order to improve the quality and efficiency of epidemicsurveillance, early warning, early detection and early reaction to the main highly infectious diseases in animals. Strengthening of national Veterinary Services needs a strong regional and international approach, as was shown during the last avian influenza crisis in Asia. The GF-TADs initiative proposes to organise this regional and international collaboration through Regional Epidemicsurveillance Support Units, to be located within ad hoc Regional Organisations Bodies, such as IBAR⁸ and SADC in Sub-Saharan Africa, ASEAN⁹ and SAARC¹⁰ in Asia and IICA¹¹, PAHO and RIOPPAH¹² in the Americas. Networks of the national epidemicsurveillance teams and diagnostic laboratories in each region are key elements of GF-TADs as well as the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS). A central secretariat under the responsibility of a Global Steering Committee will manage GF-TADs. The FAO and OIE Commissions and Representations, as well as Regional Steering Committees with secretariat facilities provided by the OIE Regional Representations, will be included in the GF-TADs governance mechanisms. Seventy-five per cent of the budget for this programme will be allocated to the regions to carry out projects defined by the GF-TADs Steering Committee.
89. Dr Domenech announced the official launch, on 25 May 2004, of the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health, which has been created in collaboration with the OIE. The Portal contains links to all the international standards developed within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the OIE, the IPPC¹³ and the WTO¹⁴.

8 IBAR: African Union/Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources

9 ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

10 SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

11 IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

12 RIOPPAH: Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health

13 IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

14 WTO: World Trade Organization

Codex Alimentarius Commission

90. Mr Stuart Slorach, President and Deputy Director General of the Codex Alimentarius Commission ('the Codex'), gave a presentation on the organisation and its activities.
91. The OIE and the Codex are two of the three international standard-setting organisations specifically referred to in the SPS Agreement¹⁵ of the WTO. The new agreements between the OIE and FAO and between the OIE and WHO also make reference to Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations. Both OIE and Codex have recognised the need for closer collaboration in order to avoid duplication of effort and gaps in their work on food safety. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, has established an OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, in which representatives of the Codex participate, and a report on the Group's third meeting will be given by its Chairman, Dr Andrew McKenzie, on 25 May. The Codex welcomes the participation of OIE in the development of its standards, guidelines and recommendations, for example those on meat hygiene and animal feeding, and is now considering ways to increase Codex input into the development of OIE standards. The Executive Committee of Codex has requested its parent organisations, FAO and WHO, to initiate discussions with OIE on how to foster relations between Codex and OIE. Codex looks forward to closer collaboration with OIE for the mutual benefit of the two organisations and their stakeholders.

World Trade Organization

92. Dr Maria Perez-Esteve, Economic Affairs Officer with the WTO, reported on the activities of the SPS Committee and other relevant WTO activities from 2003 to the present.
93. In March 2004, the SPS Committee agreed on a further clarification of the Decision on Equivalence reached in October 2001. The SPS Committee also began examining Article 6 (regionalisation and pest- and disease-free areas) of the SPS Agreement and the need for a decision clarifying its implementation – which will continue in 2004. The WTO continues to benefit from its close working relationship with the OIE in the provision of technical assistance both in the framework of the STDF (where OIE is an active member) and through WTO's regular technical assistance programme. The SPS Committee also acts as a forum for countries to raise trade concerns. From 1995 to the end of 2003, 41% of specific trade concerns raised were related to animal health and zoonoses. In 2003, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) accounted for 40% and foot and mouth disease accounted for 26% of all animal health concerns raised in the SPS Committee.
94. Arising from the joint undertakings given at Doha, the STDF programme was launched in 2002 on behalf of developing countries. The STDF 'business plan', describing the facility's management mechanisms, has now been finalised and once it has been adopted will be presented to the donors. Two OIE proposals have been selected so far: one concerning a tool to evaluate the capacity of the national Veterinary Services to meet animal disease control requirements effectively and sustainably; the other concerning technical assistance for the Veterinary Services of developing countries.

International Equestrian Federation

95. Dr Frits Sluyter, Representative of the FEI¹⁶, reported on that organisation's activities and reminded the participants that the FEI had signed an Agreement with the OIE in 2003.

15 SPS Agreement: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

16 FEI: Fédération Equestre Internationale (International Equestrian Federation)

96. He stated that the temporary importation of horses needed to be carried out under the best possible sanitary conditions. He mentioned the discussions currently under way with the Chinese Authorities within the framework of preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games, and the many queries that still remain concerning the participation of horses in the Games. After delicate discussions, China has now indicated that, this year, it would establish a 10-km-radius protection zone around the venue for the event and that a 50-km-radius surveillance zone would be created during the coming 2 years. The FEI has asked the Chinese Authorities to send the OIE a report on the measures taken within the framework of the Olympic Games and to agree to inspections being conducted after the production of the report and implementation of the stated measures.

World Veterinary Association

97. Dr Herbert Schneider, Representative of the WVA¹⁷, reported on the organisation's activities. The WVA and the OIE signed an Agreement in May 2002 encouraging collaboration between the two organisations on issues of common interest. During 2003, the President of the WVA actively participated in the OIE Ad hoc Group on the role of private veterinarians and para-professionals in the provision of animal health services, as well as in the work of the Steering Committee for the 1st OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare. These areas of collaboration, as well as participation in conferences on the use of vaccination and on antibiotic resistance, illustrate the active and productive partnership between the two organisations.
98. Dr Schneider thanked Dr Vallat for his support on the occasion of World Veterinary Day.
99. He stated that the next World Veterinary Congress would be held in Minneapolis (United States of America) from 16 to 20 July 2005. Detailed information can be accessed on the Web site (www.worldvet.org).

International Association for Biologicals

100. Dr Michel Lombard, Representative of the IABs¹⁸, reported on that organisation's activities.
101. IABs, a non-profit association with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, was founded in Lyon, France, in 1955 by a group of independent scientists looking to improve the exchange of information related to biological products.
102. Today, IABs is a platform for discussion and consensus of contemporary issues related to biologicals. The organisation is unique in its capacity for bringing together control authorities, academic scientists, manufacturers and international animal health associations for informal discussions as well as for congresses. IABs is a commission of the International Union of Microbiological Societies.
103. In 2000, IABs shifted its emphasis on human biologicals by adding veterinary biologicals to its domain of activity with the creation of the Veterinary Scientific Conference Committee (VSCC), on which the OIE is represented by Dr A. Schudel, Head of the Scientific and Technical Department. The mission of VSCC is to organise scientific meetings on animal health, within the scope of IABs' objectives. The OIE and IABs have recognised the advantages of sharing their resources and of combining the two organisations' networks when organising conferences on topics that are of interest to the OIE. The proceedings of such joint conferences will be published in 'Developments in Biologicals', the IABs series published by S. Karger (Basel, Switzerland).

17 WVA: World Veterinary Association

18 IABs: International Association for Biologicals

104. At the end of 2003/beginning of 2004, the OIE Central Bureau, through the very efficient personal involvement of Dr Schudel, and IABs worked together in organising the Conference on the Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 13-16 April 2004. With 293 participants, including 109 OIE Delegates and experts from OIE Reference Laboratories, this highly successful meeting resulted in Recommendations on vaccinology, international regulations for trade, the control of transboundary diseases by vaccination, and the use of modern vaccines for the control of avian influenza, foot and mouth disease (FMD), etc. The proceedings of the Conference will be published by IABs at the end of 2004.
105. Other meetings are planned for 2004 and 2005 to be organised jointly by IABs and the OIE Central Bureau or the OIE Collaborating Centre for the Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, Ames, Iowa, United States of America. These include a meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, in December 2004 on Rabies Control in Europe, to be organised in partnership with EU¹⁹, WHO and AFSSA²⁰, a meeting in Ames, Iowa, United States of America, to be held in April 2005 on Technologies for Differentiating Infected from Vaccinated Animals; and, finally, a meeting to be held in Saint-Malo, France, in October 2005, under the leadership of AFSSA, on New Diagnostic Technologies in Animal Health and Biologics Control. The latter event will be held during the 50th anniversary of IABs.
106. Additional information on IABs can be found on IABs Web site at: www.IABs.org and updates on the joint conferences may be found on the IABs and OIE Web sites.

International Federation for Animal Health

107. Dr Jean-Louis Delforge, the Representative of IFAH²¹, reported on that organisation's activities.
108. IFAH is the international federation representing manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across the five continents.
109. IFAH fully supports the proactive initiatives undertaken by OIE in extremely important and currently critical sectors such as:
- The development of science-based guidelines for analysing the risks to animal and public health from antimicrobial resistant bacteria of animal origin.
 - The harmonisation and/or mutual recognition of the veterinary products registration processes within and across the five continents.
 - The identification and traceability of live animals and animal movements, as well as of food products, in collaboration with other institutions.
 - The control of infectious animal diseases by vaccination and the use of recognised diagnostic tests allowing for differentiation of infected animals from vaccinated ones.
110. The recent workshops convened in Geneva, Switzerland, and Oslo, Norway, on the joint FAO/OIE/WHO initiative, emphasised the need for rapid implementation of the WHO Global Principles and the OIE Standards and Guidelines on antimicrobial resistance by governments and all stakeholders. One of the recommendations of these workshops was that a joint Task Force be formed by the Codex and OIE to develop the risk management options for antimicrobial resistance, including approaches that recognise regional differences and specificities.

19 EU: European Union

20 AFSSA: Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments

21 IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

111. IFAH fully supports this initiative, but is of the opinion that the Task Force should also evaluate the significance, if any, that any development of antimicrobial resistance in animals may have for human medicine, based on commonly agreed methods for assessing the data before management decisions are taken.

International Livestock Research Institute

112. Dr Brian Perry, Representative of ILRI²², reported on that organisation's activities.
113. The aim of ILRI is to achieve poverty reduction by conducting research and implementing the results. To reduce the possibility of gaps between research and the results obtained in the field, ILRI must regularly reassess its research programmes.
114. ILRI needs to develop its activities by creating partnerships, such as with the OIE, defining animal health priorities for poverty reduction, improving the productivity of poor countries, and facilitating and improving market access opportunities for poor countries.
115. Research programmes have been carried out in Asia, Africa and Central America. It would be interesting if discussions could take place on these case studies to help poor countries to gain market access.
116. ILRI also seeks to use biotechnology to meet the needs of poor countries, for example by using vaccines where necessary and by exploiting the genetic diversity of indigenous animal populations.

International Dairy Federation

117. Mr Edward Hopkin, Director General of the IDF²³, reported on the organisation's activities. There are currently 41 member countries of IDF, of which 39 were present at the General Session.
118. The IDF signed an agreement with the OIE during the General Session in May 2003. The IDF has submitted comments on the draft revision of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) and was represented at the OIE Conference on Animal Welfare. The OIE participated in the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health in November 2003.
119. The *Terrestrial Code* is of paramount importance with regard to the simplification of the certification procedures for dairy products destined for export.
120. The IDF considers it necessary to extend its knowledge of OIE procedures and the way in which it collaborates. A meeting of senior staff of the two organisations is due to take place at the end of June 2004 so as to clarify these points and improve transparency.
121. The IDF is also interested in the work of the OIE on food safety. The IDF is ready to provide its expertise on subjects of mutual interest.
122. Mr Hopkin considered it important to advance cooperation on one or two concrete subjects in order to strengthen the mutual confidence on which work in common can be developed in future.

22 ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

23 IDF: International Dairy Federation

International Meat Secretariat

123. Mr Laurence Wrixon, Representative of the IMS²⁴, reported on that organisation's activities.
124. In October 2003, an Agreement to collaborate on issues of common interest was signed between the OIE and the IMS. The IMS is an international non-profit organisation representing and serving the meat and livestock industry world-wide. Based in Paris, France, it assists its Members by organising conferences and workshops on trade and related issues on a regional and international basis. Conscious of the negative impact of livestock diseases on meat production, the IMS is appreciative of the role of the OIE as a standard-setting agency for animal diseases, including zoonoses, as well as for international trade in livestock and livestock products. IMS would also like to compliment the OIE on its activities regarding animal welfare, which also impacts on meat quality, and to thank the OIE for regularly sending speakers to address its members during scientific meetings. At a time when OIE and IMS are celebrating their 80th and 30th anniversary respectively, IMS is particularly pleased to continue its association with the OIE.
125. Following the presentations by international organisations, the OIE President asked whether the Delegates had any questions for the speakers.
126. In response to a question from Dr Belev regarding the representation of the different regions in the GF-TADs programme, the Director General stated that the GF-TADs programme, on which an agreement with the FAO had been signed that morning, would be sent to all the Member Countries. Within the framework of the programme, Steering Committees would be set up at the regional level and the secretariat for these committees would be hosted by the five OIE Regional Representations.
127. The Director General stated that the Andean Community and the European Commission had been expected to make a presentation. As these organisations were not present at that time, they would be invited to give their presentation at a later session in the week.

≡ TUESDAY 25 MAY 2004 ≡

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

128. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, Aquatic Animals Commission), commenced her presentation by stressing that since the 71st General Session in May 2003, the Aquatic Animals Commission had faced major changes: first, it now had a new name that better reflects the scope of its activities; secondly, its Terms of Reference had been updated; and, thirdly, it had been joined by some new Members and Observers, widening the geographical representation of the Commission. In the light of the predicted global expansion in aquaculture activities over the next two decades, the presence of Members from African and Latin American regions provided improved opportunities for initiating and/or furthering Commission activities in those regions. Finally, Dr Bernoth mentioned that she had fulfilled the role of President of the Aquatic Animals Commission since the last General Session, taking over from Prof. Tore Håstein, whose leadership during the previous years she had greatly appreciated.

24 IMS: International Meat Secretariat

129. The meeting schedule of the Aquatic Animals Commission has changed, with more emphasis on joint meetings with members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, Code Commission). During the past 12 months, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice, from 23 to 27 June 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS4 A) and from 5 to 9 January 2004 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS4 C). The Bureau of the Commission held a meeting from 6 to 10 October 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS4 B). The President and the Vice-President of the Commission, Prof. Barry Hill, met in May 2004 before the 72nd General Session to examine comments received from Member Countries on the report of the January 2004 meeting, notably on the draft templates for the disease chapters in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), the preparation of which has occupied a great deal of the Commission's time.
130. Dr Bernoth reported that the past 12 months had been very productive. She sincerely thanked all the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission and other participants at its meetings. On behalf of the Commission, she gave special recognition to the dedicated efforts of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and staff from the Central Bureau, notably Ms Sara Linnane and Drs Alejandro Schudel and David Wilson. She also expressed great appreciation for the readily available assistance of the President of the Code Commission, Dr Alejandro Thiermann. She also stated that the Aquatic Animals Commission was well aware of the work conducted by other staff from the Central Bureau, and she made a special point of acknowledging their support. Finally, she mentioned the success of her report on the Technical Item on aquatic animal health issues given at the Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in Noumea, New Caledonia, in November 2003, and she thanked the OIE Director General and the President of the Regional Commission, Dr Gardner Murray, for their support in having aquatic animal health issues brought to Delegates' attention in this way.
131. Dr Bernoth gave a brief outline of her presentation. She stressed that she would focus on the future rather than report on past activities, and that she would spend most of the time explaining new concepts and revised processes. As a consequence, only one of the two Draft Resolutions refers to new or revised texts to be included in the seventh edition (2004) of the *Aquatic Code*. The other Draft Resolution, in contrast, will ask that a template be developed on which to base disease-specific chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Code*.

132. New template for disease chapters in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

A substantial revision of the individual disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code* has become necessary to take into account the new requirements for surveillance for recognition of freedom from infection. The Aquatic Animals Commission spent a considerable amount of time over the past 12 months reviewing this issue and produced several versions of templates for disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code*, taking into account Member Country comments on each version. The templates propose the introduction into the *Aquatic Code* of the concepts of 'compartments' and 'safe commodities', reflecting the increased cooperation between the Aquatic Animals Commission and Code Commission and increased harmonisation of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*.

In the *Terrestrial Code*, some disease chapters currently refer to herds, flocks or farms, where appropriate for the disease. The Aquatic Animals Commission accepts the usefulness of the specific identification of an aquaculture establishment as a management unit for certain aquatic animal diseases and had proposed to include disease free aquaculture establishments in the concept and requirements of disease free zones. However, several Member Countries objected to the proposed removal of disease-free aquaculture establishments as a distinct category, hence the current proposal to introduce the concept of 'compartments' in addition to 'zones'. Compartmentalisation applies to a population when

management criteria are applied, while zoning applies when a population is defined on a geographical basis. A compartment may comprise one or more aquaculture establishments, possibly with a wide geographical distribution unrelated to the normal requirements of a zone. Compartments would cover a variety of establishments under a common biosecurity management system.

Identifying those commodities that can be traded safely – regardless of the animal health status of the exporting country – and grading levels of risk for other commodities would bring more balance to the disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code* by moving the focus from achieving disease-free status to facilitating trade in safe commodities. It also reflects the wide variety of traded commodities.

Previously, the Aquatic Animals Commission had explored the concept of susceptible, carrier and vector species in order to address the different levels of risk in trade in aquatic animals. One Member Country had queried the provisions for movement of aquatic animals, eggs or gametes from an infected aquaculture establishment or zone. The Commission is of the view that a commodity-based approach to the risk of movement would clarify these issues by identifying the different risk levels.

The template also incorporates an article on risk management. The aim is to identify possible disease-specific measures to manage the risk associated with the importation of certain commodities.

Regarding the ‘translation’ of the requirements for surveillance for recognition of freedom from infection, which are published in Chapter 1.1.4. of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (the *Aquatic Manual*), into the disease chapter templates, one Member Country had queried the choice of 25 years, 10 years and 2 years for obtaining disease-free status as arbitrary time periods and suggested that measures, such as generation lengths or other scientifically validated periods of time be used instead. The Aquatic Animals Commission is aware that these figures are arbitrary, but notes that they were chosen as an interim measure consistent with the *Terrestrial Code* until aquatic animal disease-specific periods of time can be defined (see below).

Member Countries have commented on the three prototype templates, for diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, respectively, presented as Appendices V to VII to the January 2004 report. The Commission has taken these comments into account and decided to develop a single template. If the International Committee approves this process, the Aquatic Animals Commission will convene Ad hoc Groups of experts to elaborate individual disease chapters for progressive adoption in future editions of the *Aquatic Code*. The seventh edition, which is to be adopted in 2004, will therefore not contain new disease chapters.

133. **Aquatic animal health certificates**

Dr Bernoth drew the International Committee’s attention to the fact that new model aquatic animal health certificates will only be required if new disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code* are adopted. Changes proposed in Appendix VIII to the January 2004 report for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code* serve only to bring the model health certificates into line with the wording of the disease chapters in that edition. The Commission will resume work on the model certificates after May 2004 in parallel with the new disease chapters in preparation for the eighth edition (2005) of the *Aquatic Code*. This will be done in close cooperation with the Code Commission.

134. Definitions for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

Preparing the templates required modifying several definitions, for example 'basic biosecurity conditions' and 'early detection system', drafting new ones, for example 'compartment' and 'subclinical' and deleting others (see [Appendix III](#) to the January 2004 report). One Member Country had proposed that the term "basic disease security conditions" be replaced by "basic biosecurity requirements". The Aquatic Animals Commission agreed to replace "disease security" with "biosecurity" but decided to retain the term "conditions" because it better reflects the intent of the definition. The Commission acknowledges that the meaning of biosecurity is evolving and will keep the matter under review. Some of the definitions were modified after considering Member Country comments on the January 2004 report.

135. Revision of disease listing and notification criteria in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

The Aquatic Animals Commission had received comments from a few Member Countries on the disease listing and notification criteria. One Member Country proposed that in criterion No. 1 "significant" should be changed to "5% of the value of production in that area". The Commission did not accept this suggestion because for some industries, e.g. pearl oyster or tuna farming, 5% of the value of production would be too great a loss, while in others, e.g. shrimp farming, a greater than 5% production loss is common. The Commission considers that any figure would be arbitrary and not reflect the specifics of the host species, culture system and the disease in question. However, the Commission made some amendments to the wording to refine the criterion. The Member Country also proposed to qualify criterion No. 6 to add the requirement that "the disease is difficult to contain at a farm level without exceptional control measures". The Commission did not feel that this comment was relevant to criterion No. 6, which relates to international spread of a disease.

In the revised version of the disease listing criteria, 'Disease Consequences' has now been widened to include product quality and ecological concerns (see [Appendix IV](#) to the January 2004 report). Some modifications were made after considering Member Country comments on the January 2004 report.

The Aquatic Animals Commission is cooperating with the Ad hoc Group on Terrestrial Animal Disease/Pathogenic Agent Notification, in order to harmonise approaches. Prof. Hill attended the Ad hoc Group's meeting in February 2004.

136. New *Aquatic Animal Health Code* Appendix on General recommendations for disinfection

A new *Aquatic Code* Appendix 5.2.1. General recommendations on disinfection is proposed for adoption (see [Appendix IX](#) to the January 2004 report). Slight modifications were made after considering Member Country comments on this Appendix. The Aquatic Animals Commission also suggests moving the current Appendix 5.2.1. Disinfection of fish eggs to the *Aquatic Manual* by incorporating it into Chapter 1.1.5., which will then be titled "Methods for inactivation of pathogens". For consistency, the title of Section 5.2. in the *Aquatic Code* will be changed from "Destruction of pathogens" to "Inactivation of pathogens".

137. Other changes presented for adoption for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code*

Dr Bernoth briefly mentioned additional changes, as appended to the Aquatic Animal Commission's reports from the June 2003 and October 2003 meetings, proposed for the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code*. These are:

- Chapter 1.2.1. Notifications and epidemiological information: deletion of Article 1.2.1.7., which is a reference to “International Arrangements of Telecommunications” that has become obsolete (see Appendix III to the June 2003 report).
- Chapter 1.3.1. General obligations: addition to Article 1.3.1.1. of the principle that aquatic animals and their products from populations known to be infected with a listed disease and considered to be capable of transmitting the disease should only be traded internationally with the prior agreement of the importing and exporting countries (see Appendix V to the October 2003 report).
- Chapter 1.5.2. Aquatic animal health measures applicable before and at departure: removal of reference to a non-defined term (“approved zones”), and revised wording on export of live aquatic animals, eggs or gametes originating in an infected aquaculture establishment or infected zone (see Appendix VI to the October 2003 report).
- Chapter 1.5.5. Aquatic animal health measures applicable on arrival: deletion from Article 1.5.5.1. of item 3. This item is proposed for removal because it is no longer consistent with the underlying principle of the *Aquatic Code* to make reference only to the aquatic animal health situation in the exporting country, not the importing country, as explained in the Guide to the use of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, Section A. Introduction, item 3 (see Appendix VII to the October 2003 report).

138. ***Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

Following a request from a Member Country to include the PCR²⁵ method for confirmatory identification of spring viraemia of carp (SVC) virus in the disease chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*, the OIE Reference Laboratory for SVC had produced a draft that was circulated to Member Countries for comment. The new text (see Appendix XI to the January 2004 report) incorporates Member Country comments. It will be incorporated into the Web version of the current edition of the *Aquatic Manual*.

In the past, some Member Countries had expressed concern that, for certain diseases, the *Aquatic Manual* focuses on pathogen identification for disease diagnosis, whilst for others, the whole range of diagnostic approaches (including clinical, pathological, histopathological and pathogen identification techniques) is presented. They had also suggested that summary tables of diagnostic methods (such as currently provided for some diseases) should be a standard item in each disease chapter. With the adoption of the new *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 1.1.4. (Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection) by the International Committee in May 2003, there is now also the need to provide disease-specific information to underpin sampling and surveillance schemes and consequently the provisions for declaration of freedom from listed diseases. The Aquatic Animals Commission therefore prepared a new draft template (see Appendix X to the January 2004 report) for disease chapters for the *Aquatic Manual* and proposed to ask chapter authors to follow this template when updating the disease chapters for the fifth edition.

In the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*, the mollusc disease names will be aligned with those used in the *Aquatic Code*, and references to “notifiable diseases” and “other significant diseases” will be removed as is already the case in the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code*. Chapter 1.1.4. Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection will need to be modified to reflect, for example, changes made to definitions of some of the terms used in that chapter. Such draft changes will be circulated to Member Countries for comment.

25 PCR: polymerase chain reaction

139. OIE Reference Laboratories

Annual reports were received from 19 of the 22 Reference Laboratories. The Commission acknowledged the valuable participation of these laboratories and the support they provide to OIE Member Countries and the Commission. Dr Bernoth stated that the three Reference Laboratories that had not submitted an annual report would be contacted.

The Aquatic Animals Commission had received four nominations for OIE Reference Laboratory status and recommends the acceptance of these nominations: for yellowhead disease, Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), CSIRO Livestock Industries, Geelong, Australia (designated Reference Expert: Dr Peter Walker); for crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*), Institute of Zoology, Fish Biology and Fish Diseases, Munich, Germany (designated Reference Expert: Dr Birgit Oidtmann); for infectious salmon anaemia, Atlantic Veterinary College, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada (designated Reference Expert: Dr Frederick Kibenge); and for white spot disease and *Penaeus monodon*-type baculovirus, Department & Institute of Zoology, National Taiwan University, Taipei China (designated Reference Expert: Dr Grace Lo).

The Aquatic Animals Commission had contacted the OIE Animal Health Information Department concerning continuing problems in the timeliness and accuracy of disease reporting to the OIE by some OIE Member Countries and queried whether information gathered by OIE Reference Laboratories could be better used to improve this situation. Subsequently, the Director General has approached all OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases, advising them that when informing the Delegate of an OIE Member Country of diagnostic findings that fulfil the criteria for notification of aquatic animal diseases, they should also inform the OIE Central Bureau.

140. Continuing work on harmonisation of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*

Dr Bernoth emphasised that the need to harmonise OIE approaches to aquatic and terrestrial animals was one of the main objectives of the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission, another being the need to develop globally applicable standards that are based on science. She acknowledged the need to harmonise, conceding that there will always be biological differences that justify a modified approach, and reported that a lot of progress had already been made in this respect, in particular with developing criteria for listing diseases and for disease notification.

Dr Bernoth informed the Committee that harmonising the *Codes* will continue and will form a major part of the joint meeting in January 2005 of the Aquatic Animals and Code Commissions.

141. Revision of the list of aquatic animal diseases

With the adoption by the International Committee in May 2003 of a new set of listing criteria for aquatic animal diseases, it is now appropriate to review those diseases currently listed, namely the diseases that were in the past listed as either 'notifiable' or 'other significant'. The Director General accepted the Aquatic Animals Commission's proposal to convene an Ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases, comprising three teams, one each for diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans. The task of this Ad hoc Group is to assess the diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans that are currently listed in the *Aquatic Code* against the disease-listing criteria and provide documented, scientific

justification for any changes to the list considered necessary. The Ad hoc Group will report back to the Commission in time for the Group's final report to be appended to the report of the January 2005 meeting of the Commission. Member Country comments will be sought with a view to proposing a revised list of aquatic animal diseases for adoption at the OIE General Session in May 2005.

Member Countries are reminded that the primary purpose of listing a disease is for the OIE to collate information on its occurrence world-wide and for exporting countries to make details of their disease status available to trading partners.

Two Member Countries had questioned the inconsistency in the naming of diseases of molluscs, crustaceans and fish, respectively. They proposed having a uniform approach to the naming of the different diseases. The Aquatic Animals Commission reminds Member Countries that recent changes to the names of mollusc diseases resulted from a revision of the taxonomy of the causative agents. Therefore, the mollusc diseases were renamed "Infection with *Pathogen name*" for clarity and to reflect the most recent taxonomic position. Regarding the naming of fish and crustacean diseases, the Commission is not aware of any major taxonomic changes. Moreover, there does not appear to be any confusion with regard to most of the currently used disease names. Where exceptions exist, these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Regarding the listing of closely related disease agents in the same disease chapter, the Aquatic Animals Commission will continue to approach OIE Reference Laboratories for advice. For example, the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code* lists three agents of the disease epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN), namely EHN virus, European sheatfish virus (ESV) and European catfish virus (ECV). The OIE Reference Laboratory for EHN has advised 1) that ESV and ECV cannot be separated at this point in time, and 2) that the recognition of ESV/ECV and EHN as two distinct species has now been accepted by the International Committee for Taxonomy of Viruses. Changes to the pertinent disease chapter in the *Aquatic Code* will be drafted following adoption of the new template (see above) and a recommendation by the Ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases regarding the retention or deletion of ESV/ECV as a separate disease.

142. Aquatic Animals Commission Web pages

Dr Bernoth stressed that the Commission's Web pages are continually being updated to provide the latest information on the occurrence of OIE-listed diseases of aquatic animals. She mentioned that the Commission is also using its Web pages to implement some of the recommendations made by the Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis in Aquatic Animal Health. For example, the pages now contain links to published national import risk analyses for fish diseases. Recently, a link to national aquatic animal disease contingency plans has been inserted.

Dr Bernoth mentioned that the Commission's Web pages also link to the International Database on Aquatic Animal Diseases developed and maintained by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Information on Aquatic Animal Diseases at the CEFAS²⁶ Laboratory, in Weymouth, United Kingdom. She pointed out that some of the disease names used in the current version of the database have not been changed to those used in the *Aquatic Code*, but proposed to await the adoption of a new single list of diseases by the International Committee in May 2005.

26 CEFAS: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences

143. **Amphibian diseases**

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates of the questionnaire on amphibian diseases circulated to Member Countries in 2002. The Commission was disappointed at the low number of responses and the – with few exceptions – paucity of information provided. The indication so far is that the trade in pet amphibians is of limited scale and may not be sufficient to present a significant risk of disease transfer. However it is understood that there is a larger trade in live amphibians, in particular of edible frogs, for cultivation.

Prof. Hill continues to seek alternative sources of information (including from FAO) on international trade in live amphibians and the disease risks this presents, in order for the Commission to reach a decision on whether there is a need to include amphibians within its remit.

144. Following Dr Bernoth's presentation, the President opened the discussion on the report of the Commission.
145. The Delegate of Denmark congratulated the President on her excellent presentation and the Commission on the major tasks that it has carried out since the last General Session. He was particularly satisfied that the Commission had taken the comments sent by the European Union into account when revising the texts of the *Aquatic Code*. The Delegate agreed with the concept of compartmentalisation, but stated that the concept nevertheless needs to be clarified and that the Commission should continue to work on this. He drew the President's attention to an important point of principle in Appendix V of the report of the meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission in January 2004 (draft template for fish disease chapters for the *Aquatic Code*). In this Appendix it is suggested that in the case of a suspicion of disease, the Member Country should suspend its free status immediately. The Delegate suggested that, immediately after a suspicion of disease, a country should suspend trade from the farm or population concerned, but that the disease free status must only be suspended if the disease is confirmed. Dr Bernoth replied that this point had been taken into account by the Commission when it met just before the General Session to consider Member Country comments on the previous templates, and that the new draft template calls for suspension of trade instead of suspension of free status.
146. A Member of the Canadian Delegation welcomed the new President and the efforts made by the Commission and stated that Canada supports the introduction of the concepts of compartmentalisation and safe commodities. Regarding the Commission's commitment to harmonise the contents of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*, she noted that Chapter 1.1.4. of the *Aquatic Manual* on the requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection would be further revised and wanted to know the time frame that this exercise would require. Dr Bernoth replied that the revision of Chapter 1.1.4. is high on the Commission's list of priorities.
147. The Delegate of Norway also congratulated Dr Bernoth on the Commission's successful and ambitious work programme. She pointed out that disease listing and notification criteria are very important for a country with a large fish-farming industry, such as Norway, and that the criteria should be objective. She felt that the criteria proposed by the Aquatic Animals Commission met this aim, and was especially pleased that they included some public health aspects. The Delegate reminded the Commission and the Delegates of the importance of new and emerging diseases and suggested that, in the future, the disease listing and notification criteria be updated to take these into account. Finally, the Delegate said that she agreed with the Delegate of Denmark that the concept of compartmentalisation needs to be clarified.

148. The Delegate of Lebanon thanked Dr Bernoth for her interesting presentation and the Commission for its work. He suggested that the Commission consider including in its remit trade in small aquatic animals such as turtles, which are known to transmit certain diseases such as salmonellosis.
149. The Committee noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII
Adoption of the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

150. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XVIII on Adoption of the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX
Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

151. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XIX on Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XIX at the end of this report.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

152. Prof. Vincenzo E. Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (in brief, Scientific Commission), reviewed the Commission's activities including the outcomes of routine Commission meetings held in May 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS3 A), August 2003 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS3 B), December 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS3 C) and March 2004 (Doc. 72 SG/12/CS3 D). He also indicated the salient recommendations and observations made by the various Ad hoc Groups functioning under the auspices of the Commission, namely the Ad hoc Groups for the Evaluation of Country Status for Foot and Mouth Disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Rinderpest in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*, and the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology.
153. **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

As is customary, the Commission reviewed the international situation with respect to FMD and other major transboundary animal diseases at each of its four meetings, but particularly at its December 2003 meeting. Detailed summaries of the situation in various regions of the world were appended to the report of the December meeting.

During the past year, applications for the recovery of FMD free country/zone status, with or without vaccination, were received from Argentina, Botswana, Taipei China and Uruguay. These countries or zones recovered their FMD free country/zone status, but Argentina lost its FMD free zone where vaccination is practised in September 2003 following a report of FMD infection in that zone. A new application for FMD free status without vaccination for the zones of Sabah and Sarawak in Malaysia was examined by the Ad hoc Group and found to be in compliance with the *Terrestrial Code*. This was endorsed by the Commission and was submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XX.

The Commission shared the serious concerns expressed by the Ad hoc Group over the difficulties encountered in the evaluation of dossiers from countries where vaccination is practised with respect to freedom from infection. The following are the major difficulties encountered and the Commission has been strongly urged to apprise the International Committee of these difficulties, which will be jointly discussed with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission).

- In principle, it is statistically impossible for any country to prove 'freedom from infection' in the whole population of a country/zone as required by Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. At face value, this would imply proving that there is no infected animal within the entire susceptible population of the country or zone concerned. The only way to do this would be to sample the whole population with a perfect test. This appears to be impossible from a scientific point of view and is also logistically and financially impractical. The proposed modifications to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and the FMD surveillance guidelines should be coherent and take into account the concept of virus circulation. This latter approach is supported by the Scientific Commission. To solve this problem, the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission jointly decided to propose to the International Committee to incorporate the concept of virus circulation in the recognition of FMD free status for countries/zones where vaccination is practised.
- In addition, countries appear to be uncertain on how to follow-up the detection of serologically positive animals in surveillance systems designed to prove absence from infection. In a number of applications, only individual serologically positive animals (rather than the whole sampling unit or herd concerned as is clearly required in Appendix 3.8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*) were re-sampled following a positive result. The Scientific Commission would like to point out to applicant countries using vaccination that it is vital to show in follow-up testing that the prevalence of positive serology within a sampling unit is no higher than the prevalence rate adopted in the sampling design and has not increased significantly within the same sampling unit since the previous sampling.
- Vaccine quality standards in relation to nonstructural protein (NSP) performance in vaccinated populations should be developed. Better understanding of the performance of NSP tests in vaccinated populations under field conditions is necessary. To this end, additional research programmes should be developed urgently at the international level under the auspices of the OIE and the results taken into account in FMD surveillance.

The Commission further reviewed the FMD guidelines for surveillance to replace the existing Appendix 3.8.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* on 'Preliminary Guidelines for the establishment or the regaining of recognition for an FMD free country or zone'. New issues that are addressed in the document presented by the Code Commission for approval by the International Committee include the complexities of vaccination in FMD control, the adaptation of surveillance systems to specific situations including the possible use of targeted surveillance, the importance of detecting and following up suspicious cases, and the use of NSP tests. These amendments are in line with the proposed concept of virus circulation. The guidelines should be continually updated according to the latest scientific knowledge, e.g. the performance of NSP tests under different field conditions and in various animal species. To this end, the Scientific Commission has already planned several meetings in order to present an improved version of the guidelines to the International Committee in 2005.

154. General guidelines for surveillance

The Commission reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology, which has proposed a new appendix to replace Chapter 1.3.6. and Appendix 3.8.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* on general principles on animal health surveillance. The Commission approved the new appendix with some amendments and forwarded it to the Code Commission for consideration. Member Country comments will be incorporated into a revised version to be submitted for adoption in May 2005. A copy of the revised version will be circulated as an appendix to the report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission in June 2004. The guidelines for specific disease surveillance (e.g. FMD, classical swine fever, bluetongue) that are currently being developed, will follow the same general principles proposed in the revised general surveillance guidelines.

155. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

In line with Resolution No. XXII adopted during the 71st General Session authorising the Scientific Commission to ask the Ad hoc Group on the Evaluation of Country Status with Respect to BSE to also consider applications for 'provisional freedom' status, the Ad hoc Group has evaluated applications for both the status of 'free' as well as 'provisionally free'. The Commission has endorsed the recommendations of the Ad hoc Group and recommends that the International Committee recognise Argentina, Iceland, Singapore and Uruguay as 'provisionally free' from BSE in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*. This was presented as Draft Resolution No. XXI. Two applications for recognition of 'BSE free' status are still being evaluated.

The Commission shared the concerns of the Ad hoc Group on the difficulties encountered in the evaluation of country dossiers with respect to BSE in accordance with the current edition of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group has recommended that the International Committee be duly advised that the categorisation of a country is only a reflection of the prescriptive current requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and it does not necessarily reflect the actual absence or potential, current or future presence of the BSE agent in a particular country. Observations have also been made on the relative weighting of the results of the risk assessment carried out in relation to the intensity of surveillance realised. The Group's suggestions will form the basis of discussions between the Scientific and the Code Commissions at their next meeting.

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group on so-called 'Atypical BSE' convened by the OIE. The Expert Group reviewed the data on the so-called 'atypical' cases notified by Japan and Italy. The Group did not believe that the data from the two countries identified a link between the Japanese and Italian cases. While acknowledging that the observations reported had not previously been described, further investigations already planned or in progress should clarify their significance. Results of such investigations should be awaited and interpreted before the existence of alternative phenotypes can be confirmed. This would require not only confirmation of transmissibility, but also investigation into other factors that may influence the pathological phenotype even though the infectious agent may be common. The Group also stressed that even if the data did represent the existence of alternative phenotypes or strains of BSE, that did not necessarily mean that they were new. They may always have existed but remained unrecognised in the presence of an overwhelming epidemic presenting a single phenotype, and especially in the absence of the application of current diagnostic procedures used in the context of active surveillance. There was thus no case for changes to the *Terrestrial Code*.

With respect to surveillance, further research into the outcome of positive test results is necessary, but the Group recognised that scientific investigation was frequently compromised by the lack of brain material that is available from each animal. It also

recognised the practical constraints, especially in the abattoir, that make this difficult. Nevertheless, reliance solely on the brain stem prevents the recognition of pathological lesions of the nature identified in Italy where immunostaining patterns differed from those previously recognised for BSE. Therefore, wherever possible, efforts should be made to ensure, in certain cases, access to the entire brain of positive animals.

156. Rinderpest

The Commission reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest and endorsed its recommendations. In this respect the Commission recommended to the International Committee that Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Mongolia, a zone in Chad and the two remaining zones in India be recognised as free from rinderpest disease, and that Thailand be recognised as free from rinderpest infection, in accordance with Appendix 3.8.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission also recommended that Mauritania recover its previous status of 'free from rinderpest disease'. These recommendations were submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXII.

Following representations by regional organisations and recommendations from regional meetings, the OIE had decided to ask the Ad hoc Group of experts on rinderpest to propose changes to the existing chapter and appendix on rinderpest in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group has already had one meeting and made some preliminary observations. The Commission endorsed the recommendation concerning a new definition of rinderpest infection and a two-step (as opposed to a three-step) pathway for recognition of rinderpest status. Discussions on the proposals on the use of vaccination, heterologous vaccines and the concept of zone freedom from infection will continue and the final proposals will be examined jointly by the Scientific and Code Commissions.

157. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Commission proposed that the OIE establish a list of countries recognised by the OIE as free from CBPP in accordance with Appendix 3.8.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*. This list would also include countries that have been free from CBPP for several years and can apply directly to the OIE without passing through the intermediate stages. It would also consider the possibility of including countries that may qualify as being historically free from CBPP in accordance with the principles laid down in Appendix 3.8.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. This was presented as Draft Resolution No. XXIII.

158. Fast track approach for the recovery of free status

The Commission has the authority to adopt the 'fast track approach' to restore the status of a country following an FMD outbreak without going through the International Committee, subject to the country's providing satisfactory documentary evidence to the Scientific Commission proving that it is eligible to regain its status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission recommended that the International Committee adopt a new Resolution extending that authority, under the same conditions, to the other three diseases for which the OIE has the responsibility of assessing country status, namely rinderpest, BSE and CBPP. This was presented as Draft Resolution No. XXIV.

159. International Conference on the Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination

Members of the Commission actively participated in the International Conference on the Control of Infectious Animal Diseases by Vaccination, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12 to 16 April 2004.

160. Miscellaneous issues discussed jointly with the Code Commission

The Scientific Commission held joint meetings with the Code Commission and the issues discussed included generic guidelines for surveillance, FMD guidelines, commodity-based trade, maedi-visna, chronic wasting disease, paratuberculosis, scrapie, ovine pulmonary adenomatosis, classical swine fever, avian influenza, bluetongue and Aujeszky's disease.

161. Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

The President of the Scientific Commission attended the meeting of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases that was held from 9 to 11 February 2004 at the OIE headquarters in Paris. This Working Group functions under the auspices of the Scientific Commission.

162. After the presentation by Prof. Caporale, the President opened discussions on the various issues raised.

163. A representative of the Indian delegation congratulated Prof. Caporale and the Scientific Commission for their excellent work and thanked them for taking into consideration, in the course of their deliberations, food safety issues and the difficulties experienced by certain countries as regards the selection of vaccine strains. She also proposed certain amendments to be made to the chapter on BSE in the *Terrestrial Code*, but Prof. Caporale advised her to address these to the Code Commission the following day.

164. The Delegate of Russia congratulated Prof. Caporale on the skilful scientific arguments on which the Commission has based its work. He stated that a number of FMD vaccines with varying degrees of safety are being used by individual Member Countries and this presents a major risk. He suggested that the OIE develop strict standards on FMD vaccines to be followed by all Member Countries and that sanctions be imposed on those countries not following the guidelines. He also commented on the approach adopted by the OIE to recommend products that can be safely traded irrespective of the BSE status of the exporting country. He suggested that it would be more appropriate to base such recommendations on the absence of risk rather than the absence of proven harm to humans. Prof. Caporale replied that standards on vaccine quality already exist in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*), but conceded that it takes time to reach a consensus to incorporate the latest scientific advances into standards.

165. The OIE Director General made a few general remarks on the various issues raised. He summarised the terms of reference of the two main OIE Specialist Commissions, namely the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission. One of the major missions of the Scientific Commission is to evaluate country status for specific animal diseases, including BSE, while the Code Commission is concerned with the elaboration of science-based standards. As regards BSE, the OIE evaluates country dossiers only with respect to 'free' and 'provisionally free' status, although mention is made in the *Terrestrial Code* of five categories. A simplified categorisation system is under study and will hopefully be presented for adoption in May 2005. He reminded Delegates that standards on vaccine production and quality control are included in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*. He added that the OIE works in close collaboration with the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medical Products and vaccines (VICH) to further assist Member Countries on vaccine quality. He stated that the creation of the Ad hoc Group of experts on vaccine banks will produce guidelines that would also be beneficial. He stressed that countries not using FMD vaccines approved by the OIE do not qualify for official OIE recognition of their FMD free status with vaccination. He stated that BSE is another disease that receives considerable attention from the OIE but, so far, no

country has been recognised as being BSE 'free' by the OIE. He added that the OIE only considers a product to be safe with respect to BSE after scientific research through live animal inoculation (mice and cattle). As regards 'atypical' BSE, he stated that infected tissues have been inoculated into experimental animals and the results are awaited.

166. The Committee noted the report of the Scientific Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

167. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XX for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XX at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

168. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXI for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXI at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXII
**Recognition of Member Countries Free from Rinderpest Infection
and Rinderpest Disease**

169. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXII for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIII
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

170. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIII for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft resolution XXIV
**Restoration of Disease Status of Member Countries for Rinderpest, Bovine Spongiform
Encephalopathy and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia**

171. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXIV for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIV at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

172. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, the Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that the Bureau of the Commission had met at OIE Headquarters from 30 June to 4 July 2003, and that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE Headquarters from 1 to 12 December 2003. The Commission had met again just before the 72nd General Session to examine comments made by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, the European Union (EU), India, Japan, New Zealand, Paraguay, South Africa, South Korea, Sudan, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay on the report of the December meeting, to identify issues that could

be dealt with during the General Session. The remaining items and comments would be examined at the next Bureau meeting in July, and comments would not have to be resubmitted. Dr Thiermann encouraged Member Countries to submit comments and participate more actively in the work of the Commission.

Dr Thiermann thanked Dr David Wilson of the OIE Central Bureau and his staff for their hard work in preparing the documents for discussion. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the Commission (Drs W.A. Valder, S. MacDiarmid, A. Panin, K. Hargreaves and Prof. A.M. Hassan). He noted the revised terms of reference for the Code Commission and the closer working relationship with the Scientific Commission, which he expected to result in enhanced scientific bases for the chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann recalled the extensive work programme for the Code Commission as a result of discussions at the 71st General Session, with priorities including a further revision of the avian influenza chapter, a simplified approach to country categorisation in the BSE chapter, a revision of the BSE surveillance appendix, further revision of the FMD surveillance guidelines, a revision of the bovine tuberculosis chapter to explicitly distinguish animal health and public health measures, and incorporation of the new approach to disease notification. Progress on these priorities would be discussed further in this report. In general, he considered that it had been another productive year, with 28 new or revised chapters submitted for adoption and several others in preparation. He referred Delegates to the report of the December meeting of the Code Commission (Doc. SG/72/12/CS1) for additional details.

Dr Thiermann indicated that he was still disappointed with the level of input from Member Countries, which had not improved despite the additional time given for comment. To allow more time for meetings of working groups and Ad hoc Groups, the Code Commission has decided to move the full Commission meeting back to January (rather than December). The OIE would continue to provide an electronic draft version of meeting reports in English, immediately after each meeting, while waiting for the official reports to be finalised and translated. At the request of Member Countries, the report of the full Commission meeting distinguished between changes proposed at that meeting and those from the Bureau's July meeting through the use of highlighted text (in addition to the traditional double underlining). Dr Thiermann strongly encouraged more Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by sending comments in sufficient time for them to be considered by the Commission. He suggested that submission of detailed comments on Commission reports should be made prior to the Bureau's July meeting (by mid-June) and the Commission's January meeting (by mid-December), and not just before or during the General Session as there is no opportunity for other Delegates to review and approve proposed changes.

173. Concluding his introductory presentation, Dr Thiermann reminded the International Committee that any insertion or amendment to the *Terrestrial Code* would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Committee during the course of the week.

174. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the Committee for adoption:

175. Chapter 1.1.1.: General definitions

Several modifications to the list of definitions were made in accordance with comments received from Member Countries and after discussions with the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission decided to delete some definitions as it was considered that they were self-evident. Some definitions were changed to reflect the new list of transmissible diseases.

Existing definitions for 'zone' and 'compartment' were revised to clarify their pertinence in distinguishing animal sub-populations with a distinct health status, based on geography or management.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee.

Speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, the Delegate of Ireland noted that, in some cases, the Veterinary Statutory Body was part of the Veterinary Services and therefore may not be autonomous; however, it needed to be impartial and independent of political influence. He also considered that the definitions of 'case' and 'outbreak of disease' warranted further work.

Regarding the definition of 'compartment', the Delegate of the Republic of South Africa recommended that the words 'or diseases' be added after 'disease'; this was agreed. The Delegates of Lebanon, Morocco, Japan and Korea raised concerns over introducing the concept of 'compartment' at this time and asked the OIE to develop relevant criteria to assist understanding of its application in various chapters. Dr Thiermann explained that the concept would be used in a similar manner to 'zone' and would not be applicable to all diseases. The Director General noted that it was an important concept for international trade. He indicated that this concept would be applied on a case-by-case basis, depending on the disease.

The revised chapter, with modifications, was adopted by the International Committee.

176. Section 1.2.: Obligations and ethics in international trade

The Code Commission modified Article 1.2.1.2. in line with comments received and Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee.

The revised article was adopted by the International Committee.

177. Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.: Evaluation of Veterinary Services

In revising these two chapters, the Code Commission examined the reports of the two meetings of the Ad hoc Group on the role of private veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals in the provision of animal health services, and took into account comments received from Member Countries. The draft text was modified accordingly and Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee.

The Code Commission believed that membership of the veterinary statutory body should be flexible to enable issues relating to veterinary para-professionals to be addressed efficiently as they arise. It recognised the need for the veterinary statutory body to be autonomous, but noted that it could be state or provincial based (rather than being a single national authority). The Code Commission also recognised that each Member Country would decide whether or not to register veterinary para-professionals.

Animal identification and traceability have been noted as issues that needed addressing to improve the relevance and usefulness of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on Veterinary Services, and Dr Thiermann again encouraged Member Countries to submit proposals and draft texts that could form the basis for future guidelines.

The revised chapters, with a change in one paragraph, were adopted by the International Committee.

178. Chapter 1.3.7.: Guidelines for reaching a judgement of equivalence of sanitary measures

The Code Commission made minor amendments to Article 1.3.7.2. and Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee.

The revised chapter, with a change in one paragraph, was adopted by the International Committee.

179. Chapters 1.1.2. and 1.1.3.: List A and List B diseases, and Animal disease notification

The Code Commission endorsed the report of the first meeting of the Ad hoc Group on animal disease notification and made appropriate changes to Chapters 1.1.2. and 1.1.3. The Code Commission noted that ‘scoring’ had not been used, and that criteria had been kept to a minimum of easily definable factors including the potential of the disease for international spread, its morbidity and mortality, and its zoonotic potential.

A second meeting of the Ad hoc Group was held in late February to review comments received, and the report of that meeting was circulated to Delegates in the report of the March meeting of the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission had examined these proposals and, in consultation with the Animal Health Information Department, made some modifications which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

Once the new criteria for listing diseases are adopted by Member Countries, proposals for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* will be developed, with the help of experts, and will be submitted for comment and adoption during upcoming General Sessions.

Dr Thiermann also noted that the next edition of the *Terrestrial Code* would contain substantial textual revisions to address the change from ‘List A and List B diseases’ to ‘listed diseases’, if this change were adopted by the Committee during the current week.

The Delegate of Norway encouraged the Code Commission to include bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) in the new list of diseases and offered to help the OIE in this work by drafting a new chapter.

The Delegate of Australia requested the Code Commission to provide greater clarity regarding the use of the terms associated with a risk-based approach, so that there is a common understanding in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission would work with the OIE Animal Health Information Department to address the comments received from the EU on Article 1.1.2. and Zimbabwe’s proposal that ‘disease vectors’ and ‘pests’ be included in the text.

The Delegate of Denmark raised concerns regarding whether Member Countries would be required to report individually on each of the diseases in the new OIE list, as many countries would need to make changes to their legislation. The Director General noted that the new reporting obligations commence on 1 January 2005, and Dr Thiermann indicated that additional diseases would not be added at once but some may have a lead time to allow Member Countries to make the necessary national adjustments. The Delegate of the United Kingdom supported the new *Terrestrial Code* text but raised similar concerns to those of the Delegate of Denmark; the Delegate of Australia sought a pragmatic approach to the transition to the new system, noting that there was a need for sufficient time to allow implementation of such things as changes in legislation and awareness raising as well as time for the Central Bureau itself to prepare for the new system. The Director General explained the purpose of the various reports that Member Countries will have to provide.

In Article 1.1.2.3., in the English text only, swine vesicular disease was added to the category of swine diseases, as it had been deleted in error.

The revised chapters, with the above modifications, were adopted by the International Committee.

180. Chapter 1.3.5.: Zoning and regionalisation

The Code Commission took into account the output of an OIE Ad hoc Group on epidemiology and discussions with the Scientific Commission in modifying the chapter on zoning and regionalisation. 'Zoning' and 'regionalisation' have been given the same meaning, and their differentiation from 'compartmentalisation' is now clearer. Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

181. Chapter 2.1.1.: Foot and mouth disease

At its December meeting, the Code Commission examined comments from several Member Countries and discussed the issues with the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission made appropriate modifications to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) chapter (as described below), which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

Proposals received on Article 2.1.1.7., which would have required surveillance for FMD virus infection, were not incorporated because the Code Commission considered that it was appropriate to retain the three sub-clauses in the expectation that a validated test will become available in the near future.

The Code Commission believed that concerns expressed regarding bone-in meat were addressed by the requirement that there has been no evidence of infection in the country or zone; the International Committee had adopted the modified chapter on the basis that exports would be permitted only after tools for the required surveillance were available.

Issues relating to safe commodities were referred to the Scientific Commission, which decided to recommend that the OIE appoint an expert to review the relevant literature and report back to that Commission.

The President of the Scientific Commission emphasised to the International Committee the need to change, in the articles dealing with countries or zones free with vaccination, the requirement to be free from infection to that of freedom from virus circulation. He answered the concern of the Delegate of Lebanon that developing countries would be disadvantaged by the need to look for 'circulating virus' by explaining that the purpose of the proposal was to facilitate surveillance in countries and zones vaccinating for FMD, due to the limitations of the present tests for the detection of infection. The Delegates of India and Taipei China supported the proposed amendments to Articles 2.1.1.3., 2.1.1.5. and 2.1.1.7.

Other modifications, in Articles 2.1.1.7. and 2.1.1.16., were also discussed with the International Committee.

The Delegate of the United States of America congratulated the Code Commission on its very complete report and urged other Commissions to follow a similar process to improve transparency. He supported the proposed changes to the chapter and hoped that countries would not allow them to undermine efforts to eradicate the disease.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

182. **Appendix 3.8.6. on FMD surveillance**

Dr Thiermann noted that Appendix 3.8.6. had been circulated as clean text after modification by the Scientific Commission. New issues addressed in the document include:

- the complexities of vaccination in FMD control;
- the difficulty of adopting a standardised approach to FMD surveillance due to the various epidemiological situations that prevail in different parts of the world;
- the importance of detecting and following up suspected cases of FMD to show that an effective surveillance system is operational;
- expanded strategies for active FMD surveillance, including the possible use of targeted surveillance;
- the issue of cluster analysis in the distribution of serological positives,
- details of serological surveillance, including the use of nonstructural protein (NSP) tests.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Committee. The revised Appendix was adopted by the International Committee.

183. **Chapter 2.3.13.: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

Dr Thiermann stated that the report of the BSE Ad hoc Group which met in September 2003 provided the scientific basis for assessing Member Countries' comments on proposed modifications to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter. The Code Commission made modifications to the BSE chapter (as described below) which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

The Code Commission agreed with the BSE Ad hoc Group that references to other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in the chapter on BSE continued to be justified as long as they are related to BSE risks.

In the interest of clarity, recommendations on the safety of certain commodities were moved to the front of the chapter.

The Code Commission agreed with the BSE Ad hoc Group and with several Member Countries on the importance of a quality risk assessment. Accordingly, the Code Commission modified Article 2.3.13.2. to harmonise the risk assessment process with Section 1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* and to clarify the most important risk factors which needed to be taken into account.

In paragraph 1)c) of Article 2.3.13.2., the reference to embryos and oocytes was deleted as, of genetic material, the importation of live animals was considered to be the only significant risk factor. The Code Commission recognised that vertical transmission, if it occurred, would be at a very low rate, and therefore decided to refer to the next meeting of the BSE Ad hoc Group the question of whether references to progeny could be deleted from the chapter.

The Code Commission modified certain articles to require that surveillance and monitoring for all categories meet the requirements of Appendix 3.8.4.

In Articles 2.3.13.5. and 2.3.13.6., regarding the calculation of the BSE incidence rate, an increased level of surveillance which complies with Appendix 3.8.4. was added to increase the reliability of the outcome. The cut-off limit was raised from one case per million to two cases per million, taking into account the implementation of both passive and active surveillance.

The Code Commission examined, and took into account, the outcomes of recently published pathogenesis studies in modifying the list of tissues that should be defined as specific risk materials (SRMs). In Article 2.3.13.19., changes were made to the recommendations on central nervous system tissues removal. New scientific evidence was taken into account in adding tonsils and intestine to the list of SRMs for cattle of all ages.

Although requested by several countries, the Ad hoc Group had not been in favour of reducing the required period of compliance with Article 2.3.13.3. from 7 to 5 years, or the minimum period after implementation of the ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban, as 7 years represents the 95th percentile of the observed incubation periods for BSE. The Code Commission made no changes to this part of the chapter.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the proposed changes to chapter 2.3.13. were designed to clarify the wording and improve understanding of the Chapter.

Speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, the Delegate of Ireland was of the view that the chapter should not be changed this year but that the OIE should work towards a significantly revised chapter in 2005. The Delegate of Korea thanked the Code Commission for its hard work in addressing the latest scientific information but had concerns with the proposed new second point in Article 2.3.13.1. The Delegates of Taipei China, Japan and Syria also expressed concern over the approach. Dr Thiermann and the Director General explained the reasoning behind moving the article on some commodities to the front of the chapter, to indicate that some commodities were safe (with regard to BSE) while others

could be traded subject to certain measures; these changes did not change the content of the chapter. The Delegate of Singapore considered that the *Terrestrial Code* should contain no risk management directives using words such as 'should authorise import or transit of' as these are the prerogative of Member Countries. Dr Thiermann explained the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code* with regard to recommendations for safe trade which the Veterinary Services of importing countries could use to devise import health measures. The Delegates of Swaziland and Taipei China supported the proposals made in the chapter but were concerned over the use of the term 'should authorise'. On the following day, the International Committee discussed a revised version of Article 2.3.13.1.; the changes were supported by the Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States), Japan and Singapore. The Delegate of Uruguay (speaking on behalf of the Mercosur countries) strongly supported the revised text; his remaining concern – surveillance – would be the subject of a submission to the OIE.

The Delegates of Canada and New Zealand complimented the Code Commission on its work and the level of transparency achieved, and urged other Commissions to follow a similar process. The Delegate of Canada believed that all Member Countries aspired to use science in their risk assessment and risk management, and all have an obligation to provide clarification whenever possible so that the credibility of the OIE is not undermined in the WTO. He said that all Delegates needed to be able to communicate the underlying principles within their own countries.

The Delegate of New Zealand did not consider it necessary to include all animal TSE agents in Article 2.3.13.2., taking into account the current knowledge of the origins of BSE.

Regarding Articles 2.3.13.3. and 2.3.13.4., the Delegate of Canada supported the restriction of meat-and-bone meal (MBM) to that of ruminant origin. The Delegate of Denmark agreed with the science underpinning this proposal but considered that the risk of cross contamination could only be addressed, in practical terms, through a mammalian feed ban; this had been shown in the EU. This position was supported by the Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States) and the Delegate of Lebanon. Dr Thiermann indicated that the Code Commission had wanted to show clearly that the science indicated that ruminant MBM was the problem, that trade in other commodities should not be unnecessarily restricted and that internal control measures were a matter for Member Countries. He noted that the Ad hoc Group had differentiated between the science and the practice.

The modified text without the reference to ruminants was approved. The Code Commission will prepare a better definition of greaves in due course.

Regarding those articles dealing with the cohorts of affected cattle (Articles 2.3.13.10. to 2.3.13.13.), the Delegate of Japan expressed concern that they did not deal adequately with the risks presented by imports and the obligation of the exporting country to destroy relevant cohorts. Speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, the Delegate of Ireland supported this position. The Director General proposed that the issue be examined by the Code Commission and a revised text be presented in 2005.

The Delegate of Korea proposed that references to restricted commodities in Article 2.3.13.16. should be to paragraphs 1) and 2) of Article 2.3.13.19.; this was agreed.

Regarding Article 2.3.13.19., the Delegate of Japan opposed the proposal to exclude the entire intestine from cattle of all ages and proposed instead that only the distal ileum be excluded, as Japanese research had found prions only in that part of the intestine. The Delegate of Thailand supported this position. Dr Thiermann noted that the Ad hoc Group had referred to the infectivity in Peyer's patches and that the experts had recommended the removal of the entire intestine. The Delegate of Singapore expressed concern that an age cut-off of 30 months was not appropriate as clinical cases had been found in younger animals in Japan; Dr Thiermann explained that the recommendation had come from the BSE Ad hoc Group. Based on the present scientific information, the Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States) supported this age cut-off. The Delegate of Canada strongly supported the position proposed by Japan that the definition of specified risk material as it relates to intestine should be limited to distal ileum removal from animals of all ages. Furthermore, he recommended that the definition of specified risk material should be consistent throughout the *Terrestrial Code* and reflect the findings of the oral ingestion studies conducted to ensure the definition is based on the known science. Dr Thiermann indicated that the issue would be further discussed by the Code Commission. The International Committee supported the adoption of Article 2.3.13.19. with the proposed changes, with the exception of Cambodia, Canada, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taipei China and Thailand. The Delegate of Japan requested that his concerns be addressed by the Ad hoc Group; the President requested that the Delegate's concerns be examined within that framework.

The revised chapter, with the above modifications, was adopted by the International Committee.

184. **Appendix 3.8.4.**

The Code Commission modified Appendix 3.8.4. in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad hoc Group on BSE to reinforce the importance of the risk assessment, to give more guidance on Table 1 and on surveillance of the three sub-populations. Dr Thiermann presented this Appendix to the Committee.

Dr Thiermann explained that the changes to the Appendix were designed to clarify its use by Member Countries, building on data from EU surveillance. The Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States), recognised the work done by the Code Commission on the appendix but opposed adoption of the Appendix. The Delegate of Denmark expressed concern that the changes proposed appeared to increase the bias already present; a fully revised chapter based in particular on the new work being carried out in the EU would provide a more scientifically sound approach. The Delegate of Chile congratulated the Code Commission on its work but expressed concern that, for countries with a small cattle population and a low level of nervous system diseases, implementing the recommended surveillance would be difficult due to the large number of samples required; he would recommend a new proposal and supported the EU position.

The President believed that the Code Commission needed to work further on the appendix. The Delegate of Australia complimented the Code Commission on its excellent work on this difficult issue. He requested that the OIE circulate drafts as early as possible to enable Member Countries to provide carefully considered contributions and suggested the addition of a summary statement of underlying principles on which the *Terrestrial Code* is based. He urged caution in the use of the word "science", as it could easily be misused. While acknowledging the experience of the EU with BSE, he noted that there are experts in other

parts of the world whose expertise should be fully utilised by the OIE. He added that while surveillance was an important issue, it dealt with the past and prevention and management were even more important. The Appendix was not adopted. The Committee preferred to retain the current Appendix pending new proposals in 2005.

185. Guidelines on risk assessment for BSE

The Code Commission took into account comments received on the draft Appendix: 'Factors to consider in conducting the risk assessment recommended in Chapter 2.3.13.' and its own proposals regarding the BSE risk assessment process in modifying the draft guidelines. Dr Thiermann presented these guidelines to the Committee.

The revised guidelines were adopted by the International Committee, with one modification suggested by the Delegate of Korea. The Delegate of the United States of America indicated that additional information on the relationship between chronic wasting disease and BSE would soon be available.

186. Proposed simplified BSE categorisation system

The Code Commission organised a meeting of an Ad hoc Group of BSE experts to address a request from the International Committee to simplify the current BSE categorisation system in the *Terrestrial Code* and consider suggestions from several Member Countries on alternative approaches.

The BSE Ad hoc Group, which met in April 2004, recommended a revised categorisation system which would group countries into the following three categories, based on the outcome of a risk assessment and only when supported by a strong surveillance system (as described in Appendix 3.8.4.): negligible risk of BSE, controlled BSE risk, undetermined risk of BSE.

A country or zone in the negligible risk category would be one which, on the basis of a risk assessment and surveillance, had demonstrated that there has been no recent indigenous case of BSE, and that the likelihood of BSE risk factors being present is very low or relevant parts of Article 2.3.13.2. have been complied with.

A country or zone in the controlled risk category would be one which, on the basis of a risk assessment and surveillance, had demonstrated the presence of risk factors and/or cases, but could show that all risk factors were being addressed through appropriate measures to prevent the transmission of the BSE agent to animals or humans.

A country or zone which is unable to fulfil the requirements of the 'negligible risk' or 'controlled risk' categories would fall into the 'undetermined risk' category.

The recommendations and draft text proposals from the Ad hoc Group will be circulated by the Director General for review and discussion by the International Committee in 2005. Dr Thiermann requested that Member Countries send their comments to the OIE to give the Code Commission some indications as to the direction in which it should be heading.

187. Chapter 2.1.4.: Rinderpest

Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee a revised definition for rinderpest infection proposed by the Scientific Commission.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

188. Chapter 2.2.4.: Leptospirosis

Following requests from several Member Countries and the fact that the current chapter did not provide proper guidance on trade, Dr Thiermann proposed that the existing contents of the chapter be removed from the *Terrestrial Code*, pending the development of a new chapter.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

189. Chapter 2.1.13.: Classical swine fever

The Code Commission examined comments from several Member Countries on the chapter, regarding the presence of clinical signs, monitoring and surveillance, and movement controls. The Code Commission made appropriate modifications to the classical swine fever (CSF) chapter, which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

The Code Commission sought the advice of the Scientific Commission on recommendations regarding commodities which could be safely traded, regardless of the CSF status of the exporting country. The Scientific Commission has recommended that the OIE appoint an expert to review the relevant literature and report back to that Commission. The Scientific Commission is also reviewing the available information on the inactivation of the CSF virus in various meat products.

The Delegate of Korea believed that the paragraphs proposed for deletion in Article 2.1.13.2. should be reinstated. The Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States), could not support adoption of the revised chapter as the EU had made a major commitment to prohibit swill feeding. The Delegate of Japan strongly supported the modifications.

The revised chapter was not adopted.

190. Chapter 2.3.3.: Bovine tuberculosis

Dr Thiermann recalled a resolution adopted at a previous General Session concerning bovine tuberculosis, and a recommendation of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety that the *Terrestrial Code* chapter address more explicitly the animal health and public health risks associated with the disease, and that the chapter could become a model for the revision of other zoonotic diseases in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann drew the attention of the Committee to the proposed approach which addresses animal health and public health risks in separate articles, including separate certification requirements, and invited comment. He noted that this was the first attempt at addressing these issues.

The Delegate of Australia indicated that he could not support adoption at this stage; the concept was acceptable but the absence of any recommendations on surveillance was a major problem; Australia was well placed to assist in the development of the surveillance appendix. The Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States) opposed adoption. The Delegate of New Zealand believed that further work was required on the public health aspects and the disease in wildlife, and he could not support adoption.

The proposed chapter was not adopted. Dr Thiermann indicated that work on bovine brucellosis would also commence.

191. **Chapter 2.1.6.: Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia**

The Code Commission modified Articles 2.1.6.8. and 2.1.6.13. in accordance with recommendations from the Biological Standards Commission. Suggested modifications have been incorporated into a revised text which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

192. **Chapter 2.5.5.: Equine influenza**

The Code Commission modified Article 2.5.5.3. to harmonise it with other references in the *Terrestrial Code* to procedures in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Suggested modifications have been incorporated into a revised text which Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

193. **Chapter 2.2.5.: Rabies**

The Code Commission modified Article 2.2.5.5. in accordance with a recommendation from the Biological Standards Commission, to harmonise it with other references in the *Terrestrial Code* to procedures in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Article 2.2.5.6. was also modified. Dr Thiermann presented the modified texts to the Committee. In response to an objection to the proposed change from the Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States), the President of the Biological Standards Commission supported a modified reference to the *Terrestrial Manual* (prescribed test).

The revised chapter, with the above change, was adopted by the International Committee.

194. **Chapter 2.2.6.: Paratuberculosis**

A revised draft chapter on paratuberculosis, developed by an expert in consultation with others, was discussed with the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission decided that it would circulate the revised draft to Member Countries for comment once it has received appropriate technical review by the Scientific Commission.

The Code Commission was of the view that the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter is not in line with current scientific understanding and would not provide safe trade in domestic ruminants. Accordingly, the Code Commission proposed that Article 2.2.6.2. be deleted.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

195. **Semen- and embryo-related matters**

The Code Commission received comments on various issues relating to semen and embryos.

Comments were received on the transmissibility of enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL) via semen but the Code Commission consulted with an expert and confirmed that there was no new information on EBL which could support a change to the articles addressing semen.

In reviewing comments from Member Countries, the Code Commission confined itself to addressing disease issues. Other comments will be taken up when the chapters on semen and embryos are reorganised. Regarding bovine brucellosis, the Code Commission proposed that paragraph 2d) of Article 2.3.1.7. be deleted as it did not offer a similar level of protection to that of the other paragraphs in the chapter.

The revised chapter was adopted by the International Committee.

196. **Section 3.9.: Antimicrobial resistance**

The Code Commission revised the draft guidelines on risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance (which had been developed by the Biological Standards Commission), a companion appendix for the three adopted at the 71st General Session. Dr Thiermann presented this text to the Committee.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the draft guidelines were a very important companion text to the three adopted in 2004 – some late changes had been introduced to reflect comments received. The revised chapter, with the aforementioned changes, was adopted by the International Committee.

197. **Chapter 2.1.9.: Bluetongue**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Director General had given priority to a review of the chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* on bluetongue as a result of concerns expressed by Member Countries and recommendations arising from the 2003 OIE Bluetongue Conference in Sicily. Accordingly, an OIE Ad hoc Group was convened to propose changes to the chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, based on the outcomes of that Conference and some comments from Member Countries. Dr Thiermann presented these changes, which were previously circulated to Delegates, for discussion and with a request that Member Countries send comments to the OIE. A new text will be submitted for adoption in May 2005.

198. **Animal production food safety**

The Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, Dr A. McKenzie, presented its work programme. He noted the following major achievements:

- OIE input into the work of the Codex Committees on Meat Hygiene and on Milk and Milk Products, and the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding;
- review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis to better incorporate food safety aspects;
- development of guidelines on ‘good farming practices’, which adopt a farm-level animal production approach to address public health risks at the farm, at this stage generically, with the opportunity to add specific references later to address particular issues or situations in specific regions or countries;
- development of a guidance document for the Director General on the role and dual functionality of the Veterinary Services in meat hygiene throughout the food chain; the paper provides Veterinary Services with a bridge between the work of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) relating to meat hygiene where there was a need to meet both animal and public health objectives;

- drafting of a paper to provide more detailed guidance on the use and development of a risk-based approach in ante- and post-mortem inspection.

The Chairman also noted that the following priorities had been identified by the Working Group for the short term:

- traceability;
- review of international standards on testing, inspection and certification, with a view to maximising harmonization, through coordination with the CAC and other relevant international organisations (such as the International Dairy Federation);
- review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine brucellosis, pending International Committee approval of the approach adopted for bovine tuberculosis;
- salmonellosis;
- OIE input into upcoming Codex meetings on animal feeding, veterinary drugs and milk and milk products;
- improvement of the current level of OIE input into Codex texts and development of a method for the most effective utilisation of Codex expertise in the work of OIE Ad hoc Groups and vice versa;
- antimicrobial resistance.

Dr Thiermann encouraged Member Countries to become involved in the relevant discussions, both in the OIE and in the CAC.

199. The Delegate of Austria noted the significance of the Codex work on meat hygiene (including ante- and post-mortem inspection) and the recognition that the responsibilities of veterinarians were broader than just animal health. He believed that the OIE's work with the Codex in this regard had proved very fruitful.
200. The Delegate of Lebanon thanked the speaker and noted the need to support the important roles of veterinarians in food inspection. He believed that there should be recognition that a large part of the responsibility for food safety should lie with the Veterinary Services. There needed to be good coordination between the OIE's standards and the standards elaborated by other international organisations. He also believed that traceability was another important issue for the Veterinary Services.
201. The Delegate of Germany thanked the speaker for the excellent summary of the work programme. She supported the emphasis on the important roles of the Veterinary Services in meat hygiene. The paper entitled "Good Farming Practices" needs to be linked to the work of the Working Group on Animal Welfare as food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection are all closely linked. Dr McKenzie noted that part of the work of both Working Groups was to ensure that there were no conflicts among the various standards.
202. Dr Thiermann recalled the positive reception the OIE had received in recent Codex Committee meetings and the recognition, within the Codex, of the need for better coordination between the two organisations.

203. The OIE Director General noted that the Working Group was also addressing hazards in the production phase that do not cause disease in animals. He stated that the demarcation between the work of the Codex and the OIE on food safety would always be difficult to define, but that it was necessary to ensure that the entire food chain is covered.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV
Animal Production Food Safety**

204. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXV for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXV at the end of this report.

≡ WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2004 ≡

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having signed a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE or with which Agreements are in preparation (contd)

European Commission

205. The President invited Dr Jaana Husu-Kallio, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission (EC), Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, to take the floor.
206. Dr Husu-Kallio, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 25 Member States, wished the 72nd General Session every success.
207. The EC recently signed an official Agreement with the OIE conferring on the European Commission the status of official observer and enabling cooperation between the two organisations to be strengthened, as already seen in the context of the Global Conference on Animal Welfare, in the EC's participation in various OIE activities and in the preparation of the first Conference on rabies, due to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in December 2004. Dr Husu-Kallio stated that the EC appreciated the work of the OIE.
208. Dr Husu-Kallio emphasised the need for effective disease control measures, as demonstrated by the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) epidemic in Asia. The EC hopes that OIE Member Countries will take advantage of the current General Session to discuss the revision of the chapter on HPAI for the *Terrestrial Code* and the revision of the definition of a disease outbreak.
209. The EC considers it important for all countries to be transparent with regard to animal diseases. While recognising that there may be political and economic constraints, the EC feels that the only possible course is the appropriate notification of animal diseases and encourages countries to send the OIE Central Bureau all the necessary notifications and reports.
210. On the subject of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the EC considers that there is a need to revise the categorisation of countries, which should be based on risk analysis and the surveillance measures to be implemented. The EC wishes it to be known that its experts are ready to provide assistance.

211. Dr Husu-Kallio concluded that it important to revise and improve the surveillance measures describe in the *Terrestrial Code*, notably those for the diseases already referred to and other important diseases such as bluetongue.

Report on Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2003 and the Beginning of 2004

212. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2003 (Doc. 72 SG/2) and in the first months of 2004.

List A diseases

213. The disease event that has held the attention of the whole international community since late 2003 is the occurrence of an episode of **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** subtype H5N1 in Asia, where eight different countries were affected by the disease. This situation was unprecedented as HPAI had never before affected such a large geographical area with such a virulent virus subtype. Moreover, the disease had a serious zoonotic impact: in Thailand and Vietnam, 32 people were affected by the disease and 23 of them died. In humans, the disease caused by the H5N1 subtype differs from that usually caused by other avian influenza virus subtypes. The origin of the epizootic is not yet fully understood. The following description of the situation is based on the official information provided by Member Countries from the region.

Rumours of heavy losses in poultry farms in some countries in South-East Asia commenced in mid-2003.

On 15 December 2003, Indonesia reported the first confirmation of HPAI to the OIE, stating that 17 districts were affected in Java Central and 13 districts in Java East. Later, in March 2004, following laboratory confirmation, Indonesia declared that there had been outbreaks of HPAI during the months of October, November and December 2003. A total of 12 provinces and 86 districts were affected during the HPAI epizootic in Indonesia.

In the Republic of Korea, HPAI virus subtype H5N1 was isolated from samples collected from broilers and ducks in poultry farms in Emsung district (Chungbuk province) in December 2003. Seventeen outbreaks were reported from other regions (Chonnam, Chungnam, Kyongbuk, Kyonggi, Kyongnam and Ulsan). HPAI had never been reported before by the Republic of Korea.

Vietnam reported outbreaks in January 2004. The outbreaks had started in December 2003 in three parent stock farms for broilers in the provinces of Long An and Ten Giang. This was the first occurrence of HPAI ever reported in Vietnam. More than 1,000 outbreaks of HPAI were reported during the epizootic, and a number of human cases, resulting in 15 deaths, occurred in conjunction with these outbreaks.

In Japan, outbreaks of HPAI were reported in January 2004 in Yamaguchi, Oita, Kyoto and Hyogo prefectures. These were the first outbreaks reported in Japan since 1925.

Thailand notified the OIE of the first outbreak of HPAI in January 2004, in Banlam sub-district, Supanburi province. The disease spread to 40 other provinces. Almost 28 million birds were culled. Thailand reported 12 human cases, with 8 deaths, in conjunction with these outbreaks. HPAI had never previously been reported to the OIE by Thailand. Cambodia reported outbreaks of HPAI at the end of January 2004. The outbreaks began in Phnom Penh and then the disease spread to other provinces. A total of 10 outbreaks were reported. Laos notified the OIE of the occurrence of an outbreak of HPAI virus subtype H5 in the region of Vientiane in January 2004. The People's Republic of China confirmed the presence of HPAI in February 2004. The first outbreaks were detected in January 2004, in the regions of Guangdong, Hunnan, Hubei and Yunnan. A total of 49 outbreaks were

reported in 16 provinces and 9 million birds were culled. The control measures applied in China included culling of all poultry within a 3-km radius of the foci of infection, with compulsory vaccination of poultry within a 5-km radius of the foci of infection using an H5N2 vaccine.

The following table shows the countries/territories of Asia that were affected, with the official estimated date of the first infection and the number of bird losses:

Location	Estimated date of first infection	Virus type	Number of birds that died, or were destroyed or slaughtered
Indonesia	11/12/2003 [October 2003]	H5N1	7,000,000
Korea (Rep. of)	11/12/2003	H5N1	396,526
Vietnam	27/12/2003	H5N1	9,582,496
Cambodia	11/01/2004	H5N1	14,224
Japan	12/01/2004	H5N1	270,473
Laos	14/01/2004	H5	3,000
Thailand	19/01/2004	H5N1	27,601,150
Hong Kong (SARPRC)	19/01/2004	H5N1	1
China (People's Rep. of)	23/01/2004	H5N1	9,127,600

SARPRC: Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

In January 2004, Pakistan confirmed the occurrence of outbreaks of HPAI due to virus type H7N3, rather than to the serotype H5N1 that has been occurring in South-East Asia. The outbreaks were in Sindh province in the State of Karachi, where more than 1,800,000 birds were culled. The source of infection is believed to have been migratory birds, notably waterfowl. Vaccination with H7 and H9 strains was used. These were the first outbreaks of HPAI reported in Pakistan since 2000.

In the Americas, Canada reported the presence of HPAI virus subtype H7N3 in a 24-week-old bird flock in the Fraser Valley area, Province of British Columbia, in February 2004. Several outbreaks were subsequently reported and all commercial poultry flocks and backyard birds were depopulated in the control area established in the Fraser Valley. Approximately 19 million birds were destroyed. Two workers who had separate and known exposure to infected birds tested positive for H7 infection and both experienced mild influenza symptoms. The United States of America also reported an outbreak of HPAI, which occurred in a backyard operation in Gonzales County in the State of Texas. The virus type isolated was H5N2. Two live bird markets in Houston were also affected. In April 2004, the Delegate of the United States of America declared that the outbreaks had been completely eradicated.

214. In North Africa, one of the most important epidemiological events was the notification of **foot and mouth disease (FMD)** virus type SAT 2 in Libya in July 2003. Small ruminants were unaffected. A total of 13 outbreaks were reported in cattle in the north-western part of the country. This is the first time that FMD virus type SAT 2 has been recorded in a country of the Mediterranean Maghreb region. Virus type SAT 2 is known to be circulating in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Botswana, following the report of an FMD outbreak and vaccination against the disease in the 'FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised' recognised by the OIE on 29 November 2002, the status of this zone was suspended, with effect from 20 January 2003. On 5 December 2003, the zone regained its former status.

South Africa reported two outbreaks of FMD serotype SAT 2 in the Limpopo province in August 2003. These outbreaks were situated within the FMD control area. As a result, the status of the OIE-recognised disease free zone was not affected by these outbreaks, nor was the export of animals and animal products.

In the Americas, FMD due to serotype O was reported in Argentina in September 2003 in Salta province. The status of the country's 'FMD free zone where vaccination is practised', situated north of the 42° parallel, was suspended with effect from 4 September 2003. Bolivia reported a total of 9 outbreaks of FMD virus type O in four regions in July 2003. These outbreaks did not affect the status of the 'FMD free zone where vaccination is practised' of Chiquitania, recognised by the OIE on 20 May 2003. In Paraguay, an outbreak of FMD was reported in July 2003, the first occurrence of the disease since November 2002. The outbreak occurred in Boquerón department, very close to the border with Argentina and Bolivia. Serotypes A and O were isolated. Venezuela reported an FMD epizootic in 2003 with 63 outbreaks. The outbreaks were mainly caused by serotype A, but a few were due to serotype O.

In Asia, FMD was reported in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, in January 2003. Seven outbreaks affecting pigs occurred in Yuen Long & Kam Tin district and North district. Three outbreaks of FMD were reported in Tajikistan, in the districts of Darvoz, Shughnon and Ishkoshim. The outbreaks affected cattle and sheep and were caused by serotype A. These were the first outbreaks of FMD reported in Tajikistan since 2000. In February 2004, Mongolia reported outbreaks of FMD due to serotype O in Dornogobi Province. These were the first outbreaks of FMD reported in Mongolia since August 2002.

No FMD outbreaks have been reported in Syria since February 2002. In Turkey, several outbreaks of the disease were reported in 2003 and early 2004. As in previous years, serotypes O and A were identified. FMD has not been reported in the Thrace region of Turkey since June 1996. No FMD outbreaks were reported in the European Union in 2003. Georgia reported a suspected outbreak of FMD in Kaspi district in March 2004.

215. With regard to **vesicular stomatitis (VS)**, no exceptional epidemiological events were reported in 2003. The same countries that reported VS in 2002 reported outbreaks in 2003. In 2004, Bolivia reported outbreaks of VS in the Department of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in February and March. The previous outbreak of this disease reported to the OIE was in 1991. In May 2004, the United States of America reported an outbreak of VS in Reeves County, State of Texas, in which nine horses and nine steers were affected. This was the first outbreak of VS in the country since November 1998.
216. Portugal declared an outbreak of **swine vesicular disease (SVD)** in Coimbra in December 2003. This was the first outbreak of SVD reported in Portugal since 1995. Italy reported 29 outbreaks of SVD in 2003, in the southern part of the country.
217. Clinical and serological surveillance for **rinderpest** in wild animals carried out in Mauritania detected the presence of rinderpest antibodies in two warthogs (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) hunted in January 2003 in the region of Tararza. No clinical disease had been observed in either wild or domestic animals. Following confirmation by the OIE World Reference Laboratory for rinderpest (Pirbright, United Kingdom) of serological evidence of rinderpest in samples from the two warthogs, Mauritania's status of 'rinderpest disease free country' was suspended. Kenya reported an outbreak of rinderpest in October 2003 in transhumance cattle in the Garissa district along the border with Somalia. According to the Kenyan report, the outbreak was a mild form of the disease and no deaths occurred. In

January 2003, the Delegate of Pakistan declared his country 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In June 2003, the Delegates of Bangladesh and Iran declared their countries 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In July 2003, the Delegates of Kuwait and Qatar declared their countries 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In August 2003, the Delegate of Sudan confirmed an extension to his country's zone 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In October 2003, the Delegates of Djibouti and Yemen declared their countries 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In October 2003, the Delegate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared a zone of his country 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In November 2003, the Delegate of Burundi declared his country 'provisionally free' from rinderpest. In February 2004, the Delegate of the Central African Republic declared his country 'provisionally free' from rinderpest.

218. As in previous years, **peste des petits ruminants (PPR)** affected parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Israel reported two outbreaks of PPR in the Yizreel and Acco districts in June 2003. The previous outbreak reported by Israel was in September 2001.
219. **Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)** is still a major concern on the African continent, with the exception of North Africa. In January 2003, Zambia reported two outbreaks of CBPP in the North West province. The previous outbreak of CBPP was reported in June 2002. In March 2004, the disease expanded to the Southern Province, where an outbreak was reported in the Kazungula district. Eritrea reported an outbreak of CBPP in April 2003, in a group of approximately 600 adult Raya-Azebo cattle that had been introduced into the country. The previous outbreak of CBPP was reported in 1994. In September 2003, CBPP was reported in Namibia in cattle in the Eastern Caprivi province. This is an area where most of the cattle are naïve and it had been free from CBPP since 1939.
220. In the countries affected by **lumpy skin disease (LSD)**, the situation remained almost the same in 2003 as in the previous year. The disease is present in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Botswana declared an outbreak of LSD in the southern part of the country, in the Tsabong district, in January 2003. The previous outbreak occurred in January 2002.
221. **Rift Valley fever (RVF)** occurred again in West Africa in 2003. The disease was detected in Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. In Mauritania, serological findings were reported in small ruminants in the regions of Keu Macene, Kobeni and Kankossa. One human case of the disease was reported. In Senegal, the disease was detected in sheep and goats in the Saint Louis, Dagana, Podor, Matam and Bakel departments. The Veterinary Authorities of Egypt informed the OIE that 5,000 serum samples had been tested country-wide, in addition to the continuous clinical surveillance for RVF. According to the Veterinary Authorities, the results indicated neither cases nor suspected cases of RVF in animals. Yemen reported outbreaks of RVF in the Hodeidah region in 2003.
222. In Europe, the **bluetongue** epizootic that started in 2000 continued in some countries in 2003. In 2003, circulation of bluetongue virus serotype 4 was evidenced for the first time in Sardinia, Italy. In September 2003, seven outbreaks were reported in Corsica, France. Bluetongue virus serotype 4 was identified. The disease had not been reported in Corsica since November 2001. In Spain, where the previous outbreak had been reported in the Balearic Islands in November 2000, 15 outbreaks occurred on the Island of Menorca in 2003. Cyprus confirmed the presence of bluetongue virus serotype 16 in animals with mild clinical signs observed at the end November 2003 in the Ammochostos region.

In Asia, Taipei China reported serological findings of bluetongue in cattle and goats in the Kinmen and Pingtung prefectures. No animals displaying clinical signs of bluetongue were observed. The disease has never been reported in Taipei China.

223. There was little change in the **sheep pox and goat pox** situation world-wide compared with previous years. The disease is enzootic in many African and Asian countries.
224. No major epidemiological events relating to **African horse sickness** were reported to the OIE in 2003.
225. **African swine fever (ASF)** was reported in Italy and in several African countries.

In July 2003, an outbreak of ASF was reported in Burkina Faso, in the Kompienga district, bordering Benin. This was the first ever reported outbreak of the disease in Burkina Faso. During 2003, Benin, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Togo continued to report outbreaks of ASF.

226. Concerning the **classical swine fever (CSF)** situation in Europe in 2003, Germany continued to report outbreaks of CSF in both domestic pigs and wild boar in the region of Rhineland-Palatinate. In Luxembourg, one outbreak of CSF in domestic pigs and three cases in wild boar were reported in 2003. France has not reported any outbreaks of CSF in domestic pigs since February 1993. CSF occurred in wild boar in 2003. France's strategy to control CSF in the wild boar population consists of allowing the disease to develop freely among these animals in the intensified surveillance zone for at least 6 months, so as to allow adult populations to build up natural immunity and for young animals to be naturally eliminated. Italy reported one outbreak of CSF in domestic pigs in Sassari province, Sardinia region. The previous outbreak was reported in September 2001. In 2003, two outbreaks of CSF were reported in Slovakia in domestic pigs. The previous outbreak of CSF was reported in June 2001. The following countries that reported outbreaks of CSF in 2002, reported further outbreaks in 2003: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

In the Americas, Brazil reported three outbreaks of CSF in the State of Ceará in the north-eastern part of the country in 2003. In Cuba, 80 outbreaks were reported in the country in 2003.

In Asia, the Republic of Korea continued to report CSF outbreaks in 2003. In Peninsular Malaysia, two outbreaks of CSF were reported, in April and May 2003. The previous outbreak reported in this region was in August 1999.

In Africa, the presence of CSF was confined to Madagascar.

227. No major events relating to **Newcastle disease** were reported to the OIE in 2003 compared with 2002. Some countries reported the presence of the disease in pigeon backyard flocks or in migratory birds only.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

228. The first autochthonous case of **bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** in Canada was reported in May 2003 in an 8-year-old cow in the province of Alberta. The case was detected as part of Canada's ongoing BSE surveillance programme. Also, the United States of America reported its first BSE case, which was detected in a downer animal – an adult dairy cow – in December 2003. The cow was born on a dairy farm in Calmar, Alberta, Canada, in April 1997, and was imported into the United States of America in September 2001 (see the following table).

Details of BSE in countries that reported cases in 2003

Country	Number of BSE cases	Number of bovines aged over 24 months	Annual BSE incidence per million bovines aged over 24 months
Belgium	15	1,422,911	10.54
Canada	2*	5,900,000	0.33
Czech Republic	4	691,785	5.78
Denmark	2	834,500	2.39
France	137	11,400,000	12.01
Germany	54	6,199,000	8.71
Ireland	185	3,200,000	57.8
Italy	29	2,938,500	9.86
Japan	4	2,034,200	1.97
Netherlands	19	1,749,479	10.86
Poland	5	3,336,825	1.49
Portugal	133	969,422	137.19
Slovakia	2	296,311	6.74
Slovenia	1	227,576	4.39
Spain	167	3,606,112	46.31
Switzerland	21	844,659	24.86
United Kingdom	612	4,998,068	122.44

*: including the case identified in the United States of America

Animal Health Status in Member Countries
(Doc. 72 SG/14)

229. The most salient points of the supplementary information given verbally by the Delegates of Member Countries are summarised below:

Africa

230. The Delegate of **Botswana** confirmed that an outbreak of *foot and mouth disease* had occurred in 2003 and that it had been completely eradicated. He thanked the European Union and other Member Countries for their support for lifting the trade restrictions imposed following this outbreak of foot and mouth disease. He pointed out that small countries are capable of making efforts to control and eradicate diseases, but that the international community must recognise these efforts.
231. The Delegate of **Mali** thanked and congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation. He said that there were still outbreaks of List A diseases world-wide and that intensive efforts were needed to eradicate them. He added that there was hope of eradicating *rinderpest* world-wide, but that this was seriously threatened by the existence, in Africa, of a small area in the Somali ecosystem where outbreaks often occur. With respect to *contagious bovine pleuropneumonia*, the Delegate stated that the disease was limited to sub-Saharan Africa and that support was needed from the international scientific community and from donor agencies to eradicate the disease. Lastly, he said that contagious bovine pleuropneumonia was currently the primary concern of Africa's Veterinary Services.

232. The Delegate of **Chad** thanked the OIE for its support in eradicating *rinderpest* and also supported the Delegate of **Mali** in his plea to the OIE to step up efforts to control and eradicate *contagious bovine pleuropneumonia*. He added that regional workshops had been held to develop a joint strategy for controlling and eradicating the disease.
233. The Delegate of **Ethiopia** thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation and pointed out that the disease distribution maps showed that the number of outbreaks of diseases were diminishing and some, such as *rinderpest*, were localised in Somalia's ecosystem. He called for decisive measures to be taken and emergency funds to be mobilised to eradicate rinderpest definitively and to prevent it from recurring.
234. The Delegate of **Egypt** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation and his useful report. He said that an international organisation had reported the presence of *Rift Valley fever* in 2003, but had subsequently stated that the disease was not present and that the information had been incorrect. He also underlined the importance of transparency in animal disease notification.
235. The Delegate of **Morocco** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara and the Animal Health Information Department for the reliability of the information provided. He pointed out that the emergence of *foot and mouth disease* virus serotype SAT 2 in North Africa is a highly significant epidemiological event. He asked the OIE to provide more specific information on the origin and evolution of this serotype.
236. The Delegate of **Mauritania** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara and his team. He called on the OIE to improve the control and monitoring of zoonoses affecting public health, such as *Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever*, which exists in his country. He stated that the disease had not been properly monitored after the eradication of the cases had occurred. He thanked all the neighbouring countries that had supported Mauritania, as well as the OIE Regional Commission and the regional coordination unit of the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). He also thanked the OIE Scientific Commission for enabling Mauritania to recover its status as a country free from *rinderpest*.
237. The Delegate of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** confirmed outbreaks of *African swine fever* in 2003 in the provinces of Bandundu, Lower Congo and the two provinces of Kasai. In 2004, outbreaks were reported in Bandundu, Kinshasa and Western and Eastern Kasai.
238. The Delegate of **Uganda** asked for the information on *bluetongue* to be corrected. He stated that no outbreaks of the disease had occurred in 2003.
239. The Delegate of **Togo** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his clear presentation. He supported the position of the Delegate of Mali and emphasised the *African swine fever* situation. At the 2001 OIE General Session, it was stated that African swine fever was very important for the region, and he gave a few examples of countries where the disease had been eradicated, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. He added that other countries, such as Benin, Senegal and Togo, had notified new outbreaks of the disease in 2001. In 2002, Ghana reported an outbreak of African swine fever and, in 2003, for the first time ever, Burkina Faso reported an outbreak of African swine fever. He stressed that the region is under threat from the disease because it is the most vulnerable people who carry out swine production. Lastly, he appealed to donor agencies and the international community for an African swine fever control project to be presented.
240. The Delegate of **Zimbabwe** reported that a new species of *Trichinella*, named *Trichinella zimbabwensis*, had been discovered in crocodile production units. He stated that, to date, it was confined to Nile crocodiles and added that investigations, surveillance and follow-up activities were still in progress.

Americas

241. The Delegate of **Argentina** reported that, to date, no new outbreaks had occurred since the *foot and mouth disease* outbreak reported in September 2003, for which vaccination was used. He stated that vaccination against *classical swine fever* had been suspended and that a national and regional simulated emergency outbreak of avian influenza was being prepared to plan for a possible health emergency. Lastly, Argentina thanked the OIE for the fact that Argentina has been recognised as provisionally free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
242. The Delegate of **Canada** congratulated the Animal Health Information Department for its work and thanked the OIE Member Countries for notifying diseases in domestic and wild animals. He confirmed that 19 million birds in Canada had been destroyed as a result of the epizootic of *highly pathogenic avian influenza* in the Fraser Valley in the province of British Columbia (less than 5% of the commercially farmed poultry population). He said that approximately 40 production units and 10 backyard flocks had been confirmed positive, but that there had been no new cases for the previous 26 days. He thanked the countries that had undertaken to limit their import restrictions on a regionalised basis and added that less than 6% of premises in the control area had been found to be infected. With respect to *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*, he reported that the first indigenous case of the disease had been reported to the OIE International Committee at the General Session in 2003. The animal in question was born in the province of Saskatchewan prior to the introduction, in 1997, of the ban on feeding ruminants with feed of animal origin. He said that an exhaustive investigation had been carried out, which supported the determination of a small number of subclinical animals imported from Europe between 1982 and 1989, whose European farms of origin experienced cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy some time after the said animals had been exported. He added that some of the imported animals had entered the feed production system prior to the 1997 ban on ruminant feed of animal origin and prior to the removal, in 1993, of all the remaining imported animals. He stressed that Canada had made every effort to learn from the collective experience of all the countries that had detected cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and to act in a transparent and responsible manner to protect animal health, human health and food safety. Lastly, he said that Canada's consumers had supported these efforts, as not only had beef consumption not fallen, it had even grown since the case occurred. He also thanked the countries that had re-established imports of certain meat and meat products, in compliance with OIE standards. He added that all the Delegates could rest assured that Canada would comply with its commitment to vigilance in surveillance, and that it would implement the proper animal health, public health and food safety measures, at the domestic and international level.
243. The Delegate of **Cuba** said that the number of outbreaks of *classical swine fever* had fallen in 2003 compared previous years. He stated that Cuba had set itself the target of eradicating classical swine fever by 2007. Lastly he mentioned 67 outbreaks of *transmissible gastroenteritis* that had occurred in early 2003. By the end of the year, only four outbreaks remained, which demonstrated the efficacy of the control measures.
244. The Delegate of **Uruguay** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his clear presentation, which provided a comprehensive overview of the world disease situation. He thanked the OIE for having recognised Uruguay as a country provisionally free from *bovine spongiform encephalopathy*. He also said that the Standing Veterinary Committee (CVP: *Comité Veterinario Permanente*) of the Southern Cone countries of America had completed its annual activities by setting itself the objective of controlling and eradicating animal diseases and zoonoses and ensuring food safety.
245. A member of the **Venezuelan** delegation said that an epizootic of *foot and mouth disease* had been reported in late 2003, after a period of 13 months free from the disease. A total of 63 outbreaks were diagnosed in nine federal states. Fifty-five outbreaks were due to virus type A and the remaining eight were caused by virus type O. A full epidemiological study was carried out and all the appropriate health measures were taken. She added that the

eradication programme was reviewed to correct weaknesses in the strategies, revealed by the considerable geographical extent of the epizootic. She stated that Venezuela was working in coordination with Colombia, Brazil and Guyana, which all border Venezuela, and that the Ministry of Agriculture and Land was preparing a parliamentary bill on eradicating foot and mouth disease, together with a plan to modernise all levels of the Veterinary Services.

Asia, the Far East and Oceania

246. The Delegate of **Afghanistan** said that *foot and mouth disease* is a major problem in his country. He added that a report had been submitted on the status of foot and mouth disease and requested the assistance of the international community to help control and eradicate the disease in Afghanistan.
247. The Delegate of the **Philippines** said that a programme had been instigated to eradicate *classical swine fever* and that it hoped to eradicate the disease by 2010. He asked for an update on the disease status reports submitted to the OIE by the People's Republic of China.
248. The Delegate of **Laos** stated that, up to April 2004, 155,000 birds had been destroyed because of *highly pathogenic avian influenza*.
249. The Delegate of **Thailand** thanked Dr Ben Jebara and Dr Vallat for the help that the OIE had given countries affected by the epizootic of *highly pathogenic avian influenza* in Asia.

Europe

250. The Delegate of **Germany** provided further information on the status of *classical swine fever*. She stated that the last case in domestic pigs had been reported in January 2003 in a holding with five animals. She reported that 373 cases in wild boar had also been recorded in 2001, with a further 451 in 2002. She added that a wild boar vaccination programme had been instigated in 2003. In 2003, there were 37 cases, whereas, to date, only one case had been reported in 2004. She said that oral vaccination is an appropriate strategy for controlling classical swine fever in wild boar.
251. The Delegate of **Luxembourg** thanked Dr Ben Jebara and asked that a correction be made to his report, since only one outbreak of *classical swine fever* had occurred in Luxembourg, and not two as mentioned.
252. The Delegate of the **Netherlands** mentioned the outbreak of *highly pathogenic avian influenza* reported in May 2003, saying that the Netherlands was declared free in October 2003, in accordance with OIE regulations. He added that a surveillance and monitoring programme has been implemented in all poultry production units, including for low pathogenic strains. He pointed out the need for countries to refrain from taking trade measures before the avian influenza chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* is amended, especially with regard to low pathogenic strains.

Middle East

253. The Delegate of **Bahrain** congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on his clear and exhaustive presentation. He said that *rinderpest* had been eradicated from Bahrain in 1985 and that no new cases of *foot and mouth disease* had been reported in the past two years. He reported that Bahrain had been able to eradicate foot and mouth disease by using vaccination.
254. Dr Vallat provided information on fundamental aspects of international campaigns to eradicate animal diseases. He stressed that the OIE mandate calls for solidarity between Member Countries to pool their efforts to control and eradicate diseases. He cited the example of human smallpox, which had been eradicated world-wide. He said that the PACE (whose Steering Committee is chaired by the OIE), with European Union support, has boosted the efforts of 32 countries by reinforcing the work of the Veterinary Services and

the control of *rinderpest*, a disease that is still present in Somalia and in Kenya up to the border with Ethiopia. He stressed that more funding is needed for the complete eradication of rinderpest, saying that it is a duty of the international community as a whole. With respect to *contagious bovine pleuropneumonia*, he said that this disease is more difficult to control than rinderpest, as the vaccines are less effective. However, he stressed that eradication is possible and that there are a number of initiatives for this, including the ALive project, funded by the World Bank. These initiatives could also include *African swine fever*, for which there are still no effective vaccines, but experts are pessimistic that such vaccines will be developed in the near future. He added that these diseases are a threat to all countries, because they can spread to other continents. As an example, he cited African swine fever, which had affected Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the 1990s, and the case of countries such as Italy – where the disease still exists in the island of Sardinia – which found it very difficult to eradicate. Lastly, he said that it is necessary to invest in research and carry out simultaneous measures in the field, for which Member Countries must allocate, or otherwise obtain, the required funding. Regarding the situation in Afghanistan, Dr Vallat called for solidarity from Member Countries, especially those that are the most highly developed. In answer to a question from the Delegate of Morocco, he stated that the *foot and mouth disease* SAT 2 virus strain that had been detected in Libya bore some genetic similarity to strains previously isolated in outbreaks in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. He added that *Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever* will be covered by one of the Resolutions on emerging diseases and that the OIE recommends the inclusion of these diseases in its future list. Lastly, regarding the *avian influenza* crisis in Asia, Dr Vallat said that all the OIE staff had made every effort to provide timely information on affected countries, obtained from reliable official sources, and to mobilise assistance for those countries and provide them with all the necessary technical information. He said that, as a result of his latest visit to the People's Republic of China, at the invitation of the competent authorities, China had started sending more regular reports on its disease status. He said that a group from the OIE had visited several laboratories in China to assess the possibility of their joining the network of OIE Reference Laboratories. Another group had visited several laboratories that specialise in producing vaccines against avian influenza.

255. Dr Ben Jebara stated that the origin of *foot and mouth disease* due to virus type SAT 2 has not yet been fully elucidated and that might have originated either in the Horn of Africa or West Africa. He said that the map showing animal disease status world-wide is based on monthly and annual reports sent by the Delegates of Member Countries and that on numerous occasions there are inconsistencies between the two types of report. He said that the maps for countries that had submitted the annual questionnaire too late for inclusion had been prepared by compiling the monthly information, but that, for these countries, the annual questionnaire would be used for the publication *World Animal Health*. He added that some OIE Member Countries were being asked for information about cases of mildly pathogenic avian influenza, which, though not compulsory under OIE standards, is being done with the aim of informing the international community. He also mentioned that there is a page on the official OIE Web site where simulation exercises and contingency plans for specific diseases are published. He added that information on the simulation exercises is also distributed via the OIE distribution list. When countries develop simulation exercises or contingency plans for specific diseases, details can be published on the OIE Web pages. He ended by saying that the People's Republic of China now submits its disease status reports on a more regular basis and has already submitted its annual report for 2002.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE
in 2003 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide
in 2003 and the Beginning of 2004

256. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. I concerning the adoption by the Committee of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2003 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-Wide in 2003 and the Beginning of 2004. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. I at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXI
Date for the implementation of the OIE single list of animal diseases and
the new notification system

257. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. XXXI on the date for the implementation of the OIE single list of animal diseases and the new notification system. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. XXXI at the end of this report.
258. Information on the practical means of implementing the new system was also distributed to the Member Countries.

Activities of the Working Group

Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

259. Prof. Vincenzo E. Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, presented Dr Marc Artois, a member of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, which functions under the auspices of the Commission. He then invited him to present the report of the meeting of the Working Group, held under the chairmanship of Dr Roy Bengis, from 9 to 11 February 2004 (Doc. 72 SG/13/GT).
260. Many of the wildlife diseases of veterinary significance reported to the OIE in 2003 had already been reported before in the same species and in the same regions. Eight List A diseases (African swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, bluetongue, classical swine fever, foot and mouth disease, Newcastle disease, peste des petits ruminants, Rift Valley fever) and six List B diseases (anthrax, fowl cholera, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, rabies, tularemia) were reported, along with nine other non-notifiable diseases. Tuberculosis is probably the most worrying problem due to its epidemiological complexity and its tendency to increase both in extent and in the number of species affected.
261. The year 2003 was nevertheless marked by the emergence of several outbreaks of zoonotic diseases. These outbreaks all had an epidemiological characteristic in common, namely the proven or presumed involvement of wildlife. Some wildlife species are considered to act as the reservoir or vector, while others are affected in the same way as humans. These include the following:
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome: Dr François Moutou, OIE expert who took part in a mission to the People's Republic of China in April 2003, presented the latest information to the Group, which supported the hypothesis that a coronavirus found in some carnivores is closely related to the virus identified in humans.
 - Monkeypox: this virus, previously unknown in the Americas, was introduced by rodents imported from Africa, which then contaminated in a pet shop other American rodents intended for the pet trade. Several persons, notably children, were infected.

- West Nile fever continues to spread in the United States of America, where the disease was first recognised in 1999.
 - The Ebola virus once again took a heavy toll in Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in humans as well as in great apes.
262. Since the end of 2003, avian influenza must also be added to this list of zoonotic diseases causing epizootics with a proven or presumed involvement of wildlife. However, it has not been possible to show a direct link between the established presence of influenza type A virus in wild birds and the occurrence of epizootic outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in domestic poultry. The role of wild birds as a reservoir is highly complex and their role as a vector, particularly in the case of migratory birds, is purely hypothetical. The Group recommended that thorough epidemiological investigations be carried out so as to enable suitable preventive measures to be put in place. It was nevertheless recommended that direct contacts between domestic and wild birds be avoided as far as possible.
263. The Group studied in detail the risk of wildlife diseases crossing borders and measures to be taken to reduce the ecological and health consequences should this occur:
- Dr Bengis presented a report on health risks relating to the recent appearance of transboundary conservation area projects. These projects are indispensable for the creation of biologically sustainable reserves for numerous wildlife species; nevertheless, those promoting such projects must take the health risks into consideration and make provision for preventive measures.
 - Drs Ted Leighton and John Fischer submitted a report to the Group on emergency preparedness plans in response to an exotic disease occurring in wildlife. Various documents were reviewed. Following the presentation, the Group underlined the specific risk of such diseases being introduced as a result of a terrorist act. The Group expressed a desire to examine the surveillance procedures recommended by the OIE with the view to extending their application to include wildlife diseases. The Group also agreed to prepare a generic draft emergency preparedness plan.
264. Among the other main items on the agenda, the following merit a special mention:
- Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): it was recommended that the responsibility of the OIE regarding the distribution of GMOs in the wild in the form of baits be examined, that a detailed case study be prepared to carefully assess the risk of accidental or deliberate spread of GMOs, and that a study be made of specific international recommendations relating to the dissemination of such GMOs, when they are intended for use in wildlife.
 - Sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic tests for wildlife diseases: continuing its work in this field, the Group set itself the task of contacting the OIE Reference Laboratories with the aim of conducting a detailed study of the validity of diagnostic tests for 18 'listed' diseases.
 - Following International Committee approval for the OIE to nominate Collaborating Centres for wildlife diseases, the Working Group examined certain criteria that would enable the OIE to select the Centres. The Group felt that applications sent by Member Countries proposing candidate institutions for the status of OIE Collaborating Centre for wildlife disease should fulfil the following criteria:
 - to have at their disposal a wide range of expertise in investigation, surveillance and management of wildlife diseases, recognised nationally and internationally;

- to have the ability rapidly to mobilise competent experts, including those not belonging to the applicant institution;
 - to have the aptitude to establish links with academic institutions involved in the surveillance or management of wildlife diseases in countries other than the one in which the applicant institution is located, as well as in other continents, so as to ensure that the OIE will benefit from an effective network of expertise.
 - The construction of pages for the OIE Web site, dealing specifically with wildlife diseases and the activities of the Working Groups, continued with the help of the Central Bureau; a prototype is ready and the Group must now provide the necessary material for the pages.
265. Finally, the Group discussed the structure and distribution of the questionnaire aimed at evaluating the wildlife disease situation world-wide. While some clarifications were necessary, the questionnaire now seemed to be operational and no longer needed any major changes.
266. The OIE President congratulated the members of the Group for the excellent work carried out during the year and Dr Artois for his clear and eloquent presentation, and opened discussions on the report.
267. The Delegate of Iran congratulated Dr Artois for his excellent presentation, but expressed concern about inapparent or dormant rabies occurring in some wild carnivores in certain regions, as this type of rabies can spread to other parts of the world. Dr Artois replied that he was aware of this problem, but more work had to be done in this area. He invited the Delegate to submit his concerns in writing to the Group, which will be following the matter closely and will possibly submit a detailed report next year.
268. The Delegate of Argentina expressed concern about the spread of emerging diseases from domestic animals to wildlife sharing a common environment. He believed that while the disease is often fully investigated in domestic animals, the situation in wildlife remains unknown. Dr Artois stated that domestic animals can act as reservoirs of infection for wildlife and certain countries, such as Australia and Canada, have preparedness plans to investigate the spread of disease from domestic animals to wildlife. He added that investigations carried out in Europe three years ago during the FMD crisis revealed that the disease had not spread to wildlife. He stressed however, that such investigations require special laboratories equipped with facilities to carry out experiments with wild animals.
269. The Delegate of Australia stated that he was highly impressed by the work of the Group and mentioned that his country would support the OIE in the case study on the application of genetically modified organisms in the control of wildlife diseases.
270. The Delegate of the United Kingdom expressed appreciation for the work of the Group in the field of emerging zoonoses and biodiversity, and invited the Group to issue advice on the impact of newly developing leisure activities in relation to emerging diseases, as was mentioned in the presentation by Dr Lonnie King.
271. The Delegate of Canada suggested that efforts be made to try to link surveillance systems for diseases in humans, diseases in domestic animals and diseases in wild animals.

272. The Delegate of Togo enquired about the measures taken by the Chinese authorities against civets, which have been linked to the occurrence of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Dr Artois answered that a classical stamping-out policy was implemented with some success, but the problem has not been fully solved as the behaviour of the virus in humans and animals is not fully elucidated. He believed that partitioning exotic animals, especially at market places, remains an effective way of minimising spread of infection between wildlife and humans.
273. The Delegate of Swaziland commented on the creation of transfrontier parks in Southern Africa and expressed concern that these projects are oriented towards conservation and economic issues to the detriment of animal disease control. He stated that the official Veterinary Services of the countries involved are rarely consulted on these matters and this could lead to difficulties for OIE Delegates in fulfilling their obligations on disease reporting to the OIE. He also requested that, should a disease occur in those parks, the OIE not suspend the disease free status of all the countries involved with respect to that particular disease. The OIE Director General replied that the OIE was prepared to request governments of Member Countries to involve veterinarians far more in wildlife management.
274. The Delegate of Spain enquired how the scientific community would reconcile contingency plans for wildlife diseases with the preservation of endangered species. He stated that removal of animals from their natural habitats could have serious disease implications for other species and suggested that a good communication strategy be established with the public in order to minimise public protests. The OIE Director General stated that the issue of endangered species was a sensitive one as was demonstrated during the FMD crisis in Europe, when the effects of the eradication programme on endangered species were repeatedly raised. He reminded Delegates that in an attempt to preserve endangered species, the OIE International Committee has agreed that the zone concept be applied to zoos and other areas where endangered species are found, stressing that the concept also allows for vaccination as part of the control programme. He added that the concept of vaccination as an important tool in the prevention and control of infectious animal diseases was amply demonstrated during the recent international meeting organised by the OIE in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
275. The Delegate of Ghana requested information on the monkeypox infections detected in humans in the United States of America. Dr Artois explained that the transmission of the infection was complex, involving at least three different species. According to published information, the infection came from Gambian giant rats (*Cricetomys* sp.) imported from Africa. These rats are thought to have infected prairie dogs, which are in fact rodents kept as pets, and humans are thought to have contracted the infection from those animals.
276. The OIE Director General reminded Delegates that several issues raised in the course of the discussions have been taken into account in the Resolution that will be proposed on the presentation by Dr Lonnie King on emerging diseases. The OIE will indicate how the existing OIE Working Groups will include in their remits food safety issues and emerging zoonotic diseases originating from wildlife. He expressed his appreciation to Delegates who had followed the advice of the Central Bureau in nominating wildlife experts as Contact Persons to report diseases of wildlife to the OIE. It is understood that the focal point acts under the authority of the OIE Delegate. He also thanked Delegates/Contact Persons for filling in the annual questionnaire on wildlife diseases and urged them to work closely with the members of the Working Group designated for each region. He asked those Delegates who had not yet done so to send in their questionnaire.
277. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

278. Animal welfare

The Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, Dr D. Bayvel, presented to the Committee the outcomes of the Animal Welfare Conference and the animal welfare work programme for 2004-2005.

Included in this report is a summary of the conference outcomes and the work programme.

The Working Group had recommended that the OIE hold an international conference on animal welfare with the following objectives:

- To give visibility to OIE's work and to explain the OIE's strategy on animal welfare to the widest number of stakeholders, and to obtain their support
- To enhance OIE's leadership role in providing global animal welfare guidance and standards
- To examine the role of stakeholders in the framework of the OIE standards development process and the most effective way they may contribute
- To stimulate links with international organisations able to support OIE's work and to agree on how they can best contribute
- To consider the future role of OIE in animal welfare and its influence on Member Countries' decision-making worldwide
- To support the OIE in a science-based approach to the welfare of animals including the provision of international guidance and standards.

The Chairman considered that the conference had achieved all its objectives. Strong support for the OIE's international animal welfare leadership mission was provided by representatives of Member Countries, industry and farmers' organisations, non-governmental organisations and the scientific community, plus regulators and policy makers. Very importantly, the conference also provided the OIE with the opportunity to emphasize its commitment to consultation and communication.

Issues receiving particular emphasis, and support, included the following:

- The importance of science-based standards
- The importance of incremental change and a commitment to continuous improvement
- The importance of the animal handler / carer in ensuring the achievement of animal welfare objectives
- The need to clarify the legal significance of the World Trade Organisation Agreements, in relation to animal welfare and international trade
- The successful track record of the OIE Ad hoc Group model in providing expert international opinion on specific animal welfare topics

- The respective merits of voluntary as opposed to compulsory standards
- The respective merits of outcome-based as opposed to prescriptive (input-based) standards
- The need to take into account regional, religious and cultural issues
- The need to better coordinate animal welfare research internationally
- The need to promote the teaching of animal welfare and ethics at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level and as part of ongoing continuing professional development programmes
- The need to actively involve all OIE Member Countries in the implementation of the initiative and to ensure that effective communication and consultation with stakeholders takes place at a Member Country level
- The need to ensure that expectations of the OIE role are realistic in relation to resource availability.

279. The Delegate of Sweden supported the OIE's initiative in animal welfare and supported the decision to focus initially on animal transport and slaughter. He noted the hard work of the Ad hoc Groups and indicated that Sweden was always ready to help. He also noted the importance of transparency and the need to have a good dialogue with stakeholders, especially through the OIE Web site, which should incorporate information on meeting timetables.
280. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated the speaker on his excellent presentation and the OIE on the progress made to date on animal welfare. Regarding developing countries, he considered that the biggest challenge would be to harmonise cultural and religious practices with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and the WTO SPS Agreement. He would like the science-based standards to be aimed at trade facilitation and appreciated the efforts of the Working Group in this regard.
281. The Delegate of the United Kingdom congratulated the OIE on progress made to date. By concentrating on stakeholder involvement the OIE's animal welfare activities were transparent. She supported the OIE's leadership role, but sought reassurance that other existing conventions were being paid due regard. Dr Bayvel assured the Delegate that very careful note was being taken of such conventions through the help of the relevant experts participating as members of Ad hoc Groups.
282. The Delegate of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the EU Member States, welcomed the initiative of the OIE and believed that the development of guidelines provided a very clear indication of OIE's international leadership, following from the intent indicated at the Animal Welfare Conference.
283. The Delegate of Togo joined the other Delegates in congratulating the speaker and expressed his appreciation that the OIE was playing a leading role in animal welfare. He noted the priorities that had been decided, but considered that companion animal welfare was an important issue in some parts of the world. In some developing countries, associations have organised themselves to help these animals, and the Delegate believed that these associations would benefit from OIE assistance.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the 2003/2004 OIE Animal Welfare Working Group operational plan has already addressed, and progressed, a number of these issues. The conference discussions and recommendations provided valuable focus and direction to the 2004/2005 operational plan. This plan will continue the work of the existing four Ad hoc Groups and include the establishment of a fifth group to address aquatic animal welfare issues (production, transport and slaughter). The OIE's close liaison with the WVA, IATA and other relevant international organisations would continue. The members of the Working Group would continue to take opportunities to make presentations, and publish papers and articles on the OIE's work on animal welfare.

Dr Thiermann commended the significant progress achieved by the four Ad hoc Groups addressing the priority topics on animal welfare. He noted that their reports had been circulated for the information of Member Countries and for comment on the approaches taken, before each Ad hoc Group moves towards the drafting of more specific and detailed guidelines during the second half of 2004. Dr Thiermann urged Member Countries to examine these proposals and send their comments to the Director General by mid-June, for the guidance of the Ad hoc Groups. Dr Thiermann expected to have specific guidelines on these priority topics for adoption at the 73rd General Session.

Dr Thiermann presented to the Committee for adoption generic guiding principles on animal welfare which have been endorsed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare. The Delegates of South Africa and Uruguay (speaking on behalf of the Mercosur countries) supported adoption. The Delegates of Germany and Ireland requested that direct references to the ethical basis for the guidelines be reinstated; Dr Thiermann explained that the text now contained less explicit references, as a result of input from the Animal Welfare Working Group. The revised chapter, with a change to the text to reflect the above discussion, was adopted by the International Committee.

284. Dr Thiermann noted the significant amount of work under way, but believed that the OIE needed to make careful progress through the adoption this year of guiding principles that could apply to all countries. More specific standards would be proposed for adoption next year.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI Animal Welfare

285. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. XXVI for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVI at the end of this report.

286. **Section 2.9.: Diseases of bees**

An OIE Ad hoc Group met in July 2003 to address comments from Member Countries in revising the chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* on the diseases of bees. The Code Commission examined the report of that meeting and noted that the Ad hoc Group was continuing its work out of session. In this examination, the Code Commission kept in mind the concerns expressed that any revised or new chapters take into account the fact that few Member Countries were free of these diseases and do not unnecessarily restrict trade in bees and bee products.

The Code Commission examined the proposals of the Ad hoc Group for some chapters on bee diseases and an appendix on control programmes. It made some modifications to the chapters (principally the removal of articles describing control programmes as it felt that these needed better integration with the rest of the chapters). Dr Thiermann presented the revised chapters to the Committee on acarapisosis of honey bees (previously called 'acariosis of bees') (Chapter 2.9.1.), American foulbrood of honey bees (Chapter 2.9.2.), European foulbrood of honey bees (Chapter 2.9.3.), and varroosis of honey bees (Chapter 2.9.5.). Dr Thiermann also presented to the Committee a new chapter on *Tropilaelaps* mite infestation of honey bees.

The Code Commission proposed that the chapter on nosemosis of bees (Chapter 2.9.4.) be deleted.

The Delegate of Chile supported adoption of the revised chapters. The Delegate of Australia supported adoption but had concerns with the manner in which feral bee populations had been addressed. The Delegate of New Zealand supported Australia. The Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States) considered that certain issues needed to be better addressed – compartmentalisation and feral bees. The Delegate of Uruguay (speaking on behalf of the Mercosur countries) supported adoption, with further improvements to be made; the Delegate of Russia supported this position.

The revised chapters, with references to compartmentalisation and feral bee populations placed under study, were adopted by the International Committee. The proposal to delete the chapter on nosemosis was adopted. Chapter 2.9.5. was adopted, subject to the reference to haplotypes being placed under study, following a request from the Delegates of Korea and Japan.

287. Dr Thiermann also discussed the following issues:

288. **Chapter 2.1.14.: Avian influenza**

Following the discussions held during the 71st General Session on a significantly revised chapter on avian influenza, the Code Commission had addressed the need to improve transparency of notification of avian influenza while minimising unjustified trade restrictions arising from notification of strains of low pathogenicity.

The Code Commission referred significant issues to an Ad hoc Group and considered the outcomes of its meeting in further revising the chapter. *Inter alia*, it proposed revised categories of country/zone/compartiment status for notifiable avian influenza, measures to better differentiate the risks associated with the different commodities traded, and encouraged surveillance and notification for both low pathogenic and highly pathogenic strains to maximise transparency and minimise unjustified trade restrictions.

Dr Thiermann noted that the revised chapter had been submitted for Member Country comment and indicated that the Code Commission was seeking further advice from the Committee on how to advance this very critical chapter.

The Director General noted the importance of the OIE making some progress on this chapter due to concerns over the zoonosis risks and the large outbreaks in Asia and other parts of the world. The Delegate of Ireland (speaking on behalf of the EU Member States) welcomed the further development of the chapter but recognised that further work was needed on compartmentalisation and the recommendations for trade, and that the proposals for surveillance needed to be improved. Speaking in support of the intervention of the Delegate of Ireland, the Delegate of France applauded the efforts of the Code Commission but considered that many points remained to be resolved. She indicated that

France would contribute to the further development of the chapter in line with the overall goals of the OIE. The Delegate of the USA supported the Delegate of Ireland and indicated that the USA would soon have a paper on avian influenza which would be useful for the further development of the chapter. The Delegate of Morocco believed that further clarification of several issues was required, notably the concept of compartmentalisation. The Delegate of Chile appreciated the OIE's efforts. However he felt that some important aspects had not been well enough addressed (including compartmentalisation and vaccination) and stated that he was willing to help improve the chapter. The Delegates of Korea, Singapore and Japan supported the previous speakers regarding the draft chapter.

The Director General recognised that improvements were necessary but the OIE needed to show that it was progressing this important work. He suggested that parts of the chapter could be placed under study, pending further work, and this was cautiously supported by Delegates.

The Delegate of Mauritania was concerned that any delay in adopting the revised chapter could expose importing countries to risks from imported products.

The revised chapter, to be placed after the existing *Code* text and designated in its entirety as 'under study', was adopted by the International Committee.

The Delegate of Japan, considering the zoonotic potential of avian influenza and BSE, recommended that experts from the WHO be included in OIE Ad hoc Group discussions. The Director General replied that the WHO was already often associated with the work of the OIE.

≡ THURSDAY 27 MAY 2004 ≡

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

289. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 17 to 19 September 2003 and from 28 to 30 January 2004, were presented by Prof. Steven Edwards, President of the Commission (Docs 72 SG/12/CS2 A and B). Prof. Edwards noted that an increasing amount of business is also transacted in between meetings by exchanges of e-mail. The Members of the Commission would like to express their appreciation of the support provided by Dr Vallat and the team at the OIE headquarters, especially the staff of the Scientific and Technical Department. The Commission also benefits from specialist inputs from experts in the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and in particular those colleagues with expertise in laboratory diagnostics who participate at the meetings on a regular basis. Prof. Edwards addressed a special word of thanks to the Consultant Editor, Dr James Pearson, without whose efforts the production of the new *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*) on schedule would have been almost impossible. Finally Prof. Edwards thanked the former President of the Commission, Dr Marian Trusczynski.

290. OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres play a pivotal role in the international network of scientific expertise that supports the objectives of the OIE. The Commission is aware that there are some imbalances in the global distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories. Although they do not have a regional designation as such, it is clear that

individual laboratories are well placed to provide services within their region. The Commission is keen to identify laboratories within developing countries that can fulfil this role, and to strengthen their operations by encouraging twinning of such laboratories with those in developed countries. At present, the OIE does not provide funding support to its Reference Laboratories, and the Commission once again urges international financing organisations and Delegates to assign an appropriate level of resources to national laboratories to ensure that these important activities can continue.

291. The Commission agreed to support the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre for New and Emerging Diseases at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong. The Commission had also received an application for the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre for Training of Official Veterinarians at the Ecole nationale des services vétérinaires, Marcy-l'Etoile, France. Following consultation with the Code Commission, the Biological Standards Commission recommended its approval.
292. 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 new activities will be incorporated into the remit of the existing Collaborating Centre. The Commission accepted this proposal.
293. The Commission reviewed several applications for OIE Reference Laboratory Status in light of the OIE Guidelines and recommended that the following be adopted: for the application of PCR methods for diagnosis of viral diseases in veterinary medicine, National Veterinary Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, designated expert: Prof. Sándor Belak; for brucellosis, SENASA²⁷ and INTA²⁸, Buenos Aires, Argentina, designated expert: Dr Ana María Nicola (this is a joint designation – the designated expert will send a joint annual report to the OIE covering activities at the SENASA and INTA laboratories); for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, CIRAD-EMVT²⁹, Montpellier, France, designated expert: Dr François Thiaucourt (this will be a joint designation linked to the existing OIE Reference Laboratory at AFSSA Lyon); for control of veterinary medicinal products in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ecole Inter-Etats de Science et Médecine Vétérinaire, Dakar, Senegal, designated expert: Dr François Abiola; for Hendra and Nipah virus diseases, CSIRO³⁰, AAHL, Geelong, Victoria, Australia, designated expert: Dr Peter Daniels; for highly pathogenic avian influenza, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Supporo, Japan, designated expert: Dr Hiroshi Kida; and for trypanosomosis, CIRAD-EMVT, Montpellier, France designated expert: Dr Marc Desquesnes.
294. Following notification, the Commission accepted several nominations for replacement Reference Experts at OIE Reference Laboratories. For mammals, birds and bees, there are currently 127 Reference Laboratories covering 55 diseases/groups of diseases or topics, and 15 Collaborating Centres (after approval of the Centres proposed this year).
295. Reference Laboratory status is granted for a 4-year period. Where there is no evidence of significant international activity as a Reference Laboratory, the Commission may recommend the termination of the designation. In some cases the laboratory itself may withdraw from the designation. In 2004, one Reference Laboratory (for Aujeszky's disease, at the Central Veterinary Institute, Hungary) was removed from the list for lack of activities, and another (for brucellosis, at the Federal Institute of Consumers Health Protection and Veterinary Medicine in Germany) withdrew.
296. Reports were received from 121 of the 123 Reference Laboratories and from 11

27 SENASA: Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria

28 INTA: Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria

29 CIRAD-EMVT: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement - Département d'élevage et de médecine vétérinaire

30 CSIRO: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial animals. The full set of reports will be supplied to Member Countries and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Commission stressed the huge importance of the international activities of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

297. International standardisation of diagnostic tests and vaccines

a) Standardisation of diagnostic tests

The Commission considers the work on standardisation of diagnostic tests to be a high priority. It will lead to greater confidence between Member Countries in accepting results of laboratory tests. This will facilitate international trade, veterinary disease surveillance and the processes involved in recognition of countries or zones as having a particular disease status. Standardisation can only be achieved with the active participation of the OIE Reference Laboratories. The work is not straightforward. It involves considerable resource costs in preparation of antisera, antigens and other reagents. There are logistic problems to overcome both in running the projects on an international basis with no central funding, and in dealing with issues such as restrictions on shipment or importation of biological materials, and archiving the materials in a stable formulation. Once a standard has been agreed and recommended for adoption by the Commission, there is an ongoing commitment to maintain and control the quality of the materials, and to meet the shipping costs.

The process of standardisation has two main aspects:

- The adoption of a validated reference method for the test. This will normally be a method described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.
- The preparation and validation of standard reference reagents (usually antisera) that have a known performance in the reference method and can be used to evaluate other methods. Reagents are available so far for the following diseases: foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, bluetongue, African horse sickness, classical swine fever, Aujeszky's disease, rabies, brucellosis, enzootic bovine leukosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis, equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza, equine viral arteritis. A number of other projects are in progress and have been mentioned in the individual meeting reports of the Commission. In some cases (e.g. FMD, brucellosis) additional work is in progress to extend the range of reagents to other serotypes of the agent or other host species. Work has started on reference reagents for avian influenza. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy presents particular challenges because of the nature of the agent, and the Commission is considering, with the OIE Reference Laboratories, how best to standardise tests for this disease.

b) Standardisation of vaccines

The Commission received a detailed report and recommendations of the Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza. The Panel reported that outbreaks of equine influenza had occurred world-wide associated with H3N8 viruses only. Nevertheless, the Panel recommended that diagnostic laboratories should continue to monitor for H7N7 as well as H3N8. The Expert Panel recommended that vaccines be updated to contain the following:

- an A/equine/South Africa/4/03 (H3N8)-like virus (American lineage)

- an A/equine/Newmarket/2/93 (H3N8)-like virus (European lineage)

(A/eq/Suffolk/89 and A/eq/Borlänge/91, currently used vaccine strains, continue to be acceptable.)

298. **List of prescribed and alternative tests**

a) Competitive ELISA³¹ for CBPP diagnosis

The Commission received a report entitled Final Research Co-ordination Meeting for the FAO/IAEA Co-ordinated Research Programme on the “Monitoring of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia in Africa Using Enzyme Immunoassays”. In light of this report and of a validation dossier received in 1999 that the Commission had reviewed previously, the Commission recommends that the competitive ELISA be adopted as a prescribed test for international trade. If adopted by the International Committee, the marking ‘prescribed test for international trade’ will be added to the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Code Commission will be requested to modify certain Articles in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* in line with this change.

b) Competitive ELISA for equine piroplasmosis

The Commission reviewed the validation dossier on the competitive ELISA for equine piroplasmosis and recommended that it be adopted as a prescribed test for international trade and that the complement fixation test, the current prescribed test, be moved to the list of alternative tests. The proposed protocol was sent to Member Countries with the report of the meeting of the Biological Standards Commission in September 2003. This text has been included in the draft chapter for the fifth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*. If adopted by the International Committee, the marking ‘prescribed test for international trade’ will be added to the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

c) ELISA for caprine arthritis/encephalitis and maedi-visna (CAE/MV)

Following advice from the OIE Reference Laboratories for CAE/MV, and a review of the validation data, the Commission proposes to designate the ELISA as a prescribed test for trade for CAE/MV. The proposed protocol for the ELISA was circulated to Member Countries with the Report of the meeting of the Biological Standards Commission in January 2004. The text has been included in the fifth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*. If adopted by the International Committee, the marking ‘prescribed test for international trade’ will be added to the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

d) FPA³² for determination of antibody to smooth *Brucella* spp.

In 1998, the Commission designated the FPA for detection of bovine serum antibody to *Brucella abortus* as an alternative test for bovine brucellosis because at that time the equipment and reagents necessary to perform the test were not widely available, even though the validation data would support its designation as a prescribed test. Given that since 1998 the test has become widely available, the Commission proposes that it now be designated as a prescribed test for bovine brucellosis.

31 ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

32 FPA: Fluorescence polarisation assay

A new validation dossier is currently under consideration for the possible designation of the FPA as a prescribed test for antibody to smooth *Brucella* spp. in sheep and goats.

299. Other diagnostic tests

a) Nonstructural protein tests for foot and mouth disease diagnosis

The Ad hoc Group on nonstructural protein (NSP) tests for FMD diagnosis met in September 2003. The report was appended to the Commission's report for January 2004 and circulated to Member Countries. The Group agreed that the indirect ELISA (I-ELISA) from the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, PAHO/WHO (PANAFTOSA³³) should be adopted as a fully validated index test to be used for comparison purposes for other NSP tests for FMD diagnosis. The I-ELISA, used as a screening test, along with the EITB³⁴ western blot technique as a confirmatory assay, is described in the FMD chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*. NSP tests are of particular value to determine whether wild-type virus is circulating in a vaccinated population. Their diagnostic sensitivity is not sufficiently high for use in certification of individual animals for international trade purposes. The Commission asked the Ad hoc Group to continue its work on developing reference standard sera for pigs and sheep, and to gather validation data on the NSP tests in these species. The need for further research on carrier states in relation to vaccination was also noted.

b) Indirect ELISA for rinderpest diagnosis

The Commission received additional supporting documentation relative to the analytical and diagnostic performance characteristics of the I-ELISA for the detection of bovine antibody to rinderpest virus. This assay uses a recombinant N protein as antigen. A report was also received from the Joint FAO/IAEA³⁵ Division of the IAEA in which the diagnostic performance characteristics of several ELISAs were independently compared in defined groups of reference animals in Africa.

It was noted from the combined data sets that all ELISAs were capable of detecting bovine antibodies to rinderpest virus lineages I and II, as well as the tissue culture vaccine virus. However, it was noted that the efficiency of detection did vary between tests and affected diagnostic sensitivity estimates. The I-ELISA consistently demonstrated a high level of diagnostic sensitivity in these studies.

Cross-reactivity with peste des petits ruminants (PPR) virus was a potential issue for these ELISAs, irrespective of whether the assay targeted antibodies to the N or H antigens of the virus. The extent of cross-reactivity was very much dependent on the diagnostic thresholds chosen. For the I-ELISA, the immunological specificity of the conjugate also had a considerable affect on the cross-reactivity detected. The broader the range of antibody isotypes detected, the more negative the influence on the diagnostic specificity of this assay. Estimates of diagnostic specificity for the I-ELISA using a broad specificity conjugate were shown to vary greatly depending on the population under test.

33 PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

34 EITB: Enzyme-linked immuno-electrotransfer blot

35 IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

The Commission concluded that the I-ELISA could be used as a high sensitivity screening test, and it will therefore be referred to in the *Terrestrial Manual*. However, false-positive rates will vary depending on the population under test. A test of high diagnostic specificity is recommended to confirm the status of animals that react positively in the I-ELISA.

300. ***OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (mammals, birds and bees)***

The finalisation of the texts for the fifth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* has been a major activity for the Commission. All chapters have been distributed to Member Countries, comments have been noted and incorporated where appropriate into the chapters. The Commission is very pleased to present the fifth edition to Delegates with the request that OIE Delegates encourage its use by the national veterinary diagnostic laboratories. French and Spanish translations will follow shortly. As well as the printed version, a Web-based version will be made available on the OIE Web site.

It is the intention of the Commission that, following approval of changes by the International Committee, the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* will be updated on an annual basis. The current version of the *Terrestrial Manual* should therefore be taken to be the Web version, except for a brief period following publication when the printed and electronic versions will be fully aligned. New printed editions will continue to be produced on a four-yearly cycle, or as directed by the Committee.

301. **Validation and certification of diagnostic assays**

The Commission discussed the report of the Second OIE/FAO/IAEA Consultants meeting on 'OIE Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays for Infectious Animal Diseases' held in Vienna, Austria, from 9 to 12 December 2003. The report was appended to the Commission's report for January 2004 and circulated to all Member Countries. There will be resource implications for the OIE in carrying forward this work, and the Biological Standards Commission will need to be advised by the Central Bureau on procedural aspects of developing the register.

Guidelines to accompany the validation template and an internal standard operating procedure will be developed by the Commission. It was recommended that some pilot evaluations should be carried out for a limited range of tests to assess the practicability of the scheme and its timeline.

The Commission also asked the OIE Collaborating Centre for ELISA and Molecular Techniques in Animal Disease Diagnosis, IAEA, Vienna, Austria, to carry out a study on methods of serum inactivation with a view to the preparation of panels of reference sera for evaluation of diagnostic tests.

302. **Liaison with other Commissions and Groups**

a) Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Commission reviewed the report of the meeting of the OIE Expert Group on 'Atypical' Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy cases and stressed the need for further research on 'atypical' BSE cases. In particular there is a need for clarification of the most appropriate procedures to be used to identify agent 'strain' characteristics. This issue is also relevant to scrapie 'strains'.

b) Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Commission met with Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Code Commission, to discuss possible changes to certain articles in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and rabies. These changes are to ensure that the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual* remain in alignment.

c) Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Commission drew the attention of the Aquatic Animals Commission to the implications of the United Nations (UN³⁶) regulations on packing and shipment of infectious materials (see below).

303. Miscellaneous items

a) Regulations governing packing and posting of infectious material

Concern was expressed at the lack of consultation with OIE over revisions to the UN list of infectious substances that are prohibited from being shipped as UN 3373 (Diagnostic specimens). Dr James Pearson has worked with the Commission to prepare a document for submission to the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG) detailing the OIE request to amend the UN list. The document will be considered by the UNSCETDG in July 2004. The OIE will also request observer status at these meetings. The chapter on sampling methods has been updated in the fifth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* to reflect the current regulations governing transport of specimens to laboratories. These regulations will change in between editions of the *Terrestrial Manual* and readers are advised to consult the Web site for the most recent version.

b) Mission to the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, Ames, Iowa, United States of America

Dr Alejandro Schudel, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, and Prof. Steven Edwards reported on their mission to the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, Ames, Iowa, United States of America. They also visited the Directors and the Experts in the OIE Reference Laboratories located in the National Veterinary Services Laboratories and the National Animal Diseases Center in Ames. They were assisted by Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr James Pearson, Consultant Editor of the *Terrestrial Manual*. Dr Schudel and Prof. Edwards were greatly encouraged by the attitude of the staff at the Collaborating Centre and the Reference Laboratories, the very strong profile of the OIE in this important complex of veterinary institutes, and the support offered to OIE Member Countries.

c) Conferences

The Commission continues to participate actively in the planning and organisation of scientific conferences. These include:

- Joint OIE/WAVLD³⁷ Biotechnology Symposium in Thailand, November 2003;

36 UN: United Nations

37 WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

- European Conference on Rabies, in Kiev, Ukraine, in December 2004, co-sponsored by the OIE, WHO, the European Union and AFSSA;
- Marker Vaccines and Diagnostics, to be held in April 2005 in Ames, Iowa, USA, in conjunction with the OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas;
- New Diagnostic Technologies in Animal Health and Biologics Control, October 2005, St Malo, France, in conjunction with AFSSA and IABs.

d) Joint WHO/FAO/OIE Expert Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance

The Biological Standards Commission reviewed the outcome of the first Joint WHO/FAO/OIE Expert Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 5 December 2003. The Commission had agreed on the choice of experts proposed by the OIE to participate in the second Workshop, which was held in Oslo, Norway, from 15 to 18 March 2004. The outcome of the Oslo Workshop will assist the OIE Ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance to proceed further in this important area.

e) Training course on diagnosis of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

The OIE Reference Laboratory for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies at the Veterinary Laboratory Agencies (VLA) Weybridge, United Kingdom, had run a successful training course for OIE Member Countries in November 2003, on diagnostic methods. The OIE facilitated the nomination of participants. The Commission suggests that the OIE consider the possibility of contributing to the financing of participants from developing countries to enable them to attend future courses, as the costs of travel are a real barrier to some Member Countries.

f) WAVLD proposal to establish a Diagnostic Laboratory Assessment and Evaluation Committee

The Commission supports a proposal from the WAVLD to establish a Diagnostic Laboratory Assessment and Evaluation Committee. The assessment and evaluation of laboratories should be against the full OIE *Standard for Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Conducting Tests for Infectious Animal Diseases* and not against any subset of requirements. The Commission encourages the OIE to pursue this activity, notably by publishing the initial results, as it will significantly improve veterinary diagnostic laboratories world-wide.

g) International Veterinary Biosafety Advisory Group

The Commission agreed in principle to a proposal received from the International Veterinary Biosafety Advisory Group to prepare a manual on veterinary biosecurity. Recognising there is a real need to establish standards for veterinary laboratory biosecurity, the Commission proposes that the OIE Director General convene an Ad hoc Group of experts to address this issue and assist with drafting the manual. The draft manual should be submitted for scrutiny by the Biological Standards Commission before adoption.

h) Veterinary International Cooperation on Harmonisation

The Commission endorsed the leading OIE participation in VICH³⁸ and acknowledged the work done by the OIE Representative, Dr Patrick Dehaumont, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Medicinal Products in Fougères, France. The Commission will keep the Delegates informed on the progress made on the international harmonisation of regulatory requirements for veterinary biologicals.

304. The OIE President thanked Prof. Edwards for the substantial and lively presentation and opened discussions on the report.
305. The Delegate of Zimbabwe explained that it is very difficult for developing countries to abide by the unreasonably high standards imposed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regarding shipment of pathological specimens, especially those requirements concerning packaging materials. As it is difficult for developing countries to obtain these materials, these requirements can prevent access of developing countries to the expertise of the Reference Laboratories and thus seriously impede diagnosis of diseases. Prof. Edwards stated that the OIE recognises those difficulties and explained that these standards were made by the WHO and the OIE was not consulted at a sufficiently early stage. The OIE has already initiated steps to engage in a dialogue with IATA to address the issue of the shipment of tissues of animal origin. He also stated that the transport of diagnostic specimens poses a lower risk than that of live culture materials.
306. A member of the Indian delegation congratulated Prof. Edwards and his team for the excellent work carried out during the year, but expressed serious reservations about the approval of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) at Geelong, Australia, as an OIE Collaborating Centre for New and Emerging Diseases because of the unwillingness of Australia to accept samples for FMD testing. Prof. Edwards replied that Australia has provided assurances that a risk assessment would be carried out and if the outcome is favourable, the Centre would accept samples for FMD analysis. A member of the Australian delegation added that it is standard practice in Australia to carry out a risk assessment before accepting pathological materials. She also mentioned that Australia would be developing strategic alliances with other laboratories for the testing of pathological specimens.
307. The Delegate of Taipei China felt that insufficient guidance is provided by the OIE regarding standards for the production of FMD vaccines, especially in relation to the application of NSP tests. He also wanted to be informed of the best NSP tests available. Prof. Edwards agreed that standards regarding FMD vaccine production need to be enhanced, but details regarding the production of an antigen that can be used in NSP tests have been described in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*. He indicated that more advice could be obtained directly from OIE Reference Laboratories for FMD.
308. The OIE Director General confirmed that the WAVLD has created a committee for the evaluation of diagnostic Laboratories against the OIE Quality Standard. The results of these evaluations will be published by the OIE at the request of Member Countries. He also announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the WAVLD will be held in Uruguay and that the OIE will facilitate the participation of directors and experts of OIE Reference Laboratories in developing countries.
309. The OIE Director General provided assurances that the OIE will implement the recommendation of the International Committee to create a registry of validated diagnostic assays.

38 VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

310. The OIE Director General explained the background to Draft Resolution XXVIII, which presents a proposed change relating to the mandate of OIE Reference Laboratories, notably asking Reference Laboratories to inform the OIE of positive results for diseases that are reportable to the OIE. The OIE would only publish those results after consultation with the Delegate of the country concerned. The Delegate of Singapore suggested an amendment to take into account the source of the samples, as these may be collected and sent by a country from which the animals do not originate. The Delegate of the United Kingdom proposed that the OIE publish the results only after agreement (not only consultation) with the Delegate of the country concerned. The Delegate of Ireland suggested replacing the words “positive results” by “confirmed results”. The Delegate of Syria proposed that it be made clear in Appendix 1 of the Draft Resolution that Reference Laboratories should distribute biological reference materials and reagents to national laboratories.
311. The Committee noted the reports of the Laboratories Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII
Proposed Change to the Mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories

312. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVIII on the Proposed Change to the Mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories with modifications. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX
Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities

313. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXIX on Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities.
314. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXIX with the modification proposed by the Delegate of South Africa. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIX at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXX
Animal identification and traceability

315. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXX on Animal identification and traceability.
316. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution. The text appears under Resolution No. XXX at the end of this report.

NINTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs 72 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

317. Dr Daouda Bangoura (Guinea), Secretary General of the Commission, presented on the behalf of the President of the Commission the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2004 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 72 SG/11B AF).
318. The Committee noted the report (with three modifications).

Regional Commission for the Americas

319. Dr Peter Fernandez (United States of America), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2004 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 72 SG/11B AM).
320. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

321. Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, gave a report on the 23rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Noumea (New Caledonia) from 25 to 28 November 2003.
322. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2004 in the Salons Hoche, near the OIE headquarters (Doc. 72 SG/11B AS).
323. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Noumea.

Regional Commission for Europe

324. Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May 2004 at the OIE headquarters (Doc. 72 SG/11B EU).
325. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

326. Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt), President of the Commission, gave a report on the 7th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Istanbul (Turkey) from 23 to 26 September 2003.
327. He also presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 25 May at the OIE headquarters (Doc. 72 SG/11B ME).
328. The Director General reminded the Presidents of the Regional Commissions that the Regional Conferences deal with two technical items but a short technical communication can also be included.
329. The President of the Regional Commission will communicate the final choice of technical items (and a technical communication) for the next Regional Conference in due course.
330. The Committee noted the report and endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Istanbul.

Dates of the 73rd General Session (May 2005)

331. The Committee decided that the 73rd General Session of the OIE International Committee would be held from Sunday 22 May to Friday 27 May 2005.

Technical Items for the 73rd General Session (May 2005)

332. The Committee confirmed the following Technical Items already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission:
- Implementation of OIE standards in the framework of the SPS Agreement.
 - The implications of genetic engineering for livestock and biotechnology products.

Technical Items for the 74th General Session (May 2006)

333. The Committee selected the following Technical Item from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the agenda:
- Future approaches needed to ensure that veterinary education, including epidemiology, risk analysis, standards and communication, meets societal demands.
334. Further to a decision of the Administrative Commission on 21 May 2004, the second Technical Item will be determined by the Administrative Commission at its next meeting so as to take into account developments in the field of animal health and welfare.

≡ FRIDAY 28 MAY 2004 ≡

TENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII Amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

335. The President proposed for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXVII.
336. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVII. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVII at the end of this report.
337. The Committee noted the report of the Code Commission.

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Reserved on Delegates

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Reserved on Delegates

ELEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

401. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
402. At the invitation of the President, the Delegates examined the contents of the Draft Final Report, and the modifications that some of the Delegates suggested to various paragraphs were duly noted. At the end of this review, the President declared that the draft Final Report had been adopted, stating that the Delegates had until **15 June 2004** to submit in writing any rectifications to the report (no amendments being permitted to the adopted Resolutions). Beyond this date, the report would be considered to be adopted in its final form. He drew the attention of the participants to the document that had just been distributed containing all the Resolutions that had been adopted during the 72nd General Session.

Closing Session

403. The Delegate of France complained about the “expulsion” of her representative during the administrative sessions. During the plenary session she read out a note relating to requests for an explanation of how the level of the OIE budget was calculated. The Director General explained that the official sent by the Delegate of France, for that morning’s Administrative Session, had arrived without a badge and that, in accordance with the procedure in force, had been stopped by the security staff. He had not awaited the response of the Director General and had left the OIE Headquarters before he could be informed of the agreement authorising his participation. On the subject of the requests for information on the OIE budget, the Director General stated that an explanatory note would be sent to the Delegate of France as soon as possible, the budget having been adopted unanimously apart from one abstention that morning.
404. The President informed the Committee of the death of Dr Roger William Gee, who had been President of the OIE from 1982 to 1985.
405. The President asked the Committee to observe a minute’s silence in his honour and in memory of all those who had died during the recent flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
406. The Delegate of Japan pointed out that it was important to ensure that decisions are based on scientific evidence and that particular attention should be given to risk communication. The Director General stated that these remarks would be brought to the attention of the Specialist Commissions.
407. The Delegate of Ukraine warmly applauded the President, the Director General and the Central Bureau for the quality of organisation of the 72nd General Session. He requested that the draft Final Report and the adopted Resolutions be made available in Russian. The Director General pointed out that, to the best of his knowledge, the OIE is only intergovernmental organisation in the world to deliver, for adoption, a draft verbatim Final Report in three languages (English, French, Spanish) at the end of the Session. The production of these documents in other languages would incur additional costs and require an increase in the amount of contributions. The President asked the Committee to give him a mandate to submit the request to the Administrative Commission. The Committee agreed unanimously.
408. The President thanked the Delegates and other participants for the quality of the debates. He expressed his congratulations to the Director General, the staff of the Central Bureau, the translators and the security staff for the outstanding organisation of the General Session. He also thanked the interpreters and ended his address by declaring the 72nd General Session closed.
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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

**adopted by the International Committee of the OIE
during its 72nd General Session
23 – 28 May 2004**

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

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|-----------|---|
| No. I | Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2003 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2003 and the Beginning of 2004 |
| No. II | Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2003 |
| No. III | Approval of the Financial Report for the 77th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2003) |
| No. IV | Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2005) |
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| No. XV | Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Meat Secretariat |
| No. XVI | Extension of the agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and CABInternational on sharing of resources in the Animal Health and Production Compendium |
| No. XVII | Creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund |
| No. XVIII | Adoption of the seventh edition of the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i> |
| No. XIX | Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i> |
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No. XXI	Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries
No. XXII	Recognition of Member Countries Free from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease
No. XXIII	Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
No. XXIV	Restoration of Disease Status of Member Countries for Rinderpest, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
No. XXV	Animal Production Food Safety
No. XXVI	Animal Welfare
No. XXVII	Amendments to the <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
No. XXVIII	Proposed Change to the Mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories
No. XXIX	Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities
No. XXX	Animal identification and traceability
No. XXXI	Date for the implementation of the OIE single list of animal diseases and the new notification system

RESOLUTION No. I

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2003
and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2003 and the Beginning of 2004**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2003 (72 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2003 and the beginning of 2004 (72 SG/2).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 26 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. II

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities
and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2003**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE during the 77th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2003) (72 SG/3).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. III

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 77th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2003)**

In application of Article 15 of the Internal Statutes and Article 6 of the Organic Rules of the OIE,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

to approve the Financial Report for the 77th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2003) (72 SG/4).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. IV

**Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 79th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2005)**

Reserved on Delegates

RESOLUTION No. V

Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2005

Reserved on Delegates

RESOLUTION No. VI

**Authorisation to transfer part of the surplus of the 77th Financial Year
of the OIE to 2004 budget**

Reserved on Delegates

RESOLUTION No. VII

Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To appoint the Honourable Ms Marie-Pierre Cordier for a one year period (2004) as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. VIII

**Acknowledgements to the Governments and Regional Organisations of Member Countries
that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE**

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2003,

THE COMMITTEE

INVITES

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of Argentina, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, Russia (federation of), Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and the European Commission for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2003.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. IX

Work Programme for 2005

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Third Strategic Plan by the International Committee during its 68th General Session in May 2000,

The examination and approval of a Work Programme for implementing the recommendations of the Third OIE Strategic Plan for the period 2001 to 2005, by the International Committee during its 69th session in May 2001,

The Resolution No. IX adopted by the International Committee during the 69th General Session in May 2001,

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. DECIDES

To approve the Director General's prepared 2005 Work Programme.

2. RECOMMENDS THAT

Member Countries provide the necessary support to allow the Work Programme to be carried out, in the form of payment of both regular contributions and voluntary contributions or subsidies.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. X

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

CONSIDERING

The agreement between the Office International des Epizooties and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations adopted on the 12 November 1952 and 4 May 1953

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to update the terms of cooperation between the Office international des epizooties and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 and signed by the Director General (72SG/19),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XI

**Exchanges of letters between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the European Commission**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to develop the cooperation between the OIE and the European Commission

The exchange of letters between the two organisations approved by deliberation of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 and signed by the Director General (72SG/20)

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this exchange of letters and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Andean Community**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the Andean Community.

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 (72 SG/21),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XIII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Association for Biologicals**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the International Association for Biologicals,

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 and signed by the Director General (72 SG/22),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XIV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Livestock Research Institute**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the International Livestock Research Institute

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 and signed by the Director General (72SG/23),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XV

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Meat Secretariat**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the Office International des Epizooties and the International Meat Secretariat

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 and signed by the Director General (72SG/24),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this document and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XVI

**Extension of the agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and CABInternational on sharing of resources in the Animal Health
and Production Compendium**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to extend the field of application of the agreement between the OIE and CABInternational to aquatic animals

The extension of the agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 4 March 2004 (72 SG/25),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To approve the terms of this Appendix of Agreement and its signature by the Director General on behalf of the OIE.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XVII

Creation of a World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

Desirous of facilitating the external funding of certain OIE activities, by means of contributions or support funds paid by public or private bodies or individuals for projects of international public interest within the scope of the activities of the OIE, while maintaining the OIE's independence and its control over the corresponding operations,

Wishing to facilitate implementation of the provisions of Article 6.2. of the Financial Regulations of the OIE, which entitle the Director General to seek external financing as and when required, while maintaining the independence of the OIE and its control over the corresponding operations,

Noting that Article 14 of the Organic Rules of the OIE, authorises it to receive "subscriptions, gifts and legacies from which it may legally benefit", a provision that echoes Article 6.2. of the Financial Regulations of the OIE, which states that these subsidies, donations and legacies may be accepted by the Director General, "on condition that they are provided for purposes compatible with the principles, aims and activities of the Office", and that, when they "directly or indirectly imply financial commitments for the Office, the consent of the Committee shall be necessary",

Noting also that, according to Article 7 of the Financial Regulations, "the subsidies, donations and legacies, the purpose of which has not been defined", may be entered in the accounts of the OIE to constitute "deposit funds and special accounts", of which the Director General "shall clearly define the object and conditions" governing their creation, if necessary by means of a specific financial regulation,

Considering that it is necessary for all the subsidies, donations and legacies that the Organisation is authorised to receive to be grouped together in a single account entitled "World Animal Health and Welfare Fund", consisting of appropriation accounts, the rules and operating conditions of which must be defined,

Considering the Organic Rules of the OIE, in particular Article 14,

Considering the General Rules of the OIE, in particular Article 28 bis,

Considering the Financial Rules of the OIE, in particular Articles 6 and 7,

Considering the favourable advice of the Administrative Commission expressed during its meeting on 3, 4 and 5 March 2004,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

Art. 1. A special account, entitled World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, shall be created in the accounts of the OIE, consisting of appropriation accounts intended to receive support funds, in the form of subsidies, donations or legacies paid to the Organisation by third parties.

Art. 2. The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund shall be managed in accordance with the rules of the Fund, which are appended to, and are an integral part of, the present Resolution.

Art. 3. The Director General shall be responsible for implementing the present Resolution. He shall report periodically to the International Committee on its implementation.

Appendix to the Resolution: statutes and operating and management rules of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

APPENDIX TO RESOLUTION No. XVII

Status and functioning mode for the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

Article 1 – Definition

The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the Fund) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an OIE special account set up in application of Article 7.3. of the Financial Regulations. It is managed in accordance with the administrative and financial rules of the OIE, subject to the provisions below.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of the special account referred to in Article 1 is to receive and describe the use made of support funds paid by third parties for the purpose of projects of international public utility relating to the control of animal diseases, including those affecting humans, and the promotion of animal welfare and animal production food safety.

The purpose of the Fund is to support:

- implementation of action programmes,
- implementation of training programmes,
- organisation of seminars, conferences and workshops,
- editing and distribution of scientific and technical publications,
- production of information media,
- implementation of basic and applied scientific research programmes,
- OIE Strategic Plans approved by the Member Countries,
- activities of developing countries in the aforementioned fields.

Article 3 – Financing of activities

- a) The resources of the Fund shall consist of subsidies, donations and legacies provided by public or private bodies or institutions and private persons.

These support funds shall not give rise to any reciprocal consideration of a political, economic, commercial or administrative nature. The use for which they are intended must be in accordance with the purpose of the Fund, as described in Article 2.

- b) Subsidies, donations and legacies assigned to the Fund shall be accepted by the Director General in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 6.2. of the Financial Regulations of the OIE. The Director General shall in each case evaluate the purpose of the funds, verify its compliance with the aims of the OIE and ensure that the use of the said funds will in no way jeopardise the independence of the OIE.
- c) The resources of the Fund shall be used under the conditions defined in Articles 4 and 5 below, in accordance with the objectives eventually fixed by the donor and accepted by the Director General.

Article 4 – Management

- a) The Director General shall ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the financial rules of the OIE and the objectives fixed by the activity programme.
- b) The Director General shall be assisted by a Management Committee, chaired by the President of the International Committee of the OIE or in his absence by the Vice President; the Management Committee shall comprise the President and two members designated by the Administrative Commission of the OIE and chosen from among its own members. Representatives of donor bodies may be invited to participate in the work of the Management Committee in a consultative capacity.
- c) The Management Committee shall be convened by its Chairman. It establishes the activity programme of the Fund on the proposal of the Director General.
- d) The Director General shall inform the Management Committee of the management of funds and the implementation of the activity programme.
- e) Administrative expenses shall be reimbursed to the Regular Budget of the OIE upon presentation of the necessary vouchers or in the form of a fixed sum agreed with the donor on the basis of international organisations practices.
- f) The available assets of the Fund shall be invested in accordance with the procedures and conditions fixed by Article 9 of the Financial Regulations of the OIE. The Management Committee shall be informed of these investments.

Article 5 – Accounting

- a) The accounts of the Fund shall be kept in the same manner as those of the OIE, of which they are an integral part. The following annual statements shall be prepared:
 - income statement,
 - statement of the financial situation,
 - statement showing the implementation of the programme.
- b) Within the special account, an appropriation account shall be created to record the use made of each of the duly accepted donations or subsidies.
- c) Provisions may be created to help finance activities spread over several financial years.
- d) The accounts and the financial operations of the Fund shall be subject to the same internal and external controls as the other accounts and operations of the OIE.
- e) For their use, the credit lines available to the Fund in respect of donations and subsidies may be transferred to other special accounts or to the regular budget; cost accounting makes it possible to ensure that the funds thus transferred have been used for the appropriate purpose.

Article 6 – Closure

Closure of the Fund shall be decided upon by the International Committee on the proposal of the Director General and with the approval of the Management Committee.

This decision shall determine, if appropriate, where the assets of the Fund are to be allocated.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XVIII

Adoption of the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present form of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of its adoption and modifications made to it by the agreement of the International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in consultation with the Delegates of Member Countries and the agreement of the International Committee, and the proposed revisions contained in Appendix III of the Report of the June 2003 meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 72 SG/12/CS4 A), Appendices V to VII of the Report of the October 2003 meeting of the Bureau of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 72 SG/12/CS4 B), and Appendices III, IV, VIII and IX of the Report of the January 2004 meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 72 SG/12/CS4 C),

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* proposed in Appendix III of Document 72 SG/12/CS4 A, Appendices V to VII of Document 72 SG/12/CS4 B, and Appendices III, IV, VIII and IX of Document 72 SG/12/CS4 C, in English, French and Spanish, each text being official, with the following changes:

In Appendix III of 72 SG/12/CS4 C on General Definitions:

- 1.1. in the definition of *aquatic animal products*, add the words “non-viable *aquatic animals* and” after the word “means” and delete the words “(fish, molluscs, crustaceans) whether they are intended for farming (*eggs, gametes*, larvae, etc.), for human consumption, for use in animal feed or for pharmaceutical, biological, or industrial uses” so that the definition now reads: *aquatic animal products* means non-viable *aquatic animals* and products from *aquatic animals*.
- 1.2. in the definition of *aquatic animals*, add the word “originating” after the word “crustaceans” in the English version, and the words “or for human consumption” after the word “environment”.
- 1.3. in the definition of *compartment*, add the words “by the *Competent Authority*” after the words “clearly documented”.
- 1.4. in the definition of *early detection system*, add the words “and *emerging diseases*” to the end of point a).

- 1.5. in the definition of *self declaration of freedom from disease*, replace the words “country or a *zone* of the country” with the words “country, *zone* or *compartment*”.
- 1.6. in the definition of *susceptible species*, replace the words “that is capable of being infected by a given *disease agent*” with the words “in which a *disease agent* can multiply or otherwise develop”.

In Appendix IV of 72 SG/12/CS4 C on Disease Listing and Notification Criteria:

- 1.7. in criterion 1, delete the words “Where it occurs” and the words “due to morbidity and or mortality or product quality” from the parameters that support a listing, and move the words “morbidity includes for example, loss of production due to spawning failure” to the criterion’s explanatory notes.
- 1.8. in criterion 2, replace the words “is strongly suspected to” with the words “or scientific evidence indicates that it is likely to” and delete the words “other reasons, including” in the parameters that support a listing, and add the words “or an aquatic animal potentially endangered by the disease” to the end of the criterion’s explanatory notes.
- 1.9. in criterion 7, add the words “as well as the relevant disease chapter” before the words “of the *Aquatic Manual*”.
- 1.10. in criterion 8, add the words “or a robust case definition is available to clearly identify cases and allow them to be distinguished from other pathologies” to the end of the criterion’s explanatory notes.

In Appendix IX of 72 SG/12/CS4 C on General Recommendations on Disinfection:

- 1.11. in Article 5.2.2.3, add the sentence “The action of *disinfection* may be modified by various factors, including temperature, pH, the presence of organic matter.” to the beginning of the fourth paragraph, and add the word ‘safe’ before the word ‘use’ at the beginning of the sixth paragraph.
- 1.12. in Article 5.2.2.4, add the words “range of” before the word “surfaces” in the second sentence of the first paragraph and delete the last sentence of that paragraph.
2. To move Appendix 5.2.1. Disinfection of fish eggs of the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code* to the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* by incorporating it into Chapter 1.1.5., which will then be entitled “Methods for inactivation of pathogens”, and, for consistency, to change the title of Section 5.2. in the *Aquatic Code* from “Destruction of pathogens” to “Inactivation of pathogens”.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the revised edition of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XIX

**Harmonisation of the structure of disease chapters for future editions of the
*Aquatic Animal Health Code***

CONSIDERING

1. The necessity to revise substantially the individual disease chapters of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*) to take into account the new requirements for surveillance regarding recognition of freedom from infection,
2. The necessity to harmonise the approaches presented in the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes*,
3. The usefulness of introducing the concept of 'compartment' into the disease chapters of the *Aquatic Code*,
4. The need to introduce, where possible, the concept of 'safe commodities' into the disease chapters of the *Aquatic Code* by identifying those commodities that can be traded safely, regardless of the animal health status of the exporting country, and where possible by grading levels of risk for other commodities,
5. That this concept would also clarify concerns raised previously regarding the different levels of risk posed by trade in susceptible, carrier and vector species, and the movement of aquatic animals or eggs or gametes from an infected aquaculture establishment or zone, by identifying the different risk levels of such commodities,
6. The need to provide guidance on disease-specific risk management measures to manage the risk associated with the importation of certain commodities,
7. That Member Countries have commented on three prototype templates for diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, respectively, proposed in Appendices V to VII of the Report of the January 2004 meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Document 72 SG/12/CS4 C), and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission) has taken these comments into account,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Aquatic Animals Commission should develop, in consultation with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, a template on which to base individual disease chapters.
2. These chapters should be submitted for progressive adoption and will serve as models for the development of all disease chapters of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, based on the work of international experts including experts from OIE Reference Laboratories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XX

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, 'Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised', and 'Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries', respectively,
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which asks that the Director General publish a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee, and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission regarding the evaluation of countries as being free from foot and mouth disease have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission proposed that an updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from foot and mouth disease and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission in consultation with Member Countries be annually adopted by resolution,
6. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free annually confirm by letter each November both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain unchanged,
7. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
8. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXI delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, an FMD free zone created following outbreaks within a Member Country or its territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.3.5. and 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
9. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from FMD to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,

10. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Albania	Germany	Netherlands
Australia	Greece	New Caledonia
Austria	Guatemala	New Zealand
Belgium	Guyana	Nicaragua
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Honduras	Norway
Bulgaria	Hungary	Panama
Canada	Iceland	Poland
Chile	Indonesia	Portugal
Costa Rica	Ireland	Romania
Croatia	Italy	Singapore
Cuba	Japan	Slovakia
Cyprus	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Czech Rep.	Latvia	Spain
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden
El Salvador	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Madagascar	Ukraine
Finland	Malta	United Kingdom
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Mauritius	United States of America
France	Mexico	Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Taipei China and Uruguay

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Argentina: zone situated south of the 42° parallel;

1 For information on the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, please address enquiries to that country's Delegate or to the Director General

Botswana: zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General on 24 July 2003;

Colombia: Northwest region of Choco Department;

Malaysia: zones of Sabah and Sarawak designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General on 15 December 2003;

Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General on 6 February 1997;

Philippines: Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate;

South Africa: zone designated by the Delegate of South Africa in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2002;

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General on January 2003;

Brazil: States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins, the Federal District, and Rondonia;

Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on January 2003.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXI

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 69th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XV, asking Member Countries that wish to be evaluated for conformation with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) free status to submit a formal application to the Director General of the OIE for consideration by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission),
2. An Ad hoc Group of experts on BSE (OIE Ad hoc Group for Evaluation of Country Submissions for Recognition as Complying with the *Terrestrial Code* as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Free) has been set up by the OIE and the Group has developed guidelines to facilitate the submission of data by Member Countries in accordance with the requirements in the current edition of the *Terrestrial Code*,
3. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII asking Member Countries applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
4. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXII authorising the Scientific Commission to also evaluate submissions for provisional freedom from BSE in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. The Ad hoc Group has already examined submissions from several countries and made appropriate recommendations that have been endorsed by the Scientific Commission
6. These recommendations have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution No. XVI, which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee for foot and mouth disease (FMD),
7. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General establish a list of countries or zones recognised by the OIE as BSE 'free' and 'provisionally free' in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13 of the *Terrestrial Code*. This list should be updated as and when new countries are approved by the International Committee and shall be adopted annually by resolution.
2. The Director General publish that Argentina, Iceland, Singapore and Uruguay be recognised as 'provisionally free' from BSE in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.3.13.4 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

3. The Director General inform Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as 'free' or 'provisionally free' from BSE that they should annually confirm by letter each November both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain unchanged. The list of countries or zones will be published free of charge by the OIE.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXII

Recognition of Member Countries Free from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XIV 'Establishment of a list of countries that are free of rinderpest',
2. During the 68th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XIII designating a baseline list of Member Countries that were free from rinderpest infection. The countries included in the list certified that they meet the requirements specified in Chapter 2.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
3. The OIE has also developed a list of countries that are considered to be free from rinderpest disease in accordance with Chapter 2.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
4. Recommendations of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) regarding countries that are evaluated as free from rinderpest disease and from rinderpest infection have been submitted to Member Countries for comments as outlined in Resolution XVI which was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee,
5. The Scientific Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International committee and has supported the recognition of countries and zones as free from rinderpest disease and rinderpest infection for annual adoption of the list by the international Committee,
6. During the 71st General Session, the Scientific Commission proposed that Member Countries so recognised reconfirm annually that their rinderpest status remains unchanged and that this annual reconfirmation would be a requirement for maintaining OIE recognition,
7. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVIII resolving that most of the costs incurred by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation of country applications for obtaining the free status with respect to rinderpest disease or rinderpest infection would be recovered whenever possible from sources other than the applicant countries,
8. Information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from disease or infection,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from rinderpest infection, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Germany	New Caledonia
Algeria	Greece	New Zealand
Andorra	Guatemala	Norway
Argentina	Guyana	Panama
Australia	Honduras	Paraguay
Austria	Hungary	Peru
Barbados	Iceland	Philippines
Belgium	Indonesia	Poland
Bolivia	Ireland	Portugal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Romania
Botswana	Jamaica	Singapore
Brazil	Japan	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Korea (Rep. of)	Slovenia
Canada	Laos	South Africa
Chile	Latvia	Spain
Colombia	Lesotho	Swaziland
Costa Rica	Lithuania	Sweden
Croatia	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Cuba	Madagascar	Thailand
Cyprus	Malawi	Taipei China
Czech Rep.	Malaysia	Trinidad and Tobago
Denmark	Malta	Tunisia
Ecuador	Mauritius	Ukraine
El Salvador	Mexico	United Kingdom
Estonia	Moldavia	United States of America
Finland	Morocco	Uruguay
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Namibia	Vanuatu
France	Nepal	Venezuela
	Netherlands	Vietnam
		Zimbabwe

AND

That the Director General publish the following list of Member Countries or zones as being free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Benin	Egypt	Mali	Niger
Bhutan	Eritrea	Mauritania	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Mongolia	Togo
Chad ¹	Guinea	Myanmar	Turkey
Cote d'Ivoire	India		

AND

That the Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as rinderpest infection or rinderpest disease free, annually reconfirm by letter in November of each year that both their status and the criteria by which their status was recognised remain unchanged. It is understood that these Delegates will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest infection or disease occur in these countries or zones.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

1 Zone designated by the Delegate of Chad in documents addressed to the Director General on December 2003

RESOLUTION No. XXIII

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Appendix 3.8.3 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) provides for a pathway for Member Countries to be declared free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) by the OIE if an application including supporting data as outlined in Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Code* is submitted to the OIE. The *Terrestrial Code* also provides a procedure for the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) to review these applications and report its recommendations to the International Committee,
2. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee approved Resolution XXIV regarding the recognition of the CBPP status of specific Member Countries,
3. Appendix 3.8.3 contains provisions for countries or zones within their territories that are continuously free from CBPP for at least 10 years and meet the relevant requirements of Appendix 3.8.3 for “freedom from CBPP” in that a) no vaccination has been carried out for at least 10 years, b) throughout that period there has been no clinical or pathological evidence of CBPP infection, c) throughout that period a permanent adequate disease surveillance and reporting system has been and is still in place covering all susceptible domestic livestock, and d) in appropriate circumstances, use of diagnostic procedures capable of differentiating *Mycoplasma mycoides* from other bovine *Mycoplasma* infections in the investigation of respiratory disease has been made, with findings consistent with freedom from *M. mycoides* infection, may be declared free from CBPP by the Scientific Commission without the necessity to proceed through the normal intermediate steps detailed in Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
4. Article 3.8.1.2 of Appendix 3.8.1 provides for countries or zones within their territories to be declared free from infection from a given disease on a ‘historical basis’ depending on the demonstration of the absence of infection for a certain period,
5. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from CBPP to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
6. Member Countries recognise that information published by the OIE is derived from appropriate declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. Delegates of Member Countries qualifying for freedom from CBPP in accordance with the provisions for freedom from infection in compliance with Article 3.8.1.2 of Appendix 3.8.1 of the *Terrestrial Code* or freedom from CBPP in compliance with the relevant provisions of Appendix 3.8.3 of the *Terrestrial Code*, submit their dossiers to the OIE for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.

2. The OIE Director General establish a list of countries or zones free from CBPP with or without vaccination and include in that list countries already recognised free of CBPP by the OIE.
 3. The Scientific Commission continue to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee with respect to the recognition of disease free status and support the recognition of the CBPP free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee.
 4. An updated list of countries and zones previously recognised as free from CBPP and those newly proposed by the Scientific Commission after consultation of Member Countries will be annually adopted by resolution.
 5. Delegates of Countries that are recognised as CBPP country/zone free annually confirm by letter to the OIE each November that both their status and the criteria by which their status was recognised remain unchanged.
 6. Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from CBPP meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process in accordance with Resolution XVIII adopted by the International Committee during the 70th General Session.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXIV

Restoration of Disease Status of Member Countries for Rinderpest, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia

CONSIDERING THAT

1. By means of various Resolutions, the International Committee has adopted a procedure for and established a list of Member Countries and zones within their territories recognised as free of certain diseases according to the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),
2. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) is currently in charge of the evaluation of country applications for the relevant status regarding foot and mouth disease (FMD), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, (CBPP) and rinderpest,
3. The country disease status as recognised by OIE is only awarded annually by the International Committee during the General Session in May of every year, and subsequently published by the OIE,
4. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further consultation with the International Committee, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.1.1 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XXI delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, an FMD free zone created following outbreaks within a Member Country or its territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.3.5. and 2.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*,
6. The disease status for Member Countries or zones within their territories is important for purposes of international trade in animals and animal products. Countries which are able to eradicate outbreaks or infections in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* could sustain economic losses regarding trade if they have to wait for the decision of the International committee to regain their previously recognised free status,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To delegate to the Scientific Commission under the same conditions as for FMD, the authority to recognise after evaluation of country submissions and without further consultation with Member Countries and the International Committee, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised status with respect to other diseases listed in paragraph 2 following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXV

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. At the 71st General Session in May 2003, the International Committee recommended that the OIE continue to work closely with the relevant international agencies, particularly the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and relevant committees and expert groups, regarding animal production food safety,
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, which has met again in 2004, and has drafted a work programme for 2004/2005,
3. The Working Group is developing guidelines for “Good Farming Practices” to address food safety risks at the farm level,
4. Member Countries have provided feedback on the Working Group’s paper entitled “Role and functionality of Veterinary Services throughout the food chain”, and the Working Group is developing further material designed specifically for Veterinary Services and their role in meat hygiene where programmes need to address both animal and public health objectives,
5. The OIE and the CAC have continued to work together to ensure standards being developed by either party take a whole of food chain approach to addressing food safety and cross reference each others work when appropriate,

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintains the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety.
2. The Working Group’s 2004/2005 work programme be a guide for the OIE’s activities on animal production food safety for the next 12 months, and the OIE be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
3. Of the priorities listed, the Working Group gives special attention to completing the guidelines on “Good Farming Practice” for use by Member Countries and continuing its work on providing Veterinary Services with guidelines to developing meat hygiene programmes that serve both animal and public health objectives.

(Adopted by the OIE International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXVI

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted public policy issue which includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions,
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, which has drawn up a substantial work programme,
3. A successful Global Conference on Animal Welfare was held in February 2004 which confirmed the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare,
4. Work on developing guidelines for priority topics is underway,
5. The active involvement of all OIE Member Countries will be essential to the success of the initiative,

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Working Group on Animal Welfare to advise him, as well as the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, on OIE activities in the field of animal welfare,
2. The Working Group's 2004/2005 work programme be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months, and the OIE be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed,
3. Veterinary Services be actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of animal welfare regulations and legislation in their countries,
4. All OIE Member Countries play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and with other international organisations in promoting this OIE initiative.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXVII

Amendments to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the December 2003 report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III to XXIII of Document 72 SG_12_CS1), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices III to XI (other than Appendix 3.8.4 of Appendix XI), XII, XIII, and XVI to XXIV of Document 72 SG_12_CS1 in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - 1.1. In Appendix III (Chapter 1.1.1)
 - a) replace the word ‘prevented’ with the word ‘controlled’ in the definition of ‘vaccination’ in Article 1.1.1.1.;
 - b) replace the existing words in the definition of ‘zoonosis’ in Article 1.1.1.1 with the words ‘means any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to humans’;
 - c) add the words ‘or diseases’ after the word ‘disease’ in the definition of ‘compartment’ in Article 1.1.1.1.;
 - 1.2. In Appendix V (Chapters 1.3.3 and 1.3.4), replace the words ‘fresh meat or dairy product establishments’ with the words ‘establishments producing products of animal origin, in particular meat or dairy products’, in point 5) of Article 1.3.4.9 in Chapter 1.3.4.
 - 1.3. In Appendix VI (Chapter 1.3.7), replace the words ‘are encouraged to’ with the word ‘should’ and delete the words ‘to the extent possible’ in the fourth paragraph of Article 1.3.7.2, to harmonise the text with that in Article 1.3.7.5.
 - 1.4. In Appendix VII (Chapters 1.1.2 and 1.1.3)
 - a) in the English text only, add ‘swine vesicular disease’ to the category of swine diseases, in Article 1.1.2.3;
 - b) replace the existing words in point 1) d) of Article 1.1.3.3 with the words ‘a sudden and unexpected increase in the distribution, incidence, morbidity or mortality of a disease prevalent within a country or zone/compartment’;
 - c) replace the existing words in points 2, 3 and 4 of Article 1.1.3.3 with the words:
 2. weekly reports by telegram, fax or e-mail subsequent to a notification under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an incident which justified urgent notification; these reports should continue until the

situation has been resolved through either the disease being eradicated or it becoming endemic so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the country to the OIE; in any case, a final report on the incident should be submitted;

3. a six-monthly report on the absence or presence, and evolution of diseases listed by the OIE and information of epidemiological significance to other countries;
4. an annual questionnaire concerning any other information of significance to other countries.'

1.5. In Appendix IX (Chapter 2.1.1)

- a) replace each occurrence of the word 'infection' with the word 'circulation' in Article 2.1.1.3;
- b) replace each occurrence of the word 'infection' with the word 'circulation' in points 2) and 4) of Article 2.1.1.5;
- c) delete each occurrence of the word 'still' in Articles 2.1.1.4 and 2.1.1.5;
- d) replace each occurrence of the word 'infection' with the words 'virus circulation' in sub-points a) and c) of point 2) of Article 2.1.1.7;
- e) delete sub-point b) of point 2) of Article 2.1.1.7;
- f) add the words 'on account of FMD' to the chapeau of Article 2.1.1.16.

1.6. In Appendix XI (Chapter 2.3.13)

- a) replace the existing words in the second paragraph of Article 2.3.13.1 with the words:

'When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities, Veterinary Administrations* should not require any BSE related restrictions/conditions/measures, regardless of the BSE status of the cattle population of the exporting country or zone:

- a) milk and milk products;
- b) semen and in vivo derived cattle embryos collected and handled in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society;
- c) hides and skins (excluding hides and skins from the head);
- d) gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins (excluding hides and skins from the head);
- e) protein-free tallow (maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives made from this tallow;
- f) dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat);

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require the restrictions/conditions/measures prescribed in this chapter relevant to the BSE status of the cattle population of the *exporting country* or zone:

- a) cattle;
 - b) fresh meat and meat products;
 - c) gelatin and collagen prepared from bones;
 - d) tallow and tallow derivatives, and dicalcium phosphate, other than protein-free tallow and dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat) as defined above.
- b) replace the words 'susceptible animal species' with the word 'cattle' in point 1) b) of Article 2.3.13.2;
 - c) replace the words 'reporting of all cases of neurological disease in adult cattle as well as fallen stock' with the words 'the recognition of progressive behavioural changes and neurological disease in adult cattle' in point 2) of Article 2.3.13.2;
 - d) insert the words '(other than protein-free tallow as defined in Article 2.3.13.8.)' in the chapeau of Article 2.3.13.21;
 - e) replace the words 'point 1)' with the words 'points 1) and 2)' in point 5) of Article 2.3.13.16 and point 4) of Article 2.3.13.17;
 - f) insert the words '(other than those made from protein-free tallow as defined in Article 2.3.13.8.)' in the chapeau of Article 2.3.13.22.

1.7. In Appendix XII, delete the word 'blood' from Article x.x.x.4.

1.8. Delete the articles of Chapter 2.2.4 (Leptospirosis), while retaining the title.

1.9. In Appendix XVIII, replace the word 'described' with the word 'prescribed' in point 4) of Article 2.2.5.5.

1.10. In Appendix XX (Section 2.9)

- a) place under study each occurrence of the word 'compartment' in Chapters 2.9.1, 2.9.2, 2.9.3, 2.9.5 and 2.9.x;
- b) place under study point e) of paragraph 2) of Articles 2.1.9.3, 2.9.2.3, 2.9.3.3, 2.9.5.3 and 2.9.x.3;
- c) place under study the words 'It is caused by the Korea and Japan haplotypes of the mite *Varroa destructor*, the original hosts of which are the Korea and Japan haplotypes of *Apis cerana*.' in Article 2.9.5.1.

1.11. In Appendix XXII (Section 3.9)

- a) delete the word 'incorrect' in point 1) of Article 3.9.4.1;
- b) replace the words 'A generic risk analysis process is' with the words 'The principles of risk analysis are' in point 3) of Article 3.9.4.1;

- c) delete the words 'food producing' in point 5) and replace the words 'range of bacterial load ingested at the moment of' with the words 'dose of bacteria in the' in sub-point b) of point 5) of Article 3.9.4.1;
- d) add the words 'and zoonotic agents' at the end of the thirteenth sub-point of point 4) of Article 3.9.4.2;
- e) replace the word 'drug' with the word 'antimicrobial' in the eighth sub-point of point 5) of Article 3.9.4.2;
- f) add the words 'prevalence of resistance in human bacterial pathogens' in a new sub-point in point 5) of Article 3.9.4.2;
- g) add the word 'target' in front of the word 'bacteria' in the fifth sub-point of point 6) of Article 3.9.4.2;
- h) replace the word 'human' with the word 'animal' in point 3) in the tenth sub-point of point 4) of Article 3.9.4.3;

1.12. In Appendix XXIII (Animal welfare),

- a) replace the words 'a duty' with the words 'an ethical responsibility' in point 6) of Article x.x.x.1
- b) replace the existing words in Articles x.x.x.2 and x.x.x.3 with the words:

 'Scientific basis for guidelines'
 - 1. Welfare is a broad term which includes the many elements that contribute to an animal's quality of life, including those referred to in the 'five freedoms' listed above.
 - 2. The scientific assessment of animal welfare has progressed rapidly in recent years and forms the basis of these guidelines.
 - 3. Some measures of animal welfare involve assessing the degree of impaired functioning associated with injury, disease, and malnutrition. Other measures provide information on animals' needs and affective states such as hunger, pain and fear, often by measuring the strength of animals' preferences, motivations and aversions. Others assess the physiological, behavioural and immunological changes or effects that animals show in response to various challenges.
 - 4. Such measures can lead to criteria and indicators that help to evaluate how different methods of managing animals influence their welfare.'

1.13. Appendix XXIV was adopted under study.

1.14. Appendices XI (Appendix 3.8.4 only), XIV and XV were not adopted.

- 2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts.

(Adopted by the OIE International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXVIII

Proposed Change to the Mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories adopted as Resolution XII during the 61st General Session and modified by Resolution No. XX during the 70th General Session, states that such laboratories may contribute to provision of diagnostic testing facilities to Member Countries and that in the case of results that are confirmed positive for diseases that are reportable to OIE, the Reference Laboratory should immediately inform the OIE Delegate of the Member Country from which the samples originated,
2. The objectives of the OIE include ensuring transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation and collecting, analysing and disseminating scientific veterinary information,
3. The technical capabilities for rapid and precise diagnosis of diseases by designated experts are demanded,
4. The prevalence of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases capable of rapid international spread is increasing,
5. The impact of these diseases on animal and public health, the economy and trade of Member Countries is significant,
6. There is a need for prompt preventive action to be taken by Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To amend the mandate of OIE Reference Laboratories adopted as Resolution No. XX during the 70th General Session, to ask OIE Reference Laboratories to also inform the OIE Central Bureau of results that are confirmed positive for diseases that are reportable to OIE. The new mandate is proposed in Appendix 1.
2. The results forwarded to the OIE will only be published by the OIE Central Bureau in agreement with the Delegate of the country concerned and after precise identification of the origin of the samples.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

Appendix 1

Reference Laboratories

Mandate

Reference Laboratories of the Office International des Epizooties shall have as their principal mandate:

- to function as a centre of expertise and standardisation for a designated disease(s) or topics;
- to store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated disease(s) or topics;
- to develop new procedures for diagnosis and control of the designated disease(s) or topics;
- to gather, process, analyse and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to their speciality;
- to place expert consultants at the disposal of the Office International des Epizooties.

They may also contribute to:

- provision of scientific and technical training for personnel from Member Countries of the Office;
- provision of diagnostic testing facilities to Member Countries:
In the case of positive results for diseases that are reportable to OIE, the Reference Laboratory should immediately inform the OIE Delegate of the Member Country from which the samples originated as well as the OIE Central Bureau;
- organisation of scientific meetings on behalf of the Office;
- coordination of scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories or organisations;
- publication and dissemination of any information in their sphere of competence which may be useful to Member Countries of the Office.

RESOLUTION No. XXIX

Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The interaction of human and animal health is producing unprecedented challenges and opportunities,
2. Zoonotic diseases are emerging and re-emerging with greater frequency, international scope, and economic importance,
3. The factors and forces driving the expansion and scale of zoonoses are still in place and are unlikely to significantly change in the near future; thus, the risks posed by emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases will continue unabatedly for some time,
4. Member Countries have again indicated their overwhelming support for a greater OIE role in confronting the challenges of such zoonoses,
5. Member Countries strongly believe that emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases will become a progressively greater factor in the demands on the activities of Veterinary Services, thus impacting on future partnerships, resources, and programmes,
6. FAO/WHO/OIE are engaged in cooperative agreements that will continue to provide important international linkages,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE should actively consider within the development of the fourth strategic plan the broadening of its scope, commitment, and thinking regarding emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and place a high priority on developing guidelines for the prevention and control of these diseases.

The preparation of the fourth Strategic Plan will include proposals related to the purpose of the *Code* in matters of zoonotic aspects of listed diseases.

2. The OIE will consider the creation of a new Ad hoc Group on Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonoses that will be inter-disciplinary in membership and help to advise on sustainable agriculture development which does not increase the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging zoonoses and on surveillance systems which cover the wildlife, domestic animal, and human continuum. The group will also assist in the education of OIE Member Countries.

The new Ad hoc Group will work in collaboration with the existing OIE Working Groups on Wildlife Diseases and Animal Food Production Safety and the Ad hoc Group on Epidemiology and other relevant bodies or experts, in particular OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers.

3. The OIE should provide training through workshops and other means for Member Countries and academic veterinary and medical institutions on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, especially in regional activities.
 4. The OIE will undertake to explore opportunities and mechanisms to promote awareness through conferences and interactions between the Veterinary Services of Member Countries, and their public health counterparts.
 5. The OIE will continue to support and urge Member Countries to make progress on timely and accurate reporting of zoonoses and sharing information on emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, realising that many of these new diseases are not associated with animal trade or traditional listed diseases.
 6. In the event of serious outbreaks of zoonotic diseases that transcend national borders, the OIE will demonstrate leadership in providing guidance on disease control strategies at the animal production levels and will support the communication efforts of public health agencies in addressing human impacts.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXX

Animal identification and traceability

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal identification and traceability are key tools in the sphere of animal and public health, and trade,
2. Although Member Countries have a variety of systems of animal identification and traceability in operation or under development, which have emerged in response to local and international demand, there are no international standards and guidelines and this has led to divergences that may affect international trade and the quality of disease information,
3. Legislation, standardisation and information exchanges between databases is very important,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The OIE, in close collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission should determine a common definition for animal traceability and propose guidelines for the development of identification and traceability systems that are appropriate for the risk involved to attain the desired outcomes.
 2. The OIE should disseminate updated information on animal identification and traceability, including the latest advances in the field.
 3. The OIE, in collaboration with other international organisations, should provide Member Countries with specialised technical assistance, to facilitate the design and implementation of animal identification and traceability systems.
 4. The OIE should define criteria for establishing work priorities, also taking into account the needs of developing countries.
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(Adopted by the OIE International Committee on 27 May 2004)

RESOLUTION No. XXXI

**Date for the implementation of the OIE single list of animal diseases
and the new notification system**

CONSIDERING

The adoption of Resolution No. XXIII relating to the OIE lists of diseases during the 69th General Session in May 2001,

That one of the principal objectives of the OIE is to inform governments on the occurrence, evolution and distribution of animal diseases and zoonoses throughout the world and on the methods of control and prevention that are implemented,

The results of the work of the Ad hoc Group on the notification of terrestrial animal diseases and pathogens and their examination by the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions,

The scale of the conditions needed to implement the new notification procedures for OIE Member Countries and of the arrangements needed to ensure a smooth transition from the present system,

The adoption of Resolution No. XXVII on amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* during the 72nd General Session in May 2004,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

1. The present OIE system of notification and epidemiological information, including the annual questionnaire relating to 2004, will remain in force unchanged until 31 December 2004.
2. A new system of notification and epidemiological information will come into force on 1 January 2005.
3. With effect from 1 January 2005 all the diseases previously contained in Lists A and B will be combined into a single list, to be known as "the OIE List". The notifications and reports prepared by Member Countries for submission to the OIE will use this single list.

This single list will combine, without any changes, the diseases on Lists A and B until such time as the International Committee adopts a new list.

(Adopted by the OIE International Committee on 27 May 2004)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1st June 2003**

**Endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 27 May 2004**

**7th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
Istanbul (Turkey), 23-26 September 2003**

- Recommendation No. 1: Emergency preparedness: formulation and implementation of animal health contingency plans in the Middle East
- Recommendation No. 2: Transmissible encephalopathies of animals with reference to public health and trade in the Middle East
- Recommendation No. 3: The global rinderpest eradication programme

Recommendation No. 1

Emergency preparedness: formulation and implementation of animal health contingency plans in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and other priority diseases are of significant economic, social and food security importance,

TADs and other priority diseases can spread very rapidly and their control requires advance planning,

Their eradication can be extremely difficult and costly,

Animal disease emergency preparedness and particularly contingency planning should be regarded as an essential tool for the control of emergency diseases,

Due to its geographical location, the Middle East is under continuous risk of high priority animal diseases from neighbouring regions,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Each Member Country in the Regional Commission for the Middle East prepare its contingency plans according to the real situation and capabilities and renew them upon the results of specific risk analysis.
2. The OIE, mainly through the Regional Representation for the Middle East and in cooperation with the FAO and other relevant international and regional organisations, develop training courses for designing contingency plans, provide technical support and coordination to Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in this field of activities.
3. Contingency plan models be discussed, in particular by the Regional Emergency Veterinary Committee (REVC), and disseminated for consideration to Member Countries.
4. Member Countries update their legislations to facilitate the execution of contingency plans and cooperate with other interested authorities in the country.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

Recommendation No. 2

Transmissible encephalopathies of animals with reference to public health and trade in the Middle East

CONSIDERING THAT

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) of animals are an international issue of concern due to their public and animal health importance,

Bovines, bovine products and by-products potentially carrying the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) agent have been traded world-wide, giving this risk a global dimension,

BSE has caused panic amongst the consumers and severe disruption of international trade in animals and animal products,

The original source and movement of animals and animal products, including meat and bone meal (MBM), can be masked by international trading patterns, which often include the processing and re-exportation of products,

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) encourage all countries to evaluate their potential exposure to TSEs through systematic assessment of trade data and possible other risk factors to protect public health and prevent further national and international dissemination of infection amongst susceptible species,

The OIE has developed standards and guidelines to help Member Countries to assess and evaluate the BSE status of countries and zones, and to avoid introduction of infected sources through international trade.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Additional resources be made available to the Veterinary Services of Member Countries to assess in depth their potential exposure to BSE risk according to the OIE standards and guidelines.
2. Member Countries consolidate their efforts to develop a regional programme for the surveillance and control of TSEs.
3. The proposed regional programme include the following items:
 - a) The establishment of a Reference Laboratory for the diagnosis of BSE and other TSEs.
 - b) Training of national veterinary laboratory personnel of Member Countries on the diagnostic techniques of TSEs and detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs.

- c) Training of veterinarians from Member Countries in conducting risk analysis, assessment and management.
 - d) Formulation and implementation of a Regional Surveillance Plan and preparation of contingency plans for Member Countries to deal with any BSE risk problem that may arise.
 - e) Developing more effective education programmes on TSEs for veterinarians, and paraprofessionals.
 - f) Supporting regional research related to TSEs and BSE in particular.
 - g) Establishment of a regional network for TSEs data and importation records.
 - h) Development of a harmonised veterinary certificate for regional exchanges of relevant animals and animal products in compliance with international guidelines.
- 4. Member Countries effectively work for the establishment of a 'Regionally-orientated Animal Identification System' that is appropriate to the specific husbandry systems common in the region and economically feasible.
 - 5. Regional consensus be reached on dealing with the rendering industry, mainly for labelling requirements and monitoring their use for non-ruminant animals.
 - 6. Member Countries promote intersectoral collaboration between veterinary authorities and public health services. This collaboration will include the strict application of BSE control measures for food safety.
 - 7. The OIE convince the international community, the relevant international organisations and donors to take the necessary steps to strengthen research programmes in clarifying and resolving issues associated with BSE, in particular the nature of the causative agent, the way and mechanism of transmission and the pathological effect in animals.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

Recommendation No. 3

The global rinderpest eradication programme

CONSIDERING THAT

Until recently, rinderpest seriously affected the lives of livestock farmers in the region and its legacy continues to disrupt trade in animals,

Very significant progress has been made in eradication of rinderpest through the concerted efforts of Member Countries,

Despite almost certainly being free from rinderpest many countries of the region have not entered on the OIE pathway by which accreditation of rinderpest freedom will be achieved,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries renew their commitment to the global eradication of rinderpest by the year 2010.
2. Each country enter into, and follow the OIE Pathway to achieve accreditation of rinderpest freedom as quickly as possible.
3. Member Countries view the persistence of a residual focus of rinderpest in Africa as a matter of grave concern and seize every opportunity to press for its final eradication.
4. The OIE in relation with FAO/GREP consider the review of the Animal Health Code Chapter for rinderpest to ensure that its conditions fully take into account the special case of mild rinderpest as currently experienced.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 26 September 2003 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

**23rd Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
Noumea (New Caledonia), 25-28 November 2003**

- Recommendation No. 1: Animal carcass disposal methods (including rendering) in animal disease outbreaks
- Recommendation No. 2: Update on developments in aquatic animal diseases
- Recommendation No. 3: Rabies control and prevention in Asia and the Pacific

Recommendation No. 1

Animal carcass disposal methods (including rendering) in animal disease outbreaks

CONSIDERING THAT

Stamping-out is a frequently used method of animal disease eradication,

Animal disposal is an integral part of the stamping-out process to stop the spread of disease,

Animal carcass disposal technologies vary in their effectiveness of pathogen inactivation and in their potential impact on the environment,

There is a growing trend of negative public reaction to mass animal slaughter and to some methods of carcass disposal, and towards demanding alternatives,

Animal production is increasingly producing greater numbers of livestock on small geographic areas, potentially producing large numbers of carcasses for disposal in a disease outbreak,

Most methods of animal carcass disposal create a massive waste of animal protein,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary administrations evaluate the parameters of animal disposal options in preparation for making a decision on the most suitable technology for their circumstances.
2. Veterinary administrations pay special attention to the appropriateness of specific technologies for the disposal of prion infected carcasses.
3. Veterinary administrations place more emphasis on developing alternative approaches for animal carcass disposal.
4. Veterinary administrations consider the logistical requirements for the rapid disposal of large numbers of carcasses and focus attention on high density livestock production areas within their own countries.
5. Veterinary administrations review and resolve any complexities and conflicts in jurisdiction and regulations.

6. The OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific consider guiding assistance to specific Member Countries for training in technical and financial preparedness for mass animal disposal.
 7. Veterinary administrations establish an animal disease crisis management framework that includes key government and industry organisations in advance of a disease outbreak.
 8. Veterinary administrations establish communication linkages with the public and the media in advance of a disease outbreak.
 9. Veterinary administrations consider developing capability in more environmentally responsible carcass disposal technology and if possible technology that is mobile.
 10. The OIE Regional Representation consider aiding Member Countries in the development and implementation of emergency plans and simulation exercises to test technical and logistical preparedness for animal carcass disposal.
 11. The OIE investigate whether animal carcass disposal at sea is a legitimate option taking into consideration international laws and conventions of the sea.
 12. Veterinary administrations consider when appropriate predictive and prevention policies, as well as treatment or vaccination alternatives to stamping out.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 28 November 2003
and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

Recommendation No. 2

Update on developments in aquatic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

Aquaculture has been growing rapidly in many countries in the region and is predicted to continue to grow in all Member Countries,

There has not been a matching expansion of a supporting aquatic animal health infrastructure, and the aquatic animal sector in the region is currently not as well provided with diagnostic and professional health services as the livestock sector. Member Countries see an increasing role for health professionals (veterinarians and others) in their country,

In some Member Countries, fisheries authorities have either the sole responsibility for aquatic animal health or share it with the Veterinary Services. In these countries, fisheries authorities would take the lead in mounting an emergency response to an aquatic animal disease outbreak, and the Veterinary Services are usually well experienced in managing terrestrial animal emergency disease outbreaks, but there is infrequent contact between the two,

In many Member Countries, draft texts for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual* reach aquatic animal health experts either too late or not at all, resulting in few official comments. This means that Member Countries do not sufficiently use the opportunity to influence the setting of international standards that underpin international trade,

Fundamental changes to the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* have been adopted in 2003. These include the listing of aquatic animal diseases and the requirements for reporting on the status of listed diseases. It is important that Member Countries fully understand these new arrangements and accept and fulfil their obligations on disease reporting,

Most Member Countries provide annual and quarterly aquatic animal disease reports, but there are numerous reporting errors such as the use of inappropriate symbols; the provision of conflicting information to the OIE's Tokyo Office and to the Central Bureau; and not reporting new disease occurrences that would be of major epidemiological significance to other countries in the region,

The OIE continues to engage in regional aquatic animal health initiatives, together with the FAO and NACA, but enhanced involvement of both veterinary and fisheries authorities within Member Countries is required to achieve the desired outcomes in areas such as improving Member Countries' knowledge of OIE standard-setting activities in the field of aquatic animal health and the transparency of epidemiological reporting.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS:

A) THAT THE OIE:

1. Reinforce to Delegates their responsibility to the OIE for terrestrial as well as aquatic animals.
2. Encourage Member Countries to strengthen veterinary and other tertiary education in aquatic animal health.
3. Request Member Countries to clarify the roles and responsibilities for aquatic animal health assigned to veterinary and other authorities in their country.
4. Provide opportunities to assist cooperation between veterinary and other authorities responsible for aquatic animal health in Member Countries, for example, by inviting other authorities to attend OIE-sponsored conferences/workshops that have an aquatic theme.
5. Direct efforts at increasing general awareness with national Delegates world-wide about, for example, the provisions of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.
6. Request the Aquatic Animal Commission to provide regular updates of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* at Regional Commission Conferences or other suitable venues.
7. Direct efforts at obtaining more comments on draft texts for the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual from a larger number of national Delegates, for example, consider from the Delegates of Member Countries the nomination of an 'aquatic national focal point' as a parallel recipient of Aquatic Animal Commission reports on behalf of national Delegates.
8. Provide Member Countries with the necessary assistance and guidance on accurate, timely and effective aquatic animal disease reporting.
9. Continue to cooperate with relevant international and regional organisations to increase awareness about aquatic animal health in the region, to improve disease reporting and to foster cooperation between veterinary and fisheries authorities within countries.

B) THAT THE MEMBER COUNTRIES:

1. Direct efforts at improving the coverage of the aquatic sectors with health services and strengthen veterinary and other tertiary education in aquatic animal health.
2. Clarify the roles and responsibilities for aquatic animal health assigned to veterinary and other authorities in their country.
3. Request their Veterinary Services to improve the communication and cooperation with fishery authorities, especially regarding disease reporting and disease emergency responses.

4. Where primary responsibility for aquatic animal health rests with an authority other than the Veterinary Services, nominate an 'aquatic national focal point' from the other authority, so that the OIE may circulate Aquatic Animal Commission reports to the 'aquatic national focal point' at the same time as when circulating to national Delegates (providing comments back to the OIE must take place through, and with the endorsement of, the national Delegate to the OIE).
 5. Significantly enhance circulation of draft texts for the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* amongst experts, and provide comments through the national Delegate to the OIE.
 6. Significantly improve the quality of aquatic animal disease reports, and request the OIE's assistance where clarification is needed.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 28 November 2003
and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

Recommendation No. 3

Rabies control and prevention in Asia and the Pacific

CONSIDERING

That rabies is a re-emerging disease globally, and that over half the estimated global number of human rabies deaths occur in Asia (36,000 deaths of which 50% are children),

The importance of animal rabies, particularly dog rabies, is a constant risk to human health and a potential threat to all rabies free countries of the region,

That canine rabies has been spreading to areas in the region particularly islands that were historically free from rabies,

The most cost-effective means of eradicating rabies requires the control of dogs and dog vaccination,

The necessity of intersectorial collaboration between public health and veterinary sectors in order to develop integrated strategies for effective prevention and control of animal and human rabies infection,

The agreement of WHO authorities to develop joint recommendations with the OIE in the field of rabies,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. A joint international conference be organised by the OIE and WHO to establish the technical basis for the eventual official recognition and maintenance of rabies freedom (including provisional freedom) in countries or zones.
2. All countries/zones in the region ensure they have adequate controls to minimize the risk of introducing rabies, particularly canine rabies.
3. The Veterinary Services of rabies infected countries of the region initiate or enhance activities for the control and elimination of rabies, particularly canine rabies, and liaise with counterparts in the Ministry of Health to assist them to better target the application of human rabies post-exposure treatments because of its limited supply and high cost.
4. Member Countries enhance collaboration with the OIE, WHO and other international organisations to develop effective integrated strategies for the control and eventual elimination of rabies in the region.

5. Member Countries collaborate in their efforts to mobilise financial and human resources to strengthen national and regional systems for surveillance, organized mass dog vaccination and dog population control and increased public awareness to ensure effective control and prevention measures.
 6. The OIE and WHO provide technical support to enhance national, regional and international animal and human surveillance and public health interventions, and update and standardise guidelines for the control of animal and human rabies and ensure maintenance of rabies-free countries and zones in the region.
 7. The OIE and WHO mobilise and sustain international efforts and funding to control and, where possible, eradicate rabies.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 28 November 2003
and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 27 May 2004)

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, CEDEVIRHA⁴², 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 CEDEVIRHA: 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

**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 Olavarria (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
-

**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 Kinetoplasmodiae 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
 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. 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
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**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 Eastern 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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