



75th General Session • Paris, 20-25 May 2007

Final Report 2007



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

75th General Session • Paris, 20-25 May 2007

Final Report 2007

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List of abbreviations

AEFRV:	Association Européenne des Fabricants de Réactifs Vétérinaires
AFSSA:	Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (French Food Safety Agency)
Alive:	Platform for African Livestock
AMVA:	American Veterinary Medical Association
APEC:	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
CFT:	Complement fixation test
CIRAD:	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CIWF:	Compassion in World Farming
CMC:	Crisis Management Centre
EAVA:	Euro-Arab Veterinary Association
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
EISMV:	Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)
ELISA:	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMPRES:	Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
FEI:	International Equestrian Federation
FESASS:	European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
FVE:	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
GF-TADs:	Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases
GISN:	WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network
GLEWS:	Global Early Warning and Response System
IAEA:	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBAR:	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
IFAH:	International Federation for Animal Health
IFAP:	International Federation of Agricultural Producers
IFPRI:	International Food Policy Research Institute
IICA:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
IMHC:	International Movement of Horses Committee
IMS:	International Meat Secretariat
IPPC:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO/IEC:	International Organization for Standardization / International Electrotechnical Commission
IZSVe:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie
MZCP:	Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme
NSP:	Nonstructural protein
OFFLU:	OIE/FAO Network on Avian Influenza
PAHO/PANAFTOSA:	Pan American Health Organization / Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PANVET:	Pan- American Association of Veterinary Sciences
PCR:	Polymerase chain reaction
PVS:	Performance, Vision and Strategy
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
STDF:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
VAA:	Veterinary African Association
VICH:	International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
WAHID:	World Animal Health Information Database
WAHIS:	World Animal Health Information System
WAVLD:	World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
WHO:	World Health Organization
WSPA:	World Society for Protection of Animals
WTO:	World Trade Organization
WVA:	World Veterinary Association

Final Report of the Sessions

Introduction

1. The 75th 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 20 to 25 May 2007, under the chairmanship of Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), President of the International Committee. Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay) chaired the part of the First Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item I and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang (Senegal) chaired the part of the Second Plenary Session dealing with Technical Item II.
2. Delegations from 159 Member Countries participated in the General Session.
3. Observers from five non-member countries or territories and 47 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 Preben Willeberg (Denmark) and Dr Alvin Gajadhar (Canada) participated in the General Session in their capacity as Rapporteurs for the Technical Items.
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, were also present.
8. Fourteen Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

≡ SUNDAY 20 MAY 2007 ≡

Opening Session

9. President O'Neil welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence during the opening ceremony: Dr Javier Maria de Urquiza (Minister of Agriculture of Argentina), Mr Tiémoko Konaté (Minister of Animal Resources of Burkina Faso), Mr Chuck Strahl (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada), Mr Mobutu Nzanga (Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock of the Democratic Republic of the Congo), Mr Amin Abaza (Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt), Mr J.M. Bournigal (representing the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of France), Mr Kanja Sanneh (Minister of Agriculture of Gambia), Mr Dato Mah Siew Yung (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Malaysia), Mr Samaké Yacouba (representing the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Mali), Mr Puntsag Ulaankhuu (Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia), Mr Anthony Diallo (Minister of Livestock Development of Tanzania), Mr Petro Verbitskiy (Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine), Mr Ben Kapita (Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Zambia).
10. Following the President's address, Dr Urquiza took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Mr Strahl, Mr Nzanga, Mr Abaza, Mr Bournigal, Mr Yacouba, Mr Ulaankhuu, Mr Diallo and Mr Verbitskiy.

¹ All the meetings during the first four days were held at the Palais Brongniart (Paris)

Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

11. Dr O'Neil reminded the participants that in 1985 the International Committee had 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 Norman Willis (Canada) for the Gold Medal and Dr Wolf-Arno Valder (Germany) for the Meritorious Service Award.
12. Dr O'Neil commended Dr Willis and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding service to the OIE and the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Valder and presented him with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the International Committee.
13. Following the ceremony, Dr O'Neil declared the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee open.

≡ MONDAY 21 MAY 2007 ≡

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

14. The President welcomed the Delegates, and in particular the representatives of countries participating in the General Session for the first time as members or observers.
15. President O'Neil welcomed Mr Abdoukader Mohamed Kamil (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Djibouti) and Dr Paola Testori Coggi (Representative of the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection) and handed them the floor.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 77th and 78th General Sessions

18. The International Committee appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 77th and 78th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Tenzin Denhup (Bhutan), is composed of the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

19. The International Committee appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr George Khoury (Syria) to prepare the list of Delegates accredited by their Governments to participate in the debates and to vote, and whose countries were up to date with their contributions.
20. In accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Commission, they communicated to the Chairman the list of Delegates who, due to their country's situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE, were ineligible either to take part in the elections or 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 2006
(Doc. 75 SG/1)

21. Dr Vallat presented the main points of the report.
22. The Work Programme for 2006-2008 was presented to the International Committee in May 2006, following the adoption of the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE for 2006-2010 by the International Committee in May 2005.
23. In 2006, the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund received its first major voluntary contributions.
24. The OIE has continued to develop the PVS² tool. Training courses for evaluators were organised with the support of the Collaborating Centre in Lyon, France. One hundred and five countries are due to be evaluated within 3 years.
25. The OIE received grants from the World Bank to carry out economic studies, notably comparing the cost of maintaining surveillance systems in times of epidemiological silence with the cost of dealing with sanitary crises.
26. The network of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations has been strengthened with the opening of new offices.
27. Progress was made with implementing the GF-TADs³ agreement.
28. The new concept of 'regional animal health centre' was tested with the official creation of the OIE/FAO⁴/IBAR⁵ Centre in Bamako.
29. Staff numbers at the headquarters in Paris and the Regional offices increased, in accordance with the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE.
30. Five new official agreements with international or regional organisations were signed in 2006.
31. Updating of the *Codes* and *Manuals* was actively pursued.
32. By the end of 2006, the OIE had 20 Collaborating Centres and 160 Reference Laboratories.
33. The concept of twinning arrangements for laboratories was launched.
34. The OIE again organised a number of international scientific conferences.
35. Development of the WAHIS⁶ application continued in 2006 and user-training seminars were organised.
36. The range of communication media was extended.
37. In response to questions from the Delegates of Senegal, Mauritania and Ecuador, who all congratulated the Director General on the amount of work achieved in 2006, Dr Vallat provided information on training programmes for Delegates, Conferences, Seminars and Workshops held in Africa in 2006, the organisation of National Seminars and procedures for the evaluation of Veterinary Services.
38. The Committee noted the report of the Director General.

² PVS: Performance, Vision and Strategy

³ GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

⁴ FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

⁵ IBAR: Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources

⁶ WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

Composition of the Working Groups

39. The Director General announced that, in agreement with the Administrative Commission, a system of chairmanship for the Working Groups could be proposed to their members based on a rota to be determined for each of the Groups. He then reported on the composition of the Working Groups:

- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
 - Dr Marc Artois (France)
 - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
 - Dr Christopher Bunn (Australia)
 - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
 - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
 - Dr Michael H. Woodford (United Kingdom)
- Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
 - Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission)
 - Dr Joseph Domenech (FAO)
 - Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
 - Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima (Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)
 - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
 - Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO)
 - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden)
 - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)
- Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros (Egypt)
 - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand)
 - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
 - Dr Andrea Gavinelli (European Commission)
 - Prof. Tore Håstein (Norway)
 - Dr Walter N. Masiga (Kenya)
 - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
 - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)
 - A Representative of the International Dairy Federation (IDF)

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

Planned Working Programme for 2008

(Doc. 75 SG/6 – Appendix I)

41. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2008, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the Delegates elected to the Administrative Commission.
42. The Planned Working Programme for 2008 submitted to the Delegates for approval is presented in Appendix I of document 75 SG/6.
43. The International Committee adopted the Planned Working Programme for 2008.

TECHNICAL ITEM I

The Use of Epidemiological Models for the Management of Animal Diseases (Doc. 75 SG/9)

44. Dr Correa Messuti, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this Technical Item, Dr Preben Willeberg and one of the co-authors, Dr Caroline Dubé.
45. Dr Willeberg acknowledged with appreciation the assistance of his co-authors and presented his report, which was partly 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.
46. Modelling is a widely used tool to support the evaluation of various disease management activities. The value of epidemiological models lies in their ability to study 'what if' scenarios and provide decision-makers with a priori knowledge of the consequences of disease incursions and the impact of control strategies. To be useful, models need to be fit for purpose and appropriately verified and validated. The complexity and variability inherent in biological systems should limit the use of models as predictive tools during actual outbreaks. Modelling will be most useful when used pre-outbreak, particularly in the areas of retrospective analysis of previous outbreaks, contingency planning, resource planning, risk assessments and training. Models are just one tool for providing scientific advice, and results should be evaluated in conjunction with data from experimental studies, field experience and scientific wisdom. Validation of epidemiological models is important in order to gain confidence in model outputs. International collaboration can help address validation issues and improve the utility of models for emergency disease management. Importantly, a majority of Member Countries viewed the OIE as having a role to play in developing guidelines for proper model development, verification, validation and application.

Discussion on Technical Item I

47. Dr Correa Messuti thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He emphasised a number of issues mentioned by the speaker that are of importance to the OIE and invited the Delegates to consider these issues in questions addressed to the speaker.
48. The Delegate of Uganda thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He apologised for Uganda not being able to submit a completed questionnaire. Uganda however, took note of the importance of modelling but also noted the deficiencies in its capacity to implement modelling and requested the OIE for support as it is an important tool for managing diseases. This support should include training for veterinarians, which he regarded as very important. The Delegate asked whether the *Trichinella* model would change with implementation of more sensitive detection methods. Dr Willeberg responded that he was pleased that epidemiological modelling is regarded as important and encouraged Uganda to request the OIE for support. In general it can be accepted that indirect methods still pose some problems but, with more sensitive detection methods, the use of models will become more reliable. Dr Willeberg indicated that the issue of more sensitive methods for *Trichinella* is under discussion by several scientists working in this field.
49. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. This presentation was in his view very timely as modelling is becoming increasingly essential in the global environment of emerging and re-emerging disease threats. The Delegate indicated that in the case of emergencies, although data might not be readily available, policy makers have a need for cost-benefit models as costs are a very

important aspect in animal disease control. The Rapporteur replied that for this reason it is extremely important to link economic models to epidemiological models. A single model would not suffice to give a complete outcome.

50. The Delegate of Argentina thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He indicated that for countries that are insufficiently developed in some areas, models could be an important tool to improve decision-making. This approach is fundamental as countries that have least experience have the greatest need for models. He emphasised the important role of the OIE in supporting these countries. In his response, Dr Willeberg again emphasised that expert opinions may also be sought to obtain indirect data to be used in the development and validation of models and suggested that the OIE could provide support by establishing expert panels to respond to these countries' requests.
51. The OIE Regional Representative for the Americas thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He mentioned that the Regional Representation is currently working on the development of compensatory mechanisms. This development includes collaboration with technicians and insurance companies that use their own models. It would be very supportive if the OIE could develop a standardised model to be used as the outcomes of such a model would have an impact on the premiums to be paid for compensation. Dr Willeberg acknowledged that it was a good idea, but indicated that he did not know how receptive companies would be to such a proposal although it would certainly increase transparency. There is no information available on the validity of the outcomes of the models those companies currently use.
52. The Delegate of Uruguay thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. The Delegate stated that the presentation will be a guide for future decisions. He expressed concern that 55% of the countries that replied indicated there was a lack of resources. Another important obstacle in the use of models is the frequent lack of global information on livestock densities, etc. This knowledge needs to be improved as it will improve the efficiency of the work. Retrospective analysis should also be used when making a prospective analysis. Dr Willeberg indicated that the OIE WAHID⁷ can play an important role in making the necessary information available and it is therefore important for Member Countries to support the WAHID system and regularly submit reports.
53. The Delegate of Niger thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He stated that the use of models in certain conditions can be complex when there are many factors that intervene, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. For example, in Niger the pathogenicity of the avian influenza virus in chickens and ducks was unexpected and complicated the management of outbreaks.
54. The Delegate of Ecuador thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. The Delegate mentioned that the foot and mouth disease (FMD) situation in Ecuador is very different from that in many other countries. As there are several species involved in this disease a model has to take into account the fact that different species may be kept together. The existing models only take cattle into account. The weighting that a model gives to movement controls will be different if several species are involved. This is also an important factor when it comes to traceability.
55. The Delegate of Israel thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. Many models work well and give very valuable information. The Delegate wished to know whether there is a model available for the transmission of FMD in Europe. The map that was shown was a map of the world. Intercontinental exports will deal with different types of FMD and a model is needed to help the Veterinary Services to get the most accurate timely information, as soon as an outbreak occurs, failing which, the risk of an international disaster would be difficult to avoid.

⁷ WAHID: World Animal Health Information Database

56. The Delegate of Sudan thanked Dr Willeberg and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. The Delegate stated that modelling is a convenient tool but its use is not applicable to all countries. In Sudan, most animals move from one place to another during transhumance. It would thus not be possible to establish a model that can be applied under all conditions to all countries.
57. Dr Willeberg, in his concluding remarks, agreed to the comments made by the Delegates of Niger, Ecuador, Israel and Sudan. He acknowledged that there are many factors that determine the detection and course of animal disease outbreaks. It is therefore unrealistic and inadvisable to try to develop a global model applicable to all countries and under all conditions. This principle would also apply to the application of models even within different regions of a country. Different models should thus be combined and collated for a total overview. Models should thus be adapted to specific situations. To this end, the OIE could offer its support through the exchange of information, knowledge and expertise.
58. Dr Correa Messuti again congratulated Dr Willeberg on the quality of his presentation and his willingness to answer some difficult questions. Dr Correa Messuti invited all authors and speakers to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution: Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Uganda and Uruguay.

≡ TUESDAY 22 MAY 2007 ≡

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

**Presentations by International Organisations
having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE**

59. The President recalled that presentations at a Plenary Session are only made by intercontinental international organisations. These can be made every two years, except for the FAO, the WHO⁸, the World Bank, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Trade Organization and the World Veterinary Association, which can make their presentation every year. Regional organisations make their presentation within the framework of the Regional Commissions.
60. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional intercontinental organisations.

Codex Alimentarius Commission

61. Dr Claude J.S. Mosha, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), gave a presentation on the organisation and its activities.
62. Codex implements the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, one of the purposes of which is to protect the health of consumers and promote fair practices in the food trade. Codex recognises the need to work closely with other international standard-setting and regulatory bodies on matters of common interest, to achieve complementarity, to avoid duplication and to prevent the development of contradictory standards or guidelines. Such collaboration is also critical to the development of health-protection and food-trade measures that address the food chain from farm to table in a coherent and seamless manner. The OIE is one such organisation with which Codex needs to strengthen its cooperation.

⁸ WHO: World Health Organization

63. The OIE and Codex are both explicitly referenced in the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) as international standard-setting bodies, responsible for animal health and zoonoses, and for food safety, respectively. The OIE plays a predominant role in animal production. It is important that the two bodies cooperate and coordinate their activities so as to underline the importance of the food chain approach (“from farm to fork”) at the international level, and to avoid any contradictions, overlaps or gaps between Codex and OIE standards.
64. Cooperation between the two organisations is illustrated by the participation of experts from Codex in the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and the OIE’s participation in the work of several Codex subsidiary bodies, including the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food, the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (TFAF), the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (TFFBT), the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP), the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) and the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). Dr Mosha hoped that this cooperation could be strengthened within the framework of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH).
65. To ensure further cooperation in the future, the OIE, the FAO and the WHO might be requested to re-examine again their existing agreements, which were concluded long before the establishment of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, so as to allow more formal cooperation and collaboration between the OIE and Codex consistent with current food safety management requirements.

World Health Organization

66. Dr François-Xavier Meslin, representing the WHO, presented the activities of that organisation during the past year.
67. A review of the avian influenza (AI) situation was presented by means of maps (countries infected with the disease in animals) and histograms showing the progression in the number of human cases. The number of countries reporting human cases increased from two in 2004 to five in 2005. In 2007, 41 of the 47 human cases reported to date occurred in two previously infected countries (Egypt: 19 cases; Indonesia: 22 cases) and the first case to be reported in Africa was diagnosed in Nigeria. The virus has become firmly entrenched in populations of domestic birds in many countries that have become infected since 2003.
68. WHO, in collaboration with the FAO and the OIE through the GLEWS⁹ agreement, continues to monitor the situation in poultry very closely. The threat of a pandemic virus emerging is still considered serious and is expected to persist. WHO has maintained its level of pandemic influenza alert set in January 2004 at phase 3 (“no or very limited human-to-human transmission”).
69. The recent divergence of H5N1 viruses into genetically and antigenically distinct clades and subclades complicates the selection of an optimal strain for the development of a vaccine. Candidate vaccine viruses representing all currently known clades and subclades have been developed through reverse genetics and intense efforts are being made to develop pandemic influenza vaccines. It is, however, impossible to predict which currently circulating strains, if any, might start a pandemic. In this context, it is of paramount importance to the WHO that Veterinary Services rapidly share with WHO and its reference

⁹ GLEWS: Global Early Warning and Response System

laboratories all recently isolated viruses of animal origin, as well as information on the conditions of transmission of the disease to humans when animals and/or animal products are involved. Best practices for the sharing of influenza viruses and sequence data were recommended by the WHO secretariat on the occasion of the 60th World Health Assembly (WHA), held from 13 to 23 May 2007, and their application should be considered by OIE Member Countries. A resolution was endorsed on “Responsible practices for sharing AI viruses and resulting benefits”, defining the obligations and rights of developing countries affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) regarding sharing viruses and equitable distribution of effective pandemic-influenza vaccines in the event of a pandemic.

70. The new International Health Regulations (IHR -2005) will come into full force on 15 June 2007, and the Veterinary Services in all OIE Member Countries that are also WHO Member States are expected to be aware and comply with the Regulations. A notable requirement is the rapid notification of any “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”. Official Veterinary Services should be aware of and contribute to the goals of the IHR.
71. Existing networks should be used more effectively: GISN¹⁰, GLEWS. The latter network has been operational since the signing of the tripartite agreement by the three Organisations (OIE/FAO/WHO) in July 2006 and thanks to contributions from Canada. Early detection and rapid response procedures and mechanisms have been set up at a national and regional level, in particular in South-East Asia.
72. A series of WHO guidelines and recommendations have been issued to support the development of veterinary public health response capacities for avian influenza that comply with the provisions of the IHR. These recommendations, which include advice on the collection and transport of specimens, reduction of risk at the human-animal interface, food safety, and infection control for animal and human health workers, should be consulted by the National Veterinary Services.
73. The INFOSAN network, developed with the FAO in 2004, now has 154 member countries. INFOSAN is a global network of food safety authorities which improves national and international collaboration and disseminates important global food safety information.
74. The participation of the FAO and the OIE in the first meeting of the Global Partnership for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) (a platform bringing together the FAO, the OIE and the WHO, as well as the main donor bodies and the private sector), held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 and 20 April 2007, was highly appreciated. The suggestion made by the OIE and the FAO that a number of neglected zoonotic diseases of common interest to the three Organisations, such as brucellosis, cysticercosis, echinococcosis and rabies, be included in the NTD platform and considered by the Global Partnership was also very much appreciated.
75. During the past year, two publications were produced jointly with the FAO and the OIE: “Brucellosis in Humans and Animals” and “FAO/WHO/OIE Guidelines for the surveillance, management, prevention and control of Trichinellosis”.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

76. Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the Animal Health Service of the FAO, reported on the activities of his organisation.

¹⁰ GISN: WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network

77. After a review of the distribution of responsibilities between the FAO and the OIE, and of their complementarities and synergies, the Representative of the FAO recalled the existence of the FAO/OIE CMC¹¹, the GLEWS network, the EMPRES¹² system, the OFFLU¹³ network and the importance of the GF-TADs and regional and sub-regional networks.
78. On 21 May 2007, an agreement was signed between the Director General of the OIE and the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon regarding the setting up of a regional animal health centre in Beirut.
79. Of particular note is the FAO's participation in the following meetings: annual FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite meeting, GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee meetings: (Djibouti, 27 March 2007; Tokyo, 18–19 July 2007), ALive Executive Committee meetings (Djibouti, 29–30 March 2007; Paris, 26 May 2007), International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds (Rome, 30–31 May 2006) and International Conference on Avian Influenza (Bamako, Mali, 6–8 December 2006).
80. The FAO has announced that a technical meeting on highly pathogenic avian influenza will be held at the FAO headquarters in Rome from 27 to 29 June 2007.
81. The FAO Representative briefly reviewed the avian influenza situation worldwide and emphasised that countries are now reacting much faster in response to outbreaks. It is now accepted that human cases no longer occur once animal cases of the disease have been controlled and eradicated. The situation in Indonesia is still worrying, as is the situation in Egypt and Nigeria, albeit to a lesser extent. The situation in Bangladesh will need to be monitored.
82. Jointly with the OIE, the FAO has published an updated version of the document entitled “The Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza” (on Targeted risk based active surveillance, Stamping out, Biosecurity, Movement control and Vaccination).
83. Jointly with the OIE, the FAO and IFPRI¹⁴, the World Bank has published a document entitled “Enhancing Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Developing Countries through Compensation”.
84. A brief summary was also provided on FAO activities relating to other animal diseases (rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, Rift Valley fever) and to poverty alleviation and the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT).

World Trade Organization

85. Ms Christiane Wolff, Economic Affairs Officer at the WTO¹⁵, reported on the activities of that organisation.
86. The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) held four regular meetings in 2006. The SPS Committee also held its first meeting of 2007 from 28 February to 1 March; further meetings are planned for 27–28 June and 17–18 October 2007. A workshop on transparency will be held in conjunction with the October meeting.

¹¹ CMC: Crisis Management Centre

¹² EMPRES: Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases

¹³ OFFLU: OIE/FAO Network on Avian Influenza

¹⁴ IFPRI: International Food Policy Research Institute

¹⁵ WTO: World Trade Organization

87. In 2006, as usual, WTO Members raised many specific trade concerns during the meetings, of which 39 per cent (i.e. 11 issues) related to animal health. During 2006, three new animal-health-related trade concerns were discussed. In the period from 1995 to 2005, a total of 245 trade concerns were discussed in the SPS Committee, 40 per cent of which related to animal health. Taking a closer look at the animal health issues discussed, 38 per cent related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, 23 per cent to foot and mouth disease, 7 per cent to avian influenza and the rest to other issues. The OIE representative actively participated in the SPS Committee's discussions on animal health issues.
88. The SPS Committee has been discussing regionalisation since 2003. Some WTO Members are of the view that harmonisation of procedures in the area of regionalisation could improve the recognition process, enhance predictability and thus facilitate the implementation of Article 6 of the SPS Agreement, but the SPS Committee has yet to develop a consensus of what the typical administrative procedures for the recognition of parasite- or disease-free areas would include. During these discussions, the OIE representative regularly described OIE work on zoning and compartmentalisation. A small group of interested Members is holding detailed discussions with a view to developing a common understanding on this topic. Depending on the progress of these discussions and the acceptability of any understanding to the broader membership, the SPS Committee may be able to make progress on this issue in 2007.
89. The SPS Committee adopted the Report on the Second Review of the Operation of the SPS Agreement in June 2005. Since the adoption of the report, several Members have submitted papers and proposals for further work on a number of issues. At its meeting in February/March 2007, the SPS Committee agreed to prioritise its work in this area on two of the issues identified: use of *ad hoc* consultations to resolve trade concerns, including through the good offices of the Chairperson of the SPS Committee; and the relationship of the SPS Committee with the Codex, the OIE and the IPPC¹⁶.
90. The WTO Secretariat and the OIE continue to cooperate in providing technical assistance to developing countries, both through the OIE's active participation in WTO-organised training seminars and through STDF¹⁷-related projects. For example, the OIE provided in-depth training for veterinary officials back-to-back with regional SPS workshops.

World Veterinary Association

91. Dr Leon Russell, President of the WVA¹⁸, reported on that organisation's activities.
92. The WVA is a federation of 80 national veterinary medical associations (approximately a quarter of a million veterinarians with a wide range of activities). It is the sole internationally recognised representative of global organised veterinary medicine. Since 2002, the WVA has been signatory to a collaborative agreement between the OIE and the WVA in areas of mutual interest. The Association maintains several networks, in particular the Veterinary Animal Welfare Network, which uses the WVA website (worldvet.org) to communicate information on animal welfare matters to the global veterinary community.
93. Since 2000, the WVA has organised an annual World Veterinary Day, aimed at promoting veterinary medicine throughout the world. In 2007, the event took place on 28 April.

¹⁶ IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention

¹⁷ STDF: Standards and Trade Development Facility

¹⁸ WVA: World Veterinary Association

94. The WVA and the OIE are planning to create a World Veterinary Day Prize, aimed at rewarding national veterinary associations working to improve recognition of the profession, either alone or in cooperation with other veterinary bodies. The theme for 2008 will be “Celebrate our Diversity”. The prize will be awarded during the 2008 World Veterinary Congress, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from 27 to 31 July 2008.

International Federation for Animal Health

95. Dr Peter Jones, Executive Director of IFAH¹⁹, reported on that organisation’s activities.
96. IFAH once again expressed its appreciation for the honour accorded to the Federation by the OIE by inviting the Executive Director to address the General Session in 2007. The past 12 months have seen further positive examples of collaboration between the two organisations and, on this occasion, IFAH acknowledges the significant work done and progress achieved in a number of fields. IFAH has been involved in the work of the OIE on the following topics:
- preparing the list of critically important antimicrobials for veterinary medicines;
 - defining policy on vaccination as a tool to combat avian influenza;
 - collecting, analysing and disseminating veterinary scientific information;
 - addressing the global need for medicines;
 - harmonising regulatory standards.
97. IFAH is fully supportive of the revised list going forward to the meeting of the Codex Task Force on Risk Assessment for Antimicrobial Resistance, in the Republic of Korea in October 2007. However, IFAH questions the need for a tripartite OIE/FAO/WHO expert consultation on Risk Management of Veterinary Antimicrobials in advance of the Codex Task Force meeting and seeks to have it postponed until after this meeting.
98. IFAH has been a member of the OIE *ad hoc* Group to formulate recommendations to the OIE on future vaccination strategies. The Federation was pleased to be invited to participate in the scientific panel for the Verona conference on “Vaccination: a tool for the control of avian influenza”.
99. IFAH has produced a comprehensive communications package and an on-line resource of frequently asked questions available to the public on avian influenza (with OIE input), antimicrobial resistance and other topics. IFAH was pleased to be invited to contribute a chapter on Regulatory Requirements for Vaccine Authorization for Volume 26 of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*.
100. IFAH is seeking to stimulate a change of attitude among regulatory authorities, notably to reduce the regulatory burden and development cost/time through authorities’ recognising differences between human health and animal health, and promote a greater differentiation of requirements for regulating human and veterinary medicines.
101. A Global Animal Health Conference on this theme will be held in London, United Kingdom, on 15 and 16 November 2007.

¹⁹ IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health

102. Dr Jones rapidly reviewed the VICH²⁰ programme, which is now in Phase 2. The OIE is an associate member of VICH and its support is well appreciated by all the parties in the programme. Phase 2 focuses on the existing VICH guidelines and the authorities' implementation and interpretation of the guidelines. The good results of VICH assist the OIE in its efforts to promote a harmonised system for national registration of veterinary medicines throughout the world. Such a system goes a long way towards ensuring public health and consumer safety through the provision of high quality medicines licensed in accordance with OIE standards.

International Meat Secretariat

103. Mr Laurence Wrixon, Secretary General of the IMS²¹, reported on the activities of his organisation.
104. The IMS was founded in 1974. It is the representative international organisation of the meat and livestock industry, bringing together regional and national meat and livestock associations and meat processing companies from throughout the world. It is a forum where meat and livestock professionals from many different national horizons can exchange ideas, cooperate, and organise World Meat Congresses, Regional Conferences, Species symposia and specialised workshops. All this is done in a spirit of mutual interest and enthusiasm for the sector that we are engaged in – meat and livestock.
105. In 2007, the IMS has already held three major meetings: an IMS Regional Conference for the South and Central American Region, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in May, an IMS scientific symposium on meat safety, in Spain in February, and the first animal welfare workshop, in Paris in April. The President of the OIE's Scientific Commission spoke at the meeting in Sao Paulo, and an OIE representative read a paper at the animal welfare workshop in Paris. The IMS regards this as a practical application of the mutual cooperation Agreement signed by the two organisations in 2003.
106. The IMS has been participating as an observer in the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare and has recently come to an agreement with the OIE whereby IMS will have full membership of that group on a rotation basis with two other international organisations, representing the farming and dairy sectors.

International Equestrian Federation

107. Dr Frits Sluyter, Head of the FEI²² Veterinary Department, reported on the activities of his organisation.
108. The FEI brings together federations covering the following equestrian sports: jumping, dressage, eventing, endurance, reining, vaulting, driving, and para-equestrian competitions. These sports involve over 50,000 temporary international movements of horses each year.
109. The sanitary protocol for the 2008 Olympic Games is now in place. The equestrian Olympic Games will take place in Hong Kong. The protocol stipulates the quarantine periods and procedures for keeping racehorses separate from horses under the Olympic protocol. Training can begin during quarantine. Research has been conducted to gain a better understanding of, and anticipate, the effects of local conditions (high temperatures and humidity).

²⁰ VICH: International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products

²¹ IMS: International Meat Secretariat

²² FEI: International Equestrian Federation

110. Preparations for the Asian Games 2006 and PanAm Games 2007 encountered several problems over the required tests and the sanitary certificates to be used. These problems were notably due to the protocols not being adapted to the specificities of competition horses (temporary importation of horses not for reproduction purposes).
111. The FEI wished to remind the Delegates of several important principles: long residency in the exporting country inhibits the competition schedule; the testing protocol should not include breeding diseases; all horses at a venue shall be subject to an identical protocol (i.e. same health status). The FEI drew the Delegates' attention to the need to ensure that, as far as possible, events are organised at isolated venues, the duration of the event is considered as quarantine prior to re-export and the issuing of sanitary certificates is facilitated, and also to ensure proper transport and unloading conditions when horses are being transported (notably by plane).
112. The FEI emphasised the role of its IMHC²³ (preparation of testing and certification protocols, model sanitary certificate).

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

113. Dr David King, Secretary General of the IFAP²⁴, reported on the activities of that organisation.
114. The IFAP represents farmers at the world level. It is a forum where leaders of national farmers' organisations can meet to highlight mutual interests and take co-ordinated action to further such interests.
115. Human health and animal health are priorities under IFAP's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. Strengthening consumer confidence in livestock products is essential. This includes: food safety and traceability, animal welfare, and animal disease monitoring and control. These are the areas of expertise of the OIE.
116. One of IFAP's priorities for 2007 is to draw up a policy statement on animal welfare. Many farmers' organisations have been involved in the development of animal welfare codes of practice and legislation in their respective countries, and these experiences are being brought together within IFAP. The statement will cover only general principles and key messages.
117. IFAP considers that national animal welfare strategies must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each of the interested parties: individual animal owners and users, livestock animal industry groups, community animal welfare groups and governments. After a national strategy is adopted, it will be followed by the development of a national implementation plan in consultation with the key stakeholders, such as farmers.
118. Another of IFAP's priorities for this year is to finalize a policy statement on food safety and quality. The statement first draws a distinction between food safety and food quality issues. IFAP considers that market competition is about food quality and should not affect food safety.

²³ IMHC: International Movement of Horses Committee

²⁴ IFAP: International Federation of Agricultural Producers

119. In order to achieve an effective domestic food safety system that has producer participation and the uptake needed to meet on-farm food safety standards, IFAP encourages and supports the development of national or sectorial guides to good farming practice. IFAP is therefore pleased to be collaborating with the OIE on the preparation of a joint OIE/FAO publication "Guide to Good Farming Practices".
120. IFAP supports the 'good governance' element in the declarations of the Director General and in the OIE's Fourth Strategic Plan. IFAP also considers that capacity building is critical. IFAP considers that farmers' organisations also need to be strengthened so that they can be effective partners with government in the management of animal health systems. In the view of IFAP, it is the farmers that have the responsibility for caring for livestock on their farms, from the time animals are born until the time they are slaughtered.

World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

121. Dr Walter Bommeli, representative of the WAVLD²⁵, reported on the activities of this organisation.
122. The mission of the WAVLD is:
- to disseminate the latest information relating to the diagnosis of animal diseases through high quality educational symposia;
 - to facilitate the organisation of associations of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians in all countries of the world;
 - to provide consulting assistance to countries wishing to build and operate state-of-the-art veterinary diagnostic laboratories;
 - to organise other activities that may be conducted to improve the health and welfare of humans and animals throughout the world.
123. The Board of Directors of the WAVLD is pleased to announce that the 13th International Symposium of the WAVLD will be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 11 to 14 November 2007. The Australian delegation has put together an excellent scientific programme. The call for abstracts is now open. This is certain to be the most outstanding meeting covering veterinary diagnostic medicine to be held this calendar year. Delegates are invited to inform their colleagues about this meeting, which will provide an excellent opportunity for high quality continuing education, to present a paper or poster, to network with colleagues from all over the globe, and to visit beautiful Australia. In association with this meeting, and as has now become a tradition, the OIE will hold a one-day Biotechnology Symposium on 13 November 2007.

TECHNICAL ITEM II

The Role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Providing Permanent Support for the Objectives and Mandates of the OIE

(Doc. 75 SG/10)

124. Dr Niang, Chairman of the Session, introduced the Rapporteur for this item, Dr Alvin Gajadhar.
125. Dr Gajadhar presented his report, which was based in part on the answers received from OIE Member Countries to a questionnaire sent to them on the subject of this Technical Item.

²⁵ WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

126. Within the context of the commitments made through the adoption of the OIE's Fourth Strategic Plan (2006-2010) for capacity building of Veterinary Services, disease reporting and science-based standard setting, the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres play a primary role.
127. Analysis of the results of a questionnaire sent to Member Countries suggests that there are many opportunities for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to provide further support and expertise to help address shortcomings and vulnerabilities in global veterinary capacity. The areas assessed include market access, animal health, zoonoses-related public health, food safety and emerging diseases. Generally, the areas requiring support and the level of the requirements vary according to geographical location and the developmental status of the Member Countries. Although the OIE's widely welcomed plans for the twinning of laboratories should help to develop expertise and the provision of services in developing countries, they need to be strategically managed and funded to be regionally effective and sustainable. The uneven geographical distribution of the current OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres does not facilitate full global access and use of the services they provide. As well, there is a need to address common issues regarding awareness, communication and resources among these Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Furthermore, the network must be enhanced and expanded in order to address a broader range of diseases and emerging issues so as to reinforce scientific integrity for the continued evolution of relevant international standards. Challenges related to communication, transportation, competing priorities and funding are the most common obstacles for Member Countries in using OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The need for quality assurance in all areas of services to ensure reliable results and products is strongly supported by Member Countries. A strategy and process are required to enhance and expand the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to meet the present and long-term needs of the OIE and its Member Countries worldwide.

Discussion of Technical Item II

128. The Chairman thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation, which was full of useful and interesting information. He then opened the discussion to Delegates.
129. The Delegate of Australia congratulated Dr Gajadhar on his impressive presentation, which will pave the way for further development and refinement of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Delegate made three points: firstly, he considered that transportation of samples is a very important issue both for developing and developed countries. Diagnostics are seriously inhibited by both transportation difficulties and costs. Secondly, Australia fully supports the twinning of laboratories and is currently participating in twinning programmes with laboratories in Asia. Thirdly, the majority of countries do not support the submission of diagnostic test results by OIE Reference Laboratories to the OIE Central Bureau without the prior permission of the Delegate of the country from which the samples originated. This would indicate that the OIE Reference Laboratory mandate needs to be amended.
130. The Delegate of Eritrea thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He pointed out that most Reference Laboratories are in developed countries outside Africa and that this causes problems with the cost of the transport of specimens to OIE Reference Laboratories from countries in Africa, even in cases where agreements exist between countries. He urged the OIE to address the regulatory issues and to resolve cost issues related to the transport of specimens.

131. The Delegate of Senegal thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He also said that there are specific serious problems due to the lack of Reference Laboratories in Africa. In his recommendations, Dr Gajadhar did not highlight the specific problems that African countries face. Twinning could be one solution, but what African countries need is a quick solution. The OIE must audit laboratories in Africa to help them to comply with standards and for this the issue of the funding of equipment needs to be resolved.
132. The Delegate of Rwanda thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his clear presentation. He also expressed his concern at the uneven distribution of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, especially the lack of them in Africa. He acknowledged that twinning could help to resolve the problem.
133. The Delegate of Canada thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He commented that, in Dr Gajadhar's presentation, only some of the functions of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres were mentioned. In the future, their roles would expand. The improvement of Veterinary Services remains, however, an important factor and is dependent on a close working relationship with other scientific competencies. He therefore sought Dr Gajadhar's advice on the importance of promoting capacity of other national, private and/or academic laboratories that could assist the Veterinary Services.
134. The Delegate of Bangladesh thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. Referring to the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in his country in March 2007, he said that the services in Bangladesh could diagnose the disease but, as they could not do serotyping for H5N1, there was a long delay in obtaining results from laboratories abroad because of transport problems. He requested the OIE to intervene to facilitate international transport of biological samples.
135. The Rapporteur thanked the Delegates and indicated that some of the questions were of a policy nature and he would ask the Director General to comment. In response to the intervention by the Delegate of Australia, he acknowledged that samples need to be able to reach Reference Laboratories quickly and in good condition. Referring to the question by the Delegate of Eritrea, he indicated that strategic plans need to be developed to address the shortage and uneven distribution of Reference Laboratories. This also applies to the question raised by the Delegate of Senegal and would be addressed in the Resolution. In response to the question by the Delegate of Bangladesh, he indicated that the issue of the transport of specimens needs to be addressed and referred this to the Director General. In response to the intervention by the Delegate of Canada, he acknowledged that not all the information relating to laboratories other than Reference Laboratories could be included in his presentation, but said that the complete data on this were available.
136. The Director General also expressed his gratitude to Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. For the benefit of new Delegates he explained the process of selection of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, which are evaluated by a democratically elected Specialist Commission on the basis of their scientific excellence and the recognition at international level of their experts followed by a vote of the OIE International Committee. The OIE realises that there is a definite need for expansion of this service. The twinning policy was launched at the Conference in Florianopolis, Brazil, but it will take many years to achieve its final goal of an equitable geographical distribution of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, especially in Africa and the Middle East, because to build a top-level scientific community requires multi-annual investment.

Regarding the transport of specimens, Dr Vallat indicated that the OIE is represented on the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN SCETDG) by Dr James Pearson to negotiate the best way to facilitate the transport of specimens. The current rules are very restrictive and the OIE continues with the aid of the

FAO and the WHO to lobby UN SCETDG and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) with the aim of making the regulations less stringent and reducing the costs. He mentioned the case of avian influenza, where these barriers rendered it difficult at the global level to manage outbreaks of the disease. He also referred to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which allows air carriers to refuse wildlife samples.

With regard to the reporting of positive test results by Reference Laboratories, Dr Vallat reminded the Delegates of the Resolution adopted in 2004, when a compromise was reached that OIE Reference Laboratories must notify the OIE of positive test results, but that the OIE will not publish them without the agreement of the Delegate of the country of origin of the samples.

137. The Delegate of the United Kingdom thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation and the answers he provided to the Delegates. She referred to the sustainability of funding mentioned in the response of the Director General and questioned whether the OIE has engaged sufficiently with its partners and users to seek their support in funding needs (e.g. IFAP).
138. The Delegate of Morocco thanked Dr Gajadhar and congratulated him on his excellent presentation. He also stated his satisfaction with the responses of the Director General to questions raised. He urged the OIE to ensure that the network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres is expanded while ensuring that the highest quality is maintained. He questioned whether all Reference Laboratories comply with the standard ISO 17025. In his response, the Rapporteur indicated that he did not have an answer to this question, but that Reference Laboratories are recommended to have at least a minimum system of quality assurance.
139. Dr Niang once again congratulated Dr Gajadhar on his outstanding presentation and on his willingness to reply to the questions from the floor. He invited the Delegates of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Eritrea, Morocco and the United Kingdom to form a group along with Dr Gajadhar to draw up the draft Resolution on this Technical Item.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

140. Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the Commission's activities, including the outcomes of regular Commission meetings held in July 2006 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS3 A), September 2006 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS3 B), January 2007 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS3 C) and February 2007 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS3 D). He also outlined 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 (FMD), Rinderpest, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in conformity with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*; the *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Zoonoses, the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology; the *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue; the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis; the *ad hoc* Group on African and Classical Swine Fever; the *ad hoc* Group on African Horse Sickness; the *ad hoc* Group on West Nile Fever; the *ad hoc* Group on Newcastle Disease; the *ad hoc* Group on Vaccination Strategies for Avian Influenza; the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis, and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. Prof. Caporale also informed the International Committee of the outcome of a mission to South America under the authority of the Commission to assess the control measures for FMD in the Southern Cone countries. On behalf of the Commission, he expressed his appreciation for

the support provided by Dr Vallat and the staff at the OIE headquarters, in particular the staff of the Scientific and Technical Department. He addressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the *ad hoc* Groups reporting to the Scientific Commission and to the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

141. Review of the annual work programme

At its July 2006 meeting (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS3 A), the Bureau of the Commission reviewed the plan of activities for the coming year in accordance with the Commission's Plan of Action and the directives given by the International Committee during the 74th General Session. The Commission reviewed its priorities for the period 2006–2009 and identified important issues of a scientific nature that need to be updated or incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code* and issues that need to be brought into conformity with the Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE. The Commission stated again that it should be consulted for scientific justification of proposed OIE international standards, in accordance with its Mandate and Terms of Reference.

Review of the activities for 2006/2007

142. Guidelines for the surveillance of bluetongue

The Commission endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue and Bluetongue Surveillance and proposed changes to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bluetongue and submitted it to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission) for circulation and comment from Member Countries with the request that the principle of compartmentalisation should be incorporated into the revised bluetongue chapter for the *Terrestrial Code*. Following the meeting of an extraordinary *ad hoc* Group of experts on bluetongue that was convened at the OIE headquarters in October 2006 at the request of the Director General, the President of the Commission submitted to the Commission a draft proposal for initiating a network of OIE Reference Laboratories for bluetongue. The first consultation on the establishment of this proposed network was held at Teramo, Italy, in March 2007 and included representatives from all OIE Reference Laboratories and other related expert Groups and national laboratories involved in bluetongue surveillance, diagnostics and research.

143. Emerging zoonoses

The Commission took note of the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Zoonoses held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America on 21 and 22 March 2006. Due to the fact that the majority of the zoonotic diseases are not covered by the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission recommended reviewing the Terms of Reference and future activities of the *ad hoc* Group with regard to the mandate of the Commission, the future approach to be adopted and planned alliances between the OIE, other related international organisations and OIE Collaborating Centres in addressing zoonoses and emerging zoonoses.

144. Manual of General Guidelines on Animal Health Surveillance

The Commission recommended contacting the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres to initiate work on the preparation of a Manual on Animal Health Surveillance taking into account the new *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 3.8.1. The Commission also acknowledged the need to prepare a background paper on surveillance of wildlife diseases to form a basis for discussions on a *Terrestrial Code* chapter on general surveillance of wildlife diseases, and recommended that the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology should include wildlife experts for this purpose.

145. **Foot and mouth disease**

a) Decision of the International Committee in accordance with Resolution No. XXX of the 74th General Session

The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology for modifications to *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 2.2.10. on foot and mouth disease (FMD) to accommodate the request of the International Committee in Resolution No. XXX adopted at the 74th General Session. The Resolution requested the Scientific Commission to investigate and propose possible changes to the existing requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* with the aim of expediting the procedure for the re-instatement of the FMD free status of a country or zone in the event of a limited outbreak of the disease. The proposed revision to the chapter introduces the concept of a *containment zone* that could only be feasible if stamping out of the infection is a mandatory prerequisite for the establishment of the said *containment zone*. The Commission took note of the comments by Member Countries, but while realising that this is a novel concept that needs to be further developed – for other OIE-listed diseases as well – requests the International Committee to nevertheless favourably consider the introduction of this concept as it could help to expedite the resumption of trade in the event of a limited outbreak of FMD.

b) Changes to Chapter 2.2.10. to justify and verify the annual confirmation of disease-free status for foot and mouth disease

The Commission proposed changes to Chapter 2.2.10. to indicate clearly the information that is required from Member Countries in their annual declarations to the OIE to confirm the maintenance of disease-free status for FMD. If endorsed by the International Committee, these changes could be made equally applicable to the other OIE-listed diseases requiring official annual confirmation of status, namely bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), rinderpest and, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP).

c) Report of the OIE Mission to South America to assess the control of FMD on the frontier areas between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay

The Commission reviewed in detail the report of the mission that was conducted from 6 to 12 December 2006 by a team appointed by the Director General and led by the President of the Scientific Commission. The Commission adopted the report and the recommendations, and noted and supported the recommendation that it is essential that the countries concerned address the control of the disease in the frontier areas especially, as a regional problem and investigate alternatives to establish a mutual supportive regional approach to FMD control.

Following the adoption of the report by the Commission, a delegation consisting of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru met with the Commission on two occasions and were given the opportunity to discuss the recommendations of the mission. Letters of confirmation were subsequently received from, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay agreeing to set aside a small area 15 km wide along the common borders in the frontier areas of each of these three countries and to exclude these areas from the zones allocated as officially free by the OIE until such time as the OIE can be requested to reconsider the situation. Such a request will depend on the epidemiological situation of the disease in the frontier areas of the three countries. Bolivia also agreed to be involved in the new procedures.

d) *Ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD

During the past year, applications for the establishment of FMD free country/zone status, with or without vaccination, were considered by the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD.

Following the successful control of outbreaks of FMD in Argentina and Botswana, the Commission applied the mandate given to it in terms of Resolution No. XXI of the 71st General Session and restored the previously free status with vaccination of Argentina and Botswana in the respective zones indicated by the Delegates of Argentina and Botswana.

Based on the recommendations of this *ad hoc* Group and following acceptance by Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay of the recommendations of the fact-finding mission to South America, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

1. **Argentina:** enlargement of an existing zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.
2. **Brazil:** State of Santa Catarina, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.
3. **Peru:** a zone designated by the Delegate of Peru in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.
4. **Botswana:** enlargement of an existing zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2006, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.
5. **Paraguay:** a zone designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in a document addressed to the Director General in March 2007, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.
6. **Colombia:** a zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.
7. **Brazil:** a zone designated in the middle-southern region of the State of Pará by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007, as an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.

These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXI.

146. ***Ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest**

The Commission reviewed and adopted the reports of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Rinderpest. The recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group for the allocation of freedom from infection or disease for applicant Member Countries were reviewed. The status of three Member Countries was provisionally approved pending the submission of their annual disease reports to the OIE. One application was withdrawn by the Member Country concerned. The Commission insisted that any approval of an application should be subject to written evidence that the applicant Member Country has complied with its obligation to submit six-monthly and annual disease status reports to the OIE.

The proposals by the *ad hoc* Group for changes to Chapter 2.2.12. and supporting surveillance guidelines were approved for circulation by the Terrestrial Code Commission for comments by Member Countries. A notable change that the Commission endorsed is the deletion of the concept of *provisional freedom* from the text in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and surveillance guidelines in support of the ideal to expedite the movement towards global rinderpest eradication in the year 2010. Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

1. That Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Gambia and Tajikistan be recognised by the OIE as countries free from rinderpest disease.
2. That Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Mozambique, Pakistan and Tanzania be recognised by the OIE as free from rinderpest infection.

These recommendations are submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXII.

147. ***Ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)**

The Scientific Commission reviewed and adopted the report of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation on Country Status for CBPP. The Commission decided to refer the revision of the text of chapter 2.3.15. of the *Terrestrial Code* and the surveillance guidelines for CBPP to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, following the incorporation into that *ad hoc* Group of experts on the disease. The Group would be requested to structure the proposed text so that it is compatible with other chapters of a similar nature before being forwarded to the Terrestrial Code Commission. The draft questionnaires on CBPP should similarly be discussed by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology and submitted for adoption at the next meeting of the Scientific Commission.

Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendation:

1. That India and the United States of America be recognised as countries free from CBPP.

This recommendation is submitted for approval by the International Committee in Draft Resolution No. XXIII.

148. ***Ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**

The Scientific Commission reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for BSE especially in view of the recommendations in Resolution No. XXVII of the 74th General Session where it was resolved that all applications will be assessed against the requirements of the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* and any applications thereafter against the current *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission also applied the decision of the International Committee that Member Countries that were evaluated and allocated a status in accordance with the 2004 edition of the *Terrestrial Code* would retain that status until May 2008 unless in the interim they apply for a re-assessment in accordance with the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*. The new *ad hoc* Group, meeting in November 2006, consequently began by establishing clear and transparent evaluation criteria, strictly in accordance with the requirements of the 2006 *Terrestrial Code*. At the second meeting, in January 2007, the Group proceeded with the evaluation of applicant Member Countries against these criteria.

Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

1. That Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Uruguay be recognised as countries with a negligible risk for BSE.
2. That Brazil, Canada, Chile, Switzerland, Taipei China, and the United States of America be recognised as countries with a controlled risk for BSE.

These recommendations have been submitted to Member Countries for comment and are submitted to the International Committee for approval in Draft Resolution No. XXIV.

149. **Guidelines for the surveillance of classical swine fever**

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Classical and African Swine Fever on the appendix of the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the Surveillance of Classical Swine Fever, and noted that the *ad hoc* Group, out of necessity

and to include the principle of compartmentalisation in both the surveillance guidelines and the *Terrestrial Code* chapter, had to suggest accommodating changes to the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* and harmonise it with the proposed surveillance guidelines. After a discussion with the Director General and the President of the Terrestrial Code Commission, it was decided to circulate the chapter as revised by the Scientific Commission to Member Countries and present it for adoption to the International Committee. In reviewing the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and surveillance guidelines for classical swine fever, the Commission used the approach of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on FMD as a template and guideline. The President of the Commission, in explaining this approach to the International Committee, remarked that for aspects such as compartmentalisation, either the approach of the FMD chapter (i.e. excluding the presence of disease in wildlife vectors) or the approach of, for example, the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on avian influenza i.e. accepting the presence of disease in wildlife vectors) could be considered.

150. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on African swine fever

Following its extensive revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and surveillance guidelines for classical swine fever, the *ad hoc* Group applied the same principles to updating the chapter on African swine fever, using the same approach, including the principle of compartmentalisation. The chapter was circulated to Member Countries and will be presented by the Terrestrial Code Commission to the International Committee for adoption.

151. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on African horse sickness

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on African Horse Sickness on updating the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* and proposing new surveillance guidelines for African horse sickness. The *ad hoc* Group applied the same approach and principles as were used for the development of the chapter and surveillance guidelines for bluetongue. The Commission was of the opinion that the principle of compartmentalisation should also be considered for African horse sickness, as recommended for bluetongue, and therefore included it as a recommendation for circulation with the chapter to Member Countries for comment.

152. General guidelines for compartmentalisation

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on developing General guidelines for compartmentalisation as an appendix for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* following discussions with the President of the Terrestrial Code Commission and the Director General on the need for such an appendix. The Scientific Commission reiterated that the same principles as were applied to developing an appendix for the *Terrestrial Code* for General guidelines on animal disease surveillance should apply to compartmentalisation, namely by first developing general guidelines and then, if need be, developing specific guidelines for compartmentalisation for individual diseases. The *ad hoc* Group used the concept paper on compartmentalisation previously prepared under the auspices of the Commission and published by the OIE in the *Bulletin* and the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter as reference documents. The Terrestrial Code Commission will present the proposed Appendix to the International Committee.

153. Development of a new chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on West Nile fever

In fulfilment of its working programme for 2006, the Commission endorsed the proposed new chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on West Nile Fever and reviewed by the Terrestrial Code Commission taking into account the comments received from Member Countries. The Commission recommended adoption of the chapter.

154. *Terrestrial Code* chapter on brucellosis

The *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis revised the *Terrestrial Code* chapter taking into account the comments received from Member Countries. The Commission reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and forwarded the revised chapter to the Terrestrial Code Commission.

155. Revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Newcastle disease

The Scientific Commission noted the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Newcastle Disease and endorsed the revised chapter which was submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission. The Commission requested that the proposed surveillance guidelines for Newcastle disease first be compared and made consistent with those proposed for avian influenza and asked that the Director General convene a combined *ad hoc* Group comprising members of the *ad hoc* Groups on Newcastle Disease, Avian Influenza, and Epidemiology and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases to evaluate the consistency between the different guidelines, particularly in view of the role played by wildlife vectors and of strategies for vaccination.

156. Vaccination strategies for avian influenza

The Commission noted that work on the guidelines for vaccination strategies for avian influenza is in progress and will be finalised after consideration of the recommendations of the OIE/FAO/IZS²⁶ International Conference on vaccination held in Verona, Italy, in March 2007. The Commission confirmed its previous decision that, following the Verona conference, the Director General would be requested to convene a combined *ad hoc* Group, comprising members of the *ad hoc* Groups on Epidemiology, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, as previously mentioned, to evaluate consistency in the guidelines for vaccination and surveillance for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. The Commission noted that the existing document on guidelines on vaccination strategies for avian influenza is intended to be an information document for Member Countries and not intended for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*.

157. *Terrestrial Code* chapter on tuberculosis

The Commission reviewed and adopted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis but concluded that the proposed revised *Terrestrial Code* chapter on tuberculosis is not applicable to wildlife species. The Working Group on Wildlife Diseases will be requested to provide general recommendations and guidelines for all diseases in which transmission between domestic and wild animals plays a significant role, such as classical swine fever, African swine fever, avian influenza and rabies. The Terrestrial Code Commission was therefore requested not to accept the proposed changes to Article 2.3.3.2 (1) and (6), but to maintain the original text and to delete Article 2.3.3.3.

158. OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network

The annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network could unfortunately not be finalised before the meeting of the Commission in February, its last meeting prior to the General Session. Following a meeting between the Director General, members of the Scientific Commission and OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories in Florianopolis, Brazil, in December 2006, the Director General has requested the President of the Scientific Commission to undertake an evaluation of the implementation of the OIE/FAO FMD Reference Laboratory network and to make recommendations to the Director General on the creation of a similar network for other OIE-listed diseases.

159. Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

The Commission invited a member of the Working Group to present the main conclusions of its last meeting. The Commission supported the request of the Group that the Director General be asked to consider enlarging the Group by appointing one representative from Asia and another from South America to ensure a more even global representation. The Commission supported the request of the Group that Member Countries that have not yet done so should designate a focal point for wildlife diseases in their respective countries. The suggestion of the Group to incorporate surveillance data on the most relevant wildlife diseases as a third and separate section of WAHID was not supported by the Commission

²⁶ IZS^{Ve}: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie

as it was considered more suitable to compile all disease data on wildlife in WAHID. However, the Commission supported the proposal that the Director General be requested to convene an *ad hoc* Group to evaluate, with the support of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, an extension of WAHIS to incorporate diseases of wildlife.

The work done by the Group and the draft proposals submitted on managing significant emerging diseases involving wildlife and on preparedness for a response to transboundary animal diseases in wildlife were commended by the Commission, which will refer the documents to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology for further discussion and incorporation into its working programme. The Group was also requested to establish a list of available training opportunities and facilities in wildlife diseases so as to propose a training programme for Member Countries.

160. Future work programme of the Scientific Commission

With the assistance of *ad hoc* Groups, and in addition to its ongoing activities, the Commission will also address the following newly identified priorities in 2007/2008:

1. Evaluate the need for a *Terrestrial Code* chapter on vector-borne disease surveillance;
2. Evaluate the scientific justification of the current requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on scrapie and BSE in view of the alleged atypical cases of scrapie and BSE;
3. Develop a Handbook for Animal Disease Surveillance;
4. Formulate recommendations to the Director General on the application of networks for OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases.

161. The President of the Commission, in closing his presentation, suggested that the Director General should consider convening an *ad hoc* Group on global climate change and the effect thereof on animal diseases, and also to consider the possibility of organising an international conference on approaches to the global control of FMD.

162. After the presentation of the report, the President opened discussions on the various issues raised and indicated that he would first invite the Delegates to raise any comments they might have on the four proposed draft Resolutions for the allocation of disease free status.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXI
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries**

163. In the discussion on the adoption of the proposed Resolution for the recognition of FMD free status, the Delegate of Brazil confirmed the commitment of the Veterinary Services of the Southern Cone Permanent Veterinary Committee (CVP) to work together on the guidelines and recommendations, advocated by the recent OIE mission, to achieve the eventual goal of freedom from the disease for the whole region.

164. The Delegate of Argentina requested that the zone of Argentina for which the status of FMD free with vaccination has been reconfirmed in accordance with the mandate of the Scientific Commission, should also be included in the draft Resolution. The Director General indicated that the Resolution will be amended accordingly to accommodate the request of Argentina.

165. The Delegate of India asked for information on the procedure for informing other Member Countries of the declaration and acceptance by the OIE of a containment zone for FMD. She also asked for clarity on how Member Countries are informed that the zone not affected by infection retains its free status.

166. Prof. Caporale, in his response to the Delegate of India, reiterated the principles underlying the establishment of a containment zone and emphasised that the main motivation is to disrupt trade as little as possible and to allow trade to continue in the non-infected area. It is foreseen that the process for the allocation of containment zones will also be handled by a fast track and transparent procedure.
167. The Delegate of Chile requested clarification on the status and classification of the 15-km buffer zone proposed for Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia by the OIE. Prof. Caporale explained that the OIE process for country recognition only gives recognition to zones free from the disease in question and, in the case of FMD, also to zones that are free with vaccination or zones that are free without vaccination. The process therefore does not list areas as infected or areas that are outside of zones recognised as free from disease. Border zones of 15 km will not be considered as 'free'.
168. The Delegate of Fiji, a new Member Country, requested the International Committee's permission to be listed as historically free from FMD as Fiji has never had outbreaks of the disease. The President welcomed Fiji as a new OIE Member Country and asked Prof. Caporale to explain to the Delegate of Fiji what process needs to be followed for Fiji to be officially recognised and listed as historically free from FMD. The Director General confirmed the explanation by Prof. Caporale and also added that the same procedure would apply to the Dominican Republic, which is also a new Member Country.
169. The Delegate of South Africa, in seeking further clarification on the newly introduced concept of containment zones, asked if trading partners could insist on the establishment of a buffer zone around a containment zone if, for example, vaccination has been applied around an area where vaccination is not practised. Prof. Caporale reiterated that a buffer zone should never be obligatory, but that the emphasis should be on the separation of subpopulations of animals of different health status.
170. The Delegate of Argentina expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Director General and the OIE for undertaking the mission to South America, and for accepting the challenge to help to solve a very difficult problem in the region. He expressed especially his appreciation for the transparent manner in which the mission was conducted and in which the OIE conducts its work.
171. Draft Resolution No. XXI 'Recognition of Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries' was submitted for adoption by the President after addition of the zone in Argentina accepted as free from FMD with vaccination. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXI at the end of this report.

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

172. Before proposing the adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIII Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries, the President informed the International Committee that the apparent low interest of Member Countries to apply for the official recognition of freedom from CBPP was discussed during the recent meeting of the Administrative Commission. The Administrative Commission will, during its next meeting in September 2007, once again review the current OIE policy for the official recognition of the health status of Member Countries for the different diseases and will inform the International Committee during the 76th General Session in May 2008 of the outcome of these discussions. In response to an intervention from the Delegate of South Africa asking why countries that are historically free from CBPP are not officially listed, the President indicated that countries seeking to be listed, even if they are historically free, have to follow the prescribed procedure by officially applying to the OIE for the allocation of free status.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIII at the end of this report.

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

173. In discussing the proposed Draft Resolution No. XXII Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease presented by the President for adoption, the Delegate of Fiji, in response to his request for Fiji to be listed as historically free, was requested to follow the prescribed OIE procedure for the recognition of disease free status (at no cost to the countries concerned).

The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXII at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries**

174. Before presenting for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXIV Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries, the President gave a summary of the democratic and science-based process that the OIE applies for the evaluation of country applications for the allocation of disease free status. He emphasised that the process has special relevance to the evaluation of country dossiers for BSE. The OIE ensures that the best international experts are nominated to the *ad hoc* Group responsible for screening and evaluating these dossiers, and that the process is further complemented and democratised in that the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group are once again scrutinised by the Scientific Commission before Member Countries are, in turn, given the opportunity to raise concerns and comments before the recommendations are finally submitted to the International Committee for adoption. He explained the different risk categories and the requirements for country compliance for the status of negligible and controlled risk for BSE. The countries proposed for adoption under the different categories were classified according to their compliance with the requirements of a specific category and not the relative difference between individual countries.
175. The Delegate of Japan expressed his support for the work and the report of the Scientific Commission on the recognition of BSE country status. He requested that the United States of America should consider excluding specific risk material (SRM) from animal feed to avoid cross contamination, and that Canada should consider sampling and testing specifically aimed at auditing and controlling the cattle feed ban system. He requested the United States of America to strengthen its animal feed bans and to provide updated reports to the OIE on the control and audit of the surveillance and feed ban systems. Japan further requested access by OIE Member Countries to the dossiers of other Member Countries and that the rationale for decisions by the Scientific Commission should be more clearly described.
176. The Delegate of the Republic of Korea supported the comments of the Delegate of Japan and referred to similar comments submitted by Korea to the OIE. He asked the OIE to consider the comments of Member Countries before finally considering the allocation of a category of BSE risk to an applicant country.
177. The Delegate of Syria indicated that his country had experienced difficulties with the evaluation criteria. He regarded the evaluation process as being too slow and he wished to know about the real trade implications of the new categorisation system for BSE.
178. The Delegate of Japan sought clarification on the implications of the OIE's official recognition of a country's disease status.. He also reminded the International Committee of the non-liability statement by the OIE, in the text of the Resolutions, for inaccurate information or changes in the epidemiological status of a country that are not reported to the OIE subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom from disease. He emphasised that official recognition is not a substitute for measures that must be determined by the country and that, according to the SPS Agreement, countries could still apply stricter sanitary measures than those recommended by the OIE standards.

179. The Director General in his response to the Delegate of Japan informed the International Committee that the very issue of recognition of disease free status as an international standard is under discussion by the SPS Committee of the WTO. He confirmed his view that if a Resolution by the OIE has been voted and adopted, it should be regarded as an international standard. He reiterated that if the OIE is not informed by a Member Country of a change in the epidemiological situation after the allocation of disease free status, the OIE cannot be held responsible. In terms of the SPS Agreement, countries are allowed to apply sanitary measures stricter than those recommended in the international standards of the OIE provided that such stricter sanitary measures are scientifically justified. Nonetheless, as OIE standards are elaborated with the support of internationally renowned scientists, it is difficult to justify scientifically any national measures that differ from those of the OIE.
180. The Director General, in response to a question by the Delegate of Jordan asking if a country is entitled to allocate a risk status to another country for the purpose of trade, indicated that only the OIE can allocate official disease status for BSE, but the OIE could assist countries in assessing the risk for international trade.
181. The Delegate of Canada commented that the many interventions by Delegates illustrate the need for transparency in the evaluation process, but cautioned that the transparency process should be reciprocal in that Member Countries that wish to make comments on the recommendations for disease freedom and classification should also address their comments and questions to the countries concerned and not only to the OIE. He pledged support for an accelerated procedure for BSE country evaluations as had been referred to in presentations earlier in the General Session by some Member Countries, and requested that such an accelerated procedure should be considered within the framework of the work programme of the Scientific Commission while still allowing for the 60-day period for comments by Member Countries.
182. The President, in response to the request by the Delegate of Canada, indicated that in discussions by the Administrative Commission on the need for an expedited procedure for country evaluations, it had been suggested that recommendations by the Scientific Commission could be circulated to Member Countries for comment during the course of the year as and when *ad hoc* Groups have evaluated the reports. This suggestion would give Member Countries more time to react and submit comments well ahead of the General Session in May.
183. The President proposed the adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIV Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIV at the end of this report.

Discussion on the future work programme of the Scientific Commission

184. The Delegate of Brazil confirmed his country's support for the proposed conference on FMD and the *ad hoc* Group on climate change and indicated that Brazil would be available to serve on the organising committee of the conference.
185. The Delegate of Cuba congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and expressed his support for the proposed *ad hoc* Group on climate change. On the strength of the comments by the Director General during his report to the International Committee, he stated that Cuba would support a review of the list of diseases for which the OIE has a procedure for official recognition of disease free status, to include, for instance, classical swine fever (CSF) and Newcastle disease (ND). He acknowledged that these diseases might require specific criteria for the recognition of disease freedom that are not necessarily the same as for the diseases on the current list. Prof. Caporale, in his response to the Delegate of Cuba, reiterated that the OIE has always aimed to facilitate trade but would obviously need to have the resources to be able to implement a more extensive system of disease status recognition.
186. The Delegate of Morocco congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and added his support for the proposal by Prof. Caporale that compartmentalisation should be considered for bluetongue. He said that Morocco is already applying the principle in bilateral trade negotiations.

187. The Delegate of Panama congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and informed the International Committee that Panama has instituted a process of depopulation of cattle to control a limited outbreak of bovine tuberculosis in his country to enable him to declare the country free from the disease. Panama also applies active monitoring for bovine brucellosis in collaboration with stakeholders in the industry with the aim of making a self-declaration of freedom from the disease. He informed the International Committee that Panama has conducted active surveillance for CSF for the past 9 years. As it no longer has active infection, Panama has already submitted a dossier to the OIE for a self-declaration of freedom from CSF. The Delegate added his support for the proposal by the Delegate of Cuba for the inclusion of CSF and ND on the list of diseases for which the OIE has an official disease status recognition procedure.
188. The Delegate of South Africa thanked Prof. Caporale for his presentation and added the support of South Africa for the proposal that compartmentalisation should be considered for bluetongue and African horse sickness. The Delegate expressed concern about the potential risk posed by gatherings of pet birds as they are not covered in the current definition of poultry with respect to HPAI. The uncertainty surrounding the definition of pet birds for the purposes of HPAI control could result in trade disputes between countries, and he requested that the OIE should re-consider the definition of poultry in view of his comments. In his response, Prof. Caporale indicated that the question could best be answered by the Terrestrial Code Commission, which is responsible for updating the chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.
189. The Delegate of Uruguay supported the interventions by the Delegates of Cuba, Panama and Brazil on the possibility of convening an *ad hoc* Group on climate change and the proposed conference on FMD. He indicated that a Mercosur country with experience in this area could host such a conference as these countries had experience in that field, with the aim of demystifying, by means of the latest scientific knowledge, the use of vaccination and the safe trade of products derived from vaccinated animals. The Delegate also added his support for a possible extension of the list for diseases for which there is a procedure for official recognition of status. He proposed that all Member Countries should submit a list of preferred diseases to the OIE, which could consider the proposals and submit them for comment to the International Committee during the next General Session. He also indicated that for diseases such as CSF and ND, a less elaborate procedure for the recognition of disease free status should be considered.
190. The Delegate of El Salvador added his support for the proposals by the Delegates of Cuba and Uruguay that CSF and ND be included in the list of diseases for which there is a procedure for official recognition of freedom.
191. The Delegate of Sudan congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and supported the creation of an *ad hoc* Group on climate change and the proposed conference on FMD. He enquired about the possible application of allergic skin tests, such as those being used for bovine tuberculosis, to other chronic diseases such as mycoplasmosis (CBPP) and brucellosis. He also requested clarification from Prof. Caporale on the role of sheep in the epidemiology of FMD. Prof. Caporale responded that the clarification of the role of sheep in the epidemiology of FMD is one of the reasons why an international conference on FMD would be opportune. He indicated that the intradermal test for brucellosis has been applied successfully in Italy, but he was uncertain if such a diagnostic test would be suitable for the diagnosis of CBPP.
192. The Delegate of Niger supported the proposal by Prof. Caporale that there should be consistency in the surveillance methods for AI and ND for cost-saving purposes, but also as a differential diagnostic tool considering that a suspicion of ND should always be regarded as a suspicion of AI. He reminded the International Committee that the combination of surveillance strategies, such as coordinating the surveillance for rinderpest with that of other diseases, had proved successful in the past.

193. The Delegate of Guatemala added his support for extension of the list of diseases for which disease freedom can be officially recognised to include CSF and ND. He indicated that his country would conclude the last phase of its vaccination programme against CSF in July 2007.
194. The Delegate of Colombia thanked Prof. Caporale for his presentation. He added his support for an international conference on FMD, and called for emphasis to be given to the application of a regional approach to FMD control. He added the support of Colombia for the extension of the list of diseases for which disease freedom can be officially recognised to include CSF and ND.
195. The Observer from the Palestine National Authority informed the International Committee that cases of lumpy skin disease (LSD) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) are frequently encountered in the Jordan valley and requested that EHD be considered for inclusion on the OIE list of diseases. Prof. Caporale, in his response, supported the request and indicated that it will be considered by the OIE.
196. The Delegate of Sudan expressed his concern that not all countries apply the prescribed control methods for FMD and that one of the purposes of such an international conference on FMD would be to emphasise once again the obligations of countries to control the disease.
197. The Delegate of Ecuador supported the proposal by the Delegate of Colombia for the need to hold an international conference on FMD. He informed the International Committee that AI is not currently present in Ecuador but there is a risk of introduction of the virus via migratory wild birds. He added his support for the extension of the list of diseases for which disease freedom can be officially recognised to include CSF and ND.
198. The Delegate of Malaysia congratulated Prof. Caporale on his presentation and added his support for an *ad hoc* Group on climate change and the need for an international conference on FMD as Malaysia is faced with the threat of re-incursions of FMD, which are often linked to the rainy season.
199. The Delegate of Venezuela congratulated Prof. Caporale and indicated that his country had not submitted disease reports to the OIE for the past 2 years but that in the coming days the OIE, with the help of the OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, would send a technician experienced in WAHIS to provide training. The Delegate also stated that his country had implemented several actions for disease control to improve the animal health situation, such as vaccination campaigns for FMD, rabies and brucellosis, as well as the upgrading of veterinary laboratories. The Delegate also supported the proposal of Cuba.
200. The Delegate of Morocco informed the International Committee that EHD has been diagnosed in cattle in Morocco. He is concerned that the disease, which has the potential to be of major economic importance in cattle, shares the same vector as that for bluetongue and must therefore be considered for inclusion in the list of OIE diseases.
201. The Delegate of Australia spoke in support of the OIE in conducting further work on climate and environmental problems. He asked the Director General to provide further information about an OIE publication on this topic that is due for release later in the year, as this publication could possibly form the basis of work for an *ad hoc* Group. In his capacity as President of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South East Asia he invited regional observers to the next meeting of the Sub-Commission which is to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in the first quarter of 2008.

202. The President invited comment from the Director General on the interventions by Delegates and especially those related to the formation of an *ad hoc* Group on climate change, the proposed conference on FMD, the definition of poultry related to avian influenza and the extension of the OIE list of diseases, and new diseases that were proposed for addition to the list of diseases for which the OIE has a procedure for official recognition of freedom.
203. The Director General thanked Prof. Caporale for the considerable support he had given the OIE. With regard to expanding the list of OIE diseases, he reminded Delegates that there is a specific procedure and specific criteria described in the *Terrestrial Code* for considering a disease for addition to the OIE list of 100 notifiable diseases. Delegates are invited to submit suggestions for such diseases with the appropriate scientific arguments, using the decision tree found in the *Code*. These will be evaluated by the *ad hoc* Group in September 2007 and then studied by the Scientific and Code Commissions before being submitted to the International Committee for adoption.

He recalled that the OIE currently makes provision for the official allocation of official disease free status in respect of four diseases. The request for a possible expansion of the list was also discussed at the SPS Committee of the WTO. He requested Delegates to participate in this debate at the SPS Committee and to send representatives. The OIE list of diseases for which there is a procedure for official recognition of disease free status is, however, in principle, open for possible additions, according to the Fourth Strategic Plan, to be evaluated by the Administrative Commission. He cautioned that adding CSF and ND might not be straightforward as wildlife reservoirs for both diseases need to be considered. He advised that should ND be considered, it follows logically that AI should also be considered for addition to the list, but this proposal needs to be evaluated in more detail. An extension to the current list of four diseases would also imply making the necessary resources available within the OIE and it would thus be necessary for Member Countries to finance the process by paying for the service of being evaluated for freedom from disease, as is already the case for three diseases.

He indicated that the definition of poultry as it relates to AI has been proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission. He cautioned however that extending the definition to include wild birds and pet birds could result in unnecessary trade restrictions and also discourage reporting of the disease in poultry by Member Countries. The allocation of responsibilities for the revision of chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* is often driven by emergency issues as was the case when the avian influenza outbreaks started, and it was for that reason that the Terrestrial Code Commission and not the Scientific Commission was requested to urgently review the existing chapter. The Scientific Commission was however also asked to urgently develop surveillance guidelines for avian influenza.

In response to the request for an international conference on FMD, the Director General reminded Delegates that during the FMD crisis that affected the Southern Cone countries in 2000, and the United Kingdom and Europe in 2001, the OIE initiated an international conference in 2001 with the FAO to discuss global FMD control strategies. This was also followed by an international conference that the OIE held in Argentina, during which vaccination strategies for disease control were discussed in depth. If in the light of new scientific information there is a need to discuss new initiatives on FMD control, other than those that have already been debated at recent conferences, this proposal for a conference could be considered. He reiterated that previous conferences had been used to launch the use of nonstructural protein (NSP) tests.

The Director General recalled that when the global programme for the eradication of rinderpest was initiated, there was a common worldwide FAO/OIE commitment to eradicate the disease with a target date set for 2010. A similar global eradication programme for FMD would be possible provided there is a definite worldwide commitment to do so and to strive for global eradication by 2050. The Director General also cautioned that such a global programme would need the support of all countries with the close support of regional organisations. He quoted the example of a regional approach for FMD

by the Southern Cone countries and encouraged the Andean Countries to do the same. The FAO would be an important partner in such an initiative as it has a very extensive worldwide network to facilitate the implementation of national eradication programmes.

Commenting on the proposal for an *ad hoc* Group on climate change, he confirmed the publication of a special edition of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* on this subject as indicated by the Delegate of Australia. The Director General indicated that an *ad hoc* Group on Vector-Borne Diseases is in the process of being set up and, as the occurrence of vector-borne diseases relates closely to climate change, the two issues could easily be combined into one *ad hoc* Group.

The Director General added his support for the improvement of diagnostic tests for brucellosis, tuberculosis and pleuropneumonia. However, he indicated that the development of new technologies for these diseases is discouraged by the reluctance of private companies to become involved because of the low financial return and the limited market for the relevant diagnostic kits. Examples of where the cost of the development of such new technologies was subsidised by governmental or regional institutions are available, such as the Animal Health Technological Platform of the European Commission, which supports private companies with public funds. This approach receives the full support of the OIE.

204. The Committee noted the Report of the Scientific Commission.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

205. **Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

Prof. Stuart Slorach, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, presented the Group's activities.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) was established in 2002, following a request from the OIE International Committee to strengthen OIE activities in the area of food safety and further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the OIE Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the sixth time at OIE headquarters from 7 to 9 November 2006. The following is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting: the full report is included in the report of the March 2007 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission, which has been distributed to all OIE Delegates and has been published on the OIE website (www.oie.int). The Working Group received an update on OIE, CAC, FAO and WHO activities relevant to its work and then addressed the following main topics.

206. **Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection**

The Working Group expressed its satisfaction with the adoption of Appendix 3.10.1 (Guidelines for the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection) of the *Terrestrial Code* in May 2006 and emphasised that this work was an excellent example of complementarity between the OIE and the CAC texts. It agreed with the comments from New Zealand and the European Union during the 74th General Session, notably the suggestion that other stakeholders be involved in sharing responsibility throughout the food chain. It considered it useful to involve the agri-food private sector, but clarified that the final responsibility

should lie with the relevant competent authorities and should be linked to the Veterinary Services. The Working Group would welcome suggestions from the European Union so as to integrate this concept into Appendix 3.10.1.

207. Role and functions of Veterinary Services in food safety throughout the food chain

The Director General had expressed the view that the development of guidelines on the role and functions of Veterinary Services in relation to the safety of the food chain was necessary to provide guidance to Member Countries on how to address the continuum of the food chain from the farm to the final consumer. The Working Group noted the ongoing work by the Terrestrial Code Commission on the proposed revision of the current definitions of 'Veterinary Services' and 'Competent Authority' and their use throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. It considered that these clarifications would need to be reflected in the development of the guidelines on the role and functions of Veterinary Services in relation to the food chain. The Working Group also considered that it would be useful to start by defining the regulatory functions necessary to achieve the objectives in animal production food safety at the national level and then provide guidance on how the Veterinary Services should contribute to achieving these objectives.

The Working Group recommended the development of a paper to clarify how the Veterinary Services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health, without providing details on the organisation of national administrations; this paper should be developed within the framework of *Terrestrial Code* chapters on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The Working Group recommended that an appropriate document be developed under the auspices of an *ad hoc* Group.

208. Guide to Good Farming Practices

The Working Group was informed of the ongoing discussions between the OIE and the FAO with a view to coordinating their work on, and finalising, the document 'Guide to good farming practices' originally drafted by the Working Group. To perform this task, an *ad hoc* Group will be convened in 2007.

209. Animal Identification and Traceability

Taking into account Member Countries' comments, the Working Group made a number of recommendations on the preliminary version of 'Guidelines for Animal Identification and Traceability' being developed by an *ad hoc* Group. It felt that these guidelines should not be too prescriptive, as they had to be relevant to all Member Countries. At the same time, it was felt that in the absence of guidelines on this topic, individual Member Countries might develop their own guidelines without consulting trading partners, which might thus give rise to trade issues. In order to provide Member Countries with sufficient detailed information on good animal identification and traceability systems, the OIE should provide (outside the OIE international standards, e.g. on the OIE webpage) examples of how such systems have been implemented. The Working Group agreed with the Terrestrial Code Commission's opinion that the guidelines were intended as an Appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* and that the guidelines would indeed set out principles and general approaches, rather than prescribing specific standards.

210. Animal Feed

The Working Group reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding and recommended that the *Ad hoc* Group should address all animal health issues related to feed, including zoonoses, and also include chemical hazards in its scope, but should not deal with animal welfare, religious concerns or growth promoters. The guidelines should address all elements relevant to prevention and detection of contamination (early detection, rapid notification, control systems) that are essential in dealing with natural, accidental and intentional contamination events, in a holistic manner. The Working Group recommended

that the text on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles be strengthened as these principles are widely used in commercial feed production. The Working Group made minor modifications to the principles proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the amended text be submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission with a view to circulating it to Member Countries for comments. The Working Group recommended that an *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding be convened to continue this work after receiving feedback from Member Countries.

211. **Revision of OIE model certificates**

The Working Group addressed the report of the electronic meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates, the comments made by the Terrestrial Code Commission and the proposed terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group. The Working Group welcomed the approach taken and asked the *ad hoc* Group to consider if a “sanitary certificate” (rather than a veterinary certificate) would be appropriate for pasteurised milk and dairy products. The Working Group emphasised the importance of taking into account the ongoing work in the CAC on certification. It also proposed a revised version of the terms of reference for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

212. **Salmonellosis**

In its last meeting, the Working Group had recommended that the Director General appoint an *ad hoc* Group to draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. The Working Group discussed the draft terms of reference proposed by the secretariat for the Group and agreed that animal health issues related to *Salmonella gallinarum* and *Salmonella pullorum* should not be dealt with by this *ad hoc* Group. The draft terms of reference focus on on-farm methods for detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis* in laying hens. The Working Group agreed that this should encompass both hens laying eggs for human consumption (including egg products used in the food industry) and their breeding stock to cover the entire egg-production pyramid. The Working Group discussed if eradication measures should be included in the terms of reference, but considered that it would be premature to do so at this initial stage. In the opinion of the Working Group, the work on salmonella in laying hens should be followed by work on salmonella in broilers and perhaps on other pathogens, such as *Campylobacter* spp. The Working Group recommended that the terms of reference should also require that the risk assessments already performed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment and other expert groups be taken into account when possible.

213. **Tuberculosis**

In discussing the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis, the Working Group had a lengthy discussion about the potential to use an international sanitary certificate instead of a veterinary certificate for dairy products subjected to pasteurisation or other equivalent treatments. It decided to ask the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates to address this point in its work on the certification of milk and milk products. The Working Group recommended that the approach used for revision of the brucellosis chapter should be consistent with the approach used for the revised tuberculosis chapter in regard to the certification of products for human consumption.

214. **Use of the term ‘risk-based’**

The Working Group addressed a discussion paper from New Zealand on the use of the term ‘risk-based’, aimed at clarifying the difference between a ‘risk-based’ and a ‘hazard-based’ approach to standard setting. The paper indicated that many countries focused on eliminating hazards, rather than focusing on risks and, with increasing levels of sensitivity of diagnostic techniques, this approach can create unnecessary trade problems. The Working Group recognised that the *Terrestrial Code* used a risk-based approach and the chapter on BSE was given as an example. The Working Group noted that some Member

Countries applied more stringent sanitary measures than the OIE risk-based standards thereby creating trade problems. The Working Group agreed that the OIE should continue to base its standards on risk rather than on hazards when the scientific information allowed this, and agreed to follow the discussions held in the Codex Committee on General Principles on the same topic. The Working Group noted that the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) had undertaken work on the development of guidelines for the application of the concept of the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) to phytosanitary issues and recommended that the OIE should follow the development of this work by the IPPC.

215. OIE activities on the application of biotechnology for animal health

The Working Group noted the progress made by the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology. During its first meeting, the *ad hoc* Group discussed animal biotechnologies related to reproduction, nanotechnology and the use of recombinant DNA vaccines for protecting animal health.

216. Work Programme for 2007

The Working Group amended its work programme for 2007, which includes horizontal issues (animal identification and traceability, certification, antimicrobial resistance, alternative approaches to risk management of zoonoses, good farming practices, guidelines for animal feeding), disease-specific OIE texts (brucellosis, salmonellosis), strengthening relations between the OIE and the CAC, and development of new texts (role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety).

217. The President congratulated Dr Slorach for his excellent presentation and for the very important work carried out by the Working Group. He said that the proposals to modify the *Terrestrial Code* would be discussed in detail the next day.
218. The Delegation of Sudan thanked Dr Slorach for his very comprehensive presentation. He sought clarification concerning the contamination of animal feed, especially in industrialized countries. He inquired to what extent the CAC or the OIE addressed this issue. He also underlined the risks arising from pesticides, drug residues and dioxins in food of animal origin and asked if there were examples of how these problems should be addressed.
219. Dr Slorach pointed out that the CAC has addressed the problem of contamination of animal feed with pesticides and contaminants, via the Codex Committee on Additives and Contaminants. He explained that the issue of contamination with dioxins will be addressed, although this is a more complex problem.
220. The Delegate of India expressed concerns on the issue of identification and traceability and requested that the *ad hoc* Group working on this issue should bear in mind the issue of cost, from the perspective of developing countries. Dr Slorach confirmed that this request would be passed to the *ad hoc* Group. He also pointed out that the *ad hoc* Group is aware of rapid technological development and will approach the issue from a broad perspective, not with a view to developing prescriptive or detailed standards.
221. The Delegate of Uruguay commented on the proposed text on the role of Veterinary Services in food safety and acknowledged its importance. For some aspects of this work, such as ante- and post-mortem meat inspection, Veterinary Services have an important role to play, he said. The OIE should assist by preparing a position paper on the role of

Veterinary Services for discussion by Member Countries with a view to final adoption by the International Committee. This paper must clearly indicate that the presence of a veterinarian during ante- and post-mortem inspection is indispensable.

222. Dr Slorach clarified that the role of the Veterinary Services in meat inspection is specific and has to be performed in close coordination with the other operators involved throughout the food chain.
223. The Delegate of Ecuador commented on the importance of controlling animal movements in the effort to control animal diseases. He emphasised the importance of traceability and sought OIE recommendations on steps to implement animal identification and traceability at the national level.
224. The President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission replied that the general principles already adopted by the OIE should be the basis for implementing an animal identification and traceability system, but were not intended to provide detailed guidance. He acknowledged the importance of giving Member Countries more flexibility so that they can adapt their systems as appropriate to their conditions. He stated that the OIE could assist by providing models of existing animal identification and traceability systems for the benefit of all Member Countries. These models should be prepared outside the framework of the chapters and appendices of the *Terrestrial Code*, for example through the medium of the OIE Web site.
225. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVI Animal Production Food Safety

226. 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.

227. Animal Welfare Working Group

Dr David Bayvel, Chairman of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, presented the report on the Group's activities.

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare held its fifth meeting in Paris from 4 to 6 July 2006. The meeting was also attended by an expert from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy, and three industry experts, from the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the International Meat Secretariat (IMS) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), respectively, attended as observers.

At its July 2006 meeting, the Working Group agreed that work programme priorities would include the following:

- Revision of guidelines adopted in 2005 for land transport, sea transport, slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes, with particular reference to items under study involving animal handlers and the foetus.
- Further work on draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines after consideration by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

- Further work on the four new areas of strategic priority agreed at the 2005 OIE General Session. In the companion animal area, an *ad hoc* Group on dog population control has met on two occasions and prepared a first draft report. In the production animal, wild animal and laboratory animal areas, discussion papers have been prepared to assist with defining the strategic approach and scope, and proposals to create additional *ad hoc* Groups have been supported by the Terrestrial Animal Health Commission.
- Planning for a second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare “Putting the Standards to Work: Towards the Implementation of the OIE’s International Animal Welfare Standards”, to be held in Cairo, Egypt in October 2008.

The Working Group Chair participates in bi-monthly teleconferences with OIE Central Bureau staff to discuss work programme progress and other issues of operational and strategic significance, as they arise.

The Working Group continues to see the active involvement of all OIE Member Countries as being critical to further developing the progress made to date, with particular emphasis on the adoption of OIE approved guidelines. This involvement requires close liaison and collaboration with non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Communication and consultation with interested parties are also seen as critical commitments, with the OIE Web site, the OIE *Bulletin* and the special issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* entitled “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges” all providing important sources of information and emphasising the OIE’s international animal welfare leadership role.

228. The President of the International Committee congratulated the Working Group for its work on a very complex subject. He considered that it had made very good progress and was meeting Member Countries’ expectations, and he opened the discussion.
229. The Delegate of the United Kingdom congratulated Dr Bayvel and conveyed appreciation for the work of the Animal Welfare Working Group. She also requested clarification of the French terminology for animal welfare (*‘bientraitance’* vs. *‘bien-être’*). Dr Vallat explained that this arises from a letter sent by the Delegate of France and an opinion by the Académie Française, the reference body for the French language.
230. The Delegate of France explained that the concept of *‘bientraitance’* is broader in scope in that it implies both the management and the condition of the animal and that this is closer in meaning to the English term ‘welfare’. The term *‘bien-être’* more closely expresses the notion of wellbeing.
231. The Delegate of the United Kingdom thanked the Delegate of France for the explanation provided and expressed her concerns at the possible implication of this new terminology. The Director General recalled that the OIE takes advice from Linguistics Academies on terms used in OIE documents.
232. Dr Thiermann proposed that the Working Group investigate the correct use of this terminology in all three official languages of the OIE and advise the International Committee next year on this question.

233. The Delegate of Norway congratulated Dr Bayvel on the Working Group's activities and requested advice with regard to future work on aquatic animal welfare. Dr Bayvel stated that Dr Håstein is currently reviewing Member Country comments on the draft guidelines previously circulated to Member Countries and will submit a report on the results of his analysis to the Working Group for consideration at its September meeting.
234. The Delegate of Morocco asked Dr Bayvel to comment on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on the control of stray dog populations in view of the importance of this topic for his country in for the control of rabies. Dr Bayvel replied that this work is taking particular account of the public health significance of stray dog populations in developing countries and that the intention is to develop useful guidance for all countries.
235. Dr Thiermann commented that the primary motivation for this work was to address the risks posed by stray dogs for public health.
236. The Delegate of Colombia requested clarification on the Spanish language translation of 'welfare' in the light of the modifications to the French term as discussed above and the possible implications for the WTO Agreements. Dr O'Neil advised that this matter is to be referred to the Central Bureau for clarification.
237. The Delegate of Sudan commented on issues relating to animal management and housing, which can cause problems for animal welfare. The Delegate supported a return to more natural animal production systems. Dr Bayvel commented that the *Scientific and Technical Review* has devoted an issue to this topic, and could provide some useful examples. Dr O'Neil further commented that there is a need for the OIE to find appropriate solutions for the diverse needs of all 169 Member Countries.
238. The Committee noted the report of the Animal Welfare Working Group.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXV
Animal Welfare**

239. 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 23 MAY 2007 ≡

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Animal Health Status in Member Countries
(Doc. 75 SG/14)

240. Dr Karim Ben Jebara recalled that, since the launch of the new worldwide animal health information system (WAHIS) in April 2006, the OIE had been using WAHIS to collect health information for 2005 and 2006.

Since September 2005, seven WAHIS training workshops have been organised, covering all regions of the world, to which all Member Countries were invited.

To date, 103 Member Countries have used WAHIS to submit animal health information (half-yearly and annual reports).

Eighty-four Member Countries submitted complete animal health information for the year 2005 (the two half-yearly reports and the annual report). Fifty-five Member Countries also sent partial information (one or two of the three reports requested). The remaining countries submitted nothing or used the forms from previous years, which are not adapted to the new system. These data concern the reports submitted via WAHIS and via traditional means of communication.

For 2006, 32 countries submitted complete animal health information and a further 64 countries submitted partial information. The remaining countries did not provide any really usable data.

Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2006 and the Beginning of 2007

241. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2006 and in the first months of 2007 (Doc. 75 SG/2).
242. In 2006 and early 2007, three major disease events occurred in various parts of the world. The first was the continuation in some countries of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) epizootic due to virus subtype H5N1. The second was the first documented expansion of bluetongue into the northern hemisphere to latitudes as high as 52° 36' 41" N, with the introduction of the disease into northern Europe. The third was the reoccurrence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in certain regions.
243. **Update on highly pathogenic avian influenza**

A tendency has recently been observed for **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** virus subtype H5N1 to re-emerge in some countries that had already eradicated the disease. The HPAI H5N1 epizootic that started in South-East Asia at the end of 2003 and remained confined to this region in 2004, spread to other regions and continents in 2005 and 2006.

In 2006, a total of 47 countries (8 in Africa, 15 in Asia and 24 in Europe) reported HPAI outbreaks due to the Asian strain of H5N1. The disease occurred in poultry and/or wild birds. In Europe the majority of confirmed cases involved wild birds. The very cold winter that occurred in central Europe in early 2006 is thought to have resulted in a movement of wild birds southwards (to Italy, the Balkan region, Greece, etc.) and been responsible for the cases of HPAI identified there. This episode occurred mainly during the first half of 2006.

The majority of affected countries succeeded in eradicating the disease in 2006. However, in some countries, such as Indonesia, Egypt, and Nigeria, the disease became endemic and many outbreaks went unreported. The People's Republic of China has recently (March 2007) reported HPAI in chickens in Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region. Stamping out has been applied. Mass vaccination is applied in this country, which could indicate that the disease is endemic in certain regions of the country.

In November 2006, the Republic of Korea reported the reoccurrence of HPAI virus subtype H5N1, the previous reported outbreak having been in March 2004. Also, Vietnam reported the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 in December 2006, five months after the previous reported outbreak in August 2006. Vietnam has used blanket vaccination against HPAI to control the disease. This reoccurrence is for the time being mainly limited to the extreme south of the country and the total number of reported outbreaks seems relatively small compared to the number of outbreaks reported in 2004 and 2005.

Thailand reported the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 in January 2007, the first reported outbreaks in the country since 2 August 2006. The disease first occurred in Thailand in January 2004 and took almost 32 months to eradicate. Thailand uses stamping out as its strategy to eradicate the disease and vaccination is prohibited.

In early 2007, Japan reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Miyasaki and Okojama, in the southern part of the country. The previous occurrence of the disease was in March 2004. A stamping out strategy is used to control the disease and vaccination is prohibited.

Hungary reported the reoccurrence of HPAI in January 2007, in two flocks of geese in Csongrad county. The first was a flock of 3,355 geese in a commercial unit in Szentes-Lapistó, Szentes, and the second was a flock of 9,386 geese in Derekegyház-Ördögös, Szentes. These were the first reported outbreaks in the country since June 2006.

In late January 2007, the United Kingdom reported the reoccurrence of HPAI, the outbreak occurring in a turkey meat production plant in Upper Holton, Suffolk, England. Molecular genetic studies revealed that the nucleotide sequence of the haemagglutinin gene was identical to that of the isolate of HPAI H5N1 from an outbreak in domestic geese in Hungary. The source of introduction of the disease into the affected farm is not yet known.

In February 2007, Turkey reported the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 in Batman and Diyarbakir provinces, located in the eastern part of the country. The previous occurrence of the disease in Turkey was in March 2006. In early April 2007, Turkey declared this event resolved.

In early February 2007, Pakistan reported the reoccurrence of the disease in backyard poultry in North-West Frontier Province, not far from the border with the People's Republic of China. The previous reported outbreak was in July 2006.

Laos reported the reoccurrence of HPAI in early February 2007 near the capital, Vientiane, nearly seven months after the previous reported outbreak in July 2006.

In February 2007, Russia reported three outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Krasnodarskiy Kray, near the Black Sea, in traditionally raised chickens, ducks, geese and turkey cocks. Further outbreaks were reported in Moskovskaya region, near Moscow. These were the first reported outbreaks in Russia since August 2006.

At the end of February 2007, Kuwait reported an outbreak of HPAI in falcons in a zoo. Further outbreaks occurred in backyard chickens in March 2007.

At the end of February and in early March 2007, Myanmar reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Rangoon. These were the first outbreaks of the disease since April 2006.

In January 2007, within the framework of its active surveillance programme for avian influenza, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) reported identifying cases of HPAI H5N1 in dead wild birds (*Lonchura punctulata*). No evidence of the disease has been found in domestic birds.

At the end of February and in the middle of March 2007, Afghanistan reported outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in backyard poultry and turkeys in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kabul and Kunar. These were the first outbreaks of the disease since March 2006. Border and inter-provincial quarantines were enforced, including chicken markets in Jalalabad, Kunar and Kabul city. Vaccination of breeder chickens and turkeys with a vaccine against avian influenza virus subtype H5N2 started in February 2007.

In late March 2007, Bangladesh reported the occurrence of HPAI H5N1 in layer flocks in Dhaka. Movement control was implemented within a 10-km-radius zone around the outbreaks. A stamping out strategy is being used to control the disease and Government policy on vaccination has not yet been finalised.

At the end of March 2007, Saudi Arabia reported the occurrence of HPAI H5N1, in the Province of Ash Sharqiyah. The main control measures that have been applied are movement control inside the country, stamping out and quarantine.

In April 2007, Cambodia reported the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 in Kompong Cham province, the affected population being backyard poultry in a village. This was the first occurrence of the disease in Cambodia since September 2006. Stamping out was undertaken and surveillance in the villages around the outbreak is ongoing.

From these reports of the reoccurrence of HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in several previously affected countries, we can conclude that most of these countries are now better prepared so as to ensure early detection and a rapid response in the event of new outbreaks of the disease. The majority of the Veterinary Services are now ready to tackle the disease whenever it occurs. However, a few countries that have been affected for several years are still having difficulty in bringing the disease under control. The endemic nature of the disease in these countries constitutes a permanent source of potential contamination for humans and could also be a source of contamination for other countries, through illegal movements of animals, for example. HPAI H5N1 in animals remains a threat to public health.

244. **Update on bluetongue in Northern Europe**

To date, 24 bluetongue serotypes have been identified. Bluetongue virus (BTV) infection occurs throughout tropical and temperate zones but there are differences in the clinical expression of the disease in livestock. There are also profound differences in the virus serotypes and/or principal species of *Culicoides* vector that occur within specific regions. The presence of the vectors and ruminants are essential for the maintenance of the virus.

In August 2006, the Netherlands notified the first occurrence of bluetongue in the country, in Kerkrade, province of Limburg. On 28 August 2006, the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, United Kingdom, confirmed that the BTV causing the outbreaks was serotype 8 (BTV-8). Then, Belgium (on 18 August), Germany (on 21 August), France (in the north, on 28 August) and Luxembourg (on 24 November) declared the presence of the disease on their territories.

In 2006 and up to the end of March 2007, 460 outbreaks of BTV-8 were reported by the Netherlands, 695 by Belgium, 952 by Germany, 7 by France and 8 by Luxembourg.

This was the first occurrence of bluetongue in Northern Europe. Moreover, it was the first time that BTV-8 had been detected anywhere in Europe.

According to the OIE Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, sequence analyses of Seg-2 from the Dutch isolate demonstrated that the virus is from a western lineage from sub-Saharan Africa, but is distinct from the BTV-8 vaccine strain.

Serotypes that are or have been circulating in southern Europe are: BTV-1, BTV-2, BTV-4, BTV-9, BTV-15 and BTV-16.

It is not clear exactly how BTV-8 arrived in northern Europe. A clear source for the introduction of BTV-8, such as the importation of infected ruminants, could not be identified and the exact origin and route of introduction of BTV-8 remains unknown.

The BTV-8 virus was found to be present in *Culicoides* species endemic to north-western Europe. One of the species found to be PCR-positive was *C. dewulfi*. Previously, bluetongue outbreaks in Europe were linked to the African vector (*Culicoides imicola*). As *C. dewulfi* is a European species, bluetongue could become endemic in this region with the risk of more cases occurring in spring and summer when the vector activity is at its highest.

Apart from their locations, the recent European outbreaks of bluetongue due to BTV-8 are not atypical of usual bluetongue viral infections and do not present changes to basic bluetongue biology. The presence of the virus and the presence of active *Culicoides* are conducive to the expression and spread of the disease. This ecosystem does, however, have unusual elements such as the clinical expression of the disease in cattle, the involvement of a lesser known virus serotype and the implication of a new identified species of *Culicoides* as the vector. The preliminary observations in respect of the vector are of particular epidemiological significance. Changes in climatic conditions coupled with frequent travel of persons and goods might increase the risk of the appearance and the establishment of diseases in parts of Europe that were thus far considered exotic for those regions. Indeed, vectors of BTV in other parts of the world have been shown to transmit a range of other viral pathogens of livestock, such as African horse sickness virus, epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus, equine encephalitis virus, etc. Such pathogens might therefore also be transmitted if they were to be introduced into northern Europe during favourable climatic periods.

245. Update on foot and mouth disease

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a major epizootic disease in the **Middle East** region. FMD serotypes that are circulating in the region are O, A and, to a lesser extent, Asia 1.

The disease is difficult to control because of the traditional large-scale movement of animals observed in this region, which covers an extensive area from Afghanistan to Iran, Turkey, Asia Minor and the Gulf.

In Turkey, FMD is endemic in Anatolia. Serotypes O and A are identified. In early January 2007, Turkey reported the reoccurrence of FMD in Thrace. The incriminated virus was type A22 Iran 2005. This was the first occurrence of FMD due to this serotype in Thrace.

Jordan notified an outbreak of FMD due to serotype A in a cattle farm in East Amman in December 2006. The outbreak was declared resolved in February 2007. Jordan also notified outbreaks of FMD due to serotype O in sheep and cattle in December 2006. This reoccurrence of the disease was brought under control in February 2007.

Between January and April 2007, Israel reported several outbreaks of FMD due to serotype O in cattle and small ruminants and even in gazelles. These were the first outbreaks of the disease since December 2005.

In February 2007, the Palestinian Autonomous Territories reported the occurrence of FMD serotype O outbreaks in small ruminants in the West Bank. The previous occurrence was in June 2006.

The main epidemiological event relating to FMD in **Africa** in 2006 was the occurrence of the disease due to virus serotype A in Egypt, where 30 outbreaks of FMD were reported in cattle and buffaloes between February and March 2006 in several Governorates in the Nile Delta region. While serotype O is known to occur in Egypt and vaccination against FMD type O1 is undertaken on a regular basis, this constitutes a new introduction of serotype A to this country and indeed to North Africa and the Middle East region. The source of the virus was attributed to the introduction of live animals originating from an infected country from the Horn of Africa.

In April 2006, an outbreak of FMD due to virus SAT 2 was reported in Sekgopye village, Selibe Phikwe district (zone 7) in the Central region of Botswana. In June 2006, an outbreak of FMD due to virus SAT 1 was reported in Muchenje village, Kasane district, in which 2,322 bovines were involved. As from 27 February 2007, Botswana has regained its status as a country with an 'FMD-free zone without vaccination'.

In November 2006, Guinea reported two outbreaks of FMD in cattle in the prefecture of Siguiri. The diagnosis was clinical and the animals were believed to have become infected after coming into contact at pasture with animals that had been imported from a neighbouring country for slaughter.

An outbreak of FMD occurred on 31 July 2006 at the Matiani and Joseph dip tanks in the Buffer Zone, just outside the Infected Zone of South Africa's Foot and Mouth Disease Control Area. The cause of the outbreak was the SAT 3 FMD virus type that the cattle contracted after coming into contact with African buffalo from the Kruger National Park. Thanks to an effective vaccination and movement control strategy, the disease did not spread from the two dip tanks where it was discovered. South Africa has a recognised FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.

In **Asia**, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reported an outbreak of FMD serotype O that started in January 2007 near the capital. It was attributed by the veterinary authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the introduction of imported live animals from the People's Republic of China. The date of the previously reported outbreak in this country goes as far back as 1960.

In January and February 2007, the People's Republic of China reported new outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 in the provinces of Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang.

In May 2006, an outbreak of FMD due to virus serotype Asia 1 was reported for the first time in Vietnam, in the province of Ha Giang. While FMD serotype O is endemic in Vietnam, a sudden increase in the incidence due to this serotype was observed in January 2006, in which 330 communes in 114 districts were affected.

In the **Americas**, Bolivia reported FMD outbreaks due to virus serotype O in cattle in the province of Santa Cruz in January 2007. These were the first outbreaks in the country since September 2003.

In February 2007, Ecuador reported the reoccurrence of FMD due to virus serotype O in the country, in Azuay province. The date of the previous occurrence was May 2006. In March 2007, Ecuador reported two outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O in the province of Imbabura, in the north of the country. These were the first outbreaks of the disease in this zone since February 2004.

In February 2006, two outbreaks of FMD due to virus serotype O occurred in Argentina in the Province of Corrientes, inside the zone declared as FMD-free with vaccination. As a result of the surveillance activities, no clinical disease or evidence of viral circulation were detected subsequently in the susceptible population in the perifocal and surveillance zones.

Foot and mouth disease was reported in Brazil in October 2005. Outbreaks occurred in the States of Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná up to February 2006. The virus involved was serotype O. In the State of Mato Grosso do Sul, stamping out was applied. Since March 2006 no new outbreaks have been officially notified.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay have recently agreed to establish a border zone called a high vigilance zone in order to put in place joint actions for surveillance and control of the disease.

246. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated Dr Ben Jebara on the quality of his address. He stated that his country was still encountering technical problems in capturing and submitting all the information requested in WAHIS. He also pointed out that, contrary to what had been indicated in the presentation, his country only practised vaccination against FMD in certain zones and not in the entire country.

247. The Delegate of Eritrea commended Dr Ben Jebara on his report. He announced that Eritrea had this year launched a mandatory FMD vaccination policy with the objective of eventually defining an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised.
248. The Delegate of Namibia thanked Dr Ben Jebara for the information provided. He stressed the need to distinguish between countries that routinely used vaccination against FMD and those that vaccinate only when new outbreaks occur.
249. Dr Ben Jebara stated that the new WAHIS system made a distinction between animals vaccinated following an outbreak (ring vaccination) and animals vaccinated as part of a disease control strategy.
250. The Delegate of Bolivia congratulated the speaker and pointed out that the map showing the distribution of countries that apply routine vaccination against FMD incorrectly showed Bolivia as a country that does not practise FMD vaccination. The Delegate explained that, as is the case with other Southern Cone countries, Bolivia has been applying routine vaccination against FMD twice a year since 2000, within the framework of its FMD eradication strategy.
251. The Delegate of Ecuador stated that the two FMD outbreaks reported in the north of the country had been resolved following the slaughter of all susceptible animals present. A surveillance system was currently in place and there was no active outbreak. The country resorts to systematic vaccination.
252. The Delegate of Botswana thanked the speaker for his remarkable report. He pointed out that there was currently no outbreak of FMD in his country. A final report on the subject would be submitted very soon.
253. The Delegate of Iran remarked that, from the presentation, it could appear that his country was the source of the spread of FMD in the region, which did not reflect the full reality. He also asked for the term 'Gulf' used in the presentation to be replaced by 'Persian Gulf'.
254. The Delegate of Belgium stated that his country had been using WAHIS constantly since it was introduced. The technical problems that had occurred were being dealt with by the Central Bureau. He stressed that the episode of bluetongue in his country was exceptional in character. He also explained that the first diagnosis was made in a cattle farm where the disease had been identified by clinical signs.
255. The Delegate of Peru pointed out that vaccination against FMD was only practised in an area covering around three percent of his country.
256. Dr Ben Jebara stated that it was entirely possible to include such information if countries were prepared to supply it.
257. The Delegate of Vietnam reported on developments in his country relating to avian influenza and the measures introduced to combat it, providing details of the massive vaccination campaign that had started in August 2005. He concluded that, in the experience of Vietnam, the key factors for combating this disease were strong government involvement, early detection, vaccination and coordinated action in the fields of information, education and communication. He thanked the OIE, its Member Countries and other international organisations for their support and solidarity.
258. The Delegate of Kuwait thanked Dr Ben Jebara for the high quality of his presentation and stated that vaccination against avian influenza was limited to the country's only poultry farm.
259. The Delegate of Chile reported that his country had set up an active surveillance system for avian influenza to cover poultry farms and migratory birds. He announced that since 2000 a programme has existed to control porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome. This should result in the eradication of the disease over the coming weeks.

260. The Delegate of Kenya thanked the speaker for his presentation and the OIE for the support given to his country to combat Rift Valley fever. He called on the international community to support the efforts of his country to control the disease.
261. The Delegate of Turkey announced the existence of active surveillance for avian influenza in his country. The last 300 samples analysed had given negative results. A final report would be sent soon to the Central Bureau.
262. The Delegate of Tanzania reported on the episode of Rift Valley fever that had recently affected his country. Disease surveillance and control were currently in progress but he issued a reminder on the need for support from the international community.
263. Dr Ben Jebara pointed out that a seminar on Rift Valley fever was scheduled to take place the following month in Cairo, Egypt.
264. The Delegate of Sudan commended Dr Ben Jebara on his presentation and, more generally, the OIE for the development of WAHIS. He reported that the last outbreak of avian influenza had taken place in September 2006. He described the implementation of a stamping-out programme followed by compensation for farmers and the practice of vaccination limited to the zones concerned.
265. Dr Ben Jebara stressed the need to submit a final report to the Central Bureau giving the date of resolution of outbreaks, failing which the country would still be considered infected with the disease.
266. The Director General explained that the new presentation, focusing on key epidemiological events rather than covering all the diseases, was made possible because of the revolutionary new OIE animal health information system. The information traditionally presented at the General Session was now accessible to everyone via WAHID. He urged Member Countries to use WAHIS and to report any information technology problems to the Central Bureau. He reminded the Delegates of the need to nominate staff (focal points) responsible for exchanging information with the OIE. He announced the forthcoming training seminar on WAHIS in India aimed at all countries of the Indian sub-continent. He invited all Member Countries that felt a need for training to contact their Regional Representatives. He also explained that WAHIS is a complex system and reflects the decision taken by the International Committee to migrate from the A and B lists to a single list of diseases. This will increase the workload of national Veterinary Services, which must now certify the absence of all OIE-listed diseases instead of just List A diseases. However, the OIE is calling for the reinforcement of Veterinary Services so that they can cope with this additional workload.
267. The Director General reminded the meeting that avian influenza was still endemic in at least three countries, which constitute a potential source of infection for animal and human populations throughout the world. However all Member Countries are managing to eradicate all new outbreaks as soon as they occur. He also explained the reasons for the strategy for strengthening Veterinary Services recommended by the OIE since the start of the panzootic. This strategy is based on the early detection of outbreaks and rapid intervention, achieved by reinforcing the Veterinary Services and using the PVS tool. He emphasised that the OIE was opposed to the modification of production systems as a means of combating avian influenza. Official documents were distributed to the Delegates containing the strategic guidelines for the use of vaccination and compartmentalisation in the context of avian influenza.
268. The Director General reiterated that an international conference on Rift Valley fever would take place the following month in Cairo, Egypt. This disease represents a concrete example of an event linked to climate change that represents a worldwide threat with severe repercussions on international trade.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. I
Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE
in 2006 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide
in 2006 and the Beginning of 2007

269. 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 2006 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2006 and the Beginning of 2007. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. I at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

270. Dr Marc Artois presented the work carried out by the Working Group at its meeting held from 12 to 15 February 2007 under the chairmanship of Dr Roy Bengis (Doc. 75 SG/13/GT).

271. Global disease situation in wildlife

A total of 55 questionnaire returns reporting disease events in 2006 were received from Member Countries. Most of these countries used the Excel file provided, which made the work of compiling the information much easier. In eleven of the countries, no wildlife diseases were reported. Thirty-four countries that had reported in previous years did not submit a report for 2006. A total of 1,047 cases of disease or events were reported.

The Working Group asked the Director General to once again urge Member Countries that have not already done so to designate focal points for wildlife diseases.

272. OIE-listed diseases reported

Anthrax

Four outbreaks were reported in Africa. The largest epidemic of anthrax ever reported in Canada occurred in domestic and wild ungulates in summer 2006. The epidemic occurred in a broad zone of the Great Plains and spread northwards into the parkland and boreal forest habitats.

Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*)

Bovine tuberculosis continued to be an important disease worldwide and was reported by 29 countries, affecting at least a dozen different species, predominantly ruminants, but also predators and carrion eaters, thus showing that *M. bovis* can gradually contaminate an entire ecosystem.

The Working Group recommended that the Director General **request an update from the Regional Representative for Europe on the epidemiological situation relating to bovine tuberculosis in free-ranging wildlife on the European continent, to allow a time-trend analysis to be made in order to anticipate any further aggravation of the epidemiological situation and to consider cooperation to deal with this growing concern.**

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

The Group concluded that the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus probably reached Europe via wild birds and caused numerous cases of disease in wild birds in central Europe. However, the spread of the disease in domestic poultry appeared to have been linked to the movement of avian products and people rather than to wild birds.

The Working Group recommended maintaining and stepping up passive surveillance based on investigating mortalities. It also considered active surveillance of live wild birds to be an important tool as it yielded a variety of low pathogenic strains of avian influenza virus and was helpful for epidemiological studies.

The Working Group recommended that **the OIE support the publication of a special dossier or a *Scientific and Technical Review* article on the HPAI outbreak in Europe, in conjunction with the FAO and the WHO.**

Paratuberculosis in wildlife

Paratuberculosis infection of wildlife and captive deer species is relatively common, but usually limited to localised or regional foci of infection. Domestic cattle seem quantitatively to be the most important source of environmental contamination; wild ungulates can be infected from that source. Infection has been documented in a broad range of terrestrial wild mammals, predominantly herbivores and their predators.

The Working Group expressed concern that the annual notification to the OIE did not cover all outbreaks of paratuberculosis and that the prevalence of the disease was probably under-estimated in wildlife. Diagnostic testing still posed technical difficulties and the Biological Standards Commission should take note of the need for improvement. A sensitive and specific serological test could be of great value for epidemiological surveillance and risk analysis in wildlife.

The Group considered it **important to ban the introduction of captive deer into the wild** before proof of freedom from infection of the whole group of animals has been demonstrated by an appropriate investigation.

The persistence of outbreaks on farms and their premises, despite efficient control, may lead to the hypothesis that a wildlife reservoir maintains the paratuberculosis infection locally. As no vaccine has been approved for free-ranging wild species, the Group listed the circumstances under which culling could be an option to achieve long-lasting control of a paratuberculosis focus (for details, see Working Group report).

Other diseases mentioned (without any significant developments compared to previous years) included: Rift Valley fever, rabies, Newcastle disease, malignant catarrhal fever, foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, avian chlamydiosis, brucellosis, bluetongue.

273. **Wildlife-listed diseases and wildlife morbidity and mortality events**

Bat lyssaviruses

A fatal human case of infection with Duvenhage virus (Lyssavirus-Genotype 4) was confirmed in South Africa. The victim had apparently been scratched by a bat six weeks earlier and had not sought medical attention. This was only the second case of human Duvenhage virus infection ever recorded. The previous case had also been reported by South Africa, in 1970.

Ebola haemorrhagic fever

Researchers claim that, during the past decade, the Ebola virus (Zaire strain) has had a significant impact on gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) populations in and around the Lossi Sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their study reports that the virus transmits horizontally between individuals and groups. Their data suggests that more than 5,000 gorillas may have died in their study area in recent years.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (chronic wasting disease)

Chronic wasting disease in wild deer continues gradually to expand its range in Canada within the Province of Saskatchewan. Approximately 8,000 hunter-killed wild deer were tested for the disease in 2006 in provincial surveillance programmes. In contrast, no new foci of chronic wasting disease were found in the United States of America in 2006, although an expansion of previously identified areas was observed in Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Chimpanzee deaths – Mahale Mountain National Park, Tanzania

A significant number of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) deaths are reported to have occurred in Mahale Mountain National Park. The deaths are suspected to be related to human respiratory infections transmitted during primate tourism activities, when infected humans are in close proximity to tame chimpanzees.

Mortality of unknown cause

Paralysis, paresis and mortality of unknown cause occurred in wild birds of multiple species, primarily (70%) Australian magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), in New South Wales, Australia. Since 12 February 2006, there have been about 250 reports of bird deaths centred around the Sydney basin.

Other diseases mentioned (without any significant developments compared to previous years) included: West Nile virus infection, trichinellosis, toxoplasmosis, diseases of (farmed) crocodiles.

274. Matters arising from the Scientific Commission and the OIE's future needs

The Working Group reviewed the information received from the Scientific Commission at its meeting on 20 September 2006, at which the future work programme (2007–2010) of the Working Group had been presented and discussed.

The collaboration of the Working Group is needed in many areas of OIE activity, for example in revising and adding to relevant chapters of the *Code(s)* and *Manual(s)*, and policy documents on compartmentalisation, zoning and standards for preparedness to manage transboundary disease outbreaks and emerging diseases, and assessment of appropriate laboratory procedures for the diagnosis of diseases in wild animal species.

The Working Group asked the Director General for the Group to be made more aware of relevant OIE activities, to be invited to participate in relevant *ad hoc* Groups and to receive for review and comment within its field of competence the draft reports of the Scientific Commission and the following Commissions:

- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission;
- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission;
- Biological Standards Commission.

The Working Group presented its working plan for 2007 to the Scientific Commission at its meeting from 26 to 28 February 2007 (see report of the meeting).

The Working Group will propose to the Scientific Commission initiatives that may require the development of *ad hoc* Groups (see below), international consultation or other activities that will substantially expand the Working Group's capacity to serve the OIE and fulfil its mandate (see below).

275. **The need to improve regional communication with the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

With regard to the continuing difficulties experienced in obtaining wildlife disease information from certain regions, the Working Group recommended that the Director General consider **the appointment of two additional members for the Working Group, one from South America and one from Asia.**

Global network for wildlife disease surveillance: the Working Group recommended that the Director General endorse and encourage the creation of a network of this type. An OIE Collaborating Centre should be made responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of the network.

276. **Preparedness to respond to foreign (transboundary) animal diseases**

In recent years, the Working Group has considered developing a full set of guidelines on this topic (similar to the FAO's Manual on the Preparation of National Disease Emergency Preparedness Plans).

It is the consensus of the members of the Working Group that any programme of national disease management and contingency planning must include preparedness to respond to diseases when they occur in wild animals.

For this purpose the Working Group wished to **be placed in contact with the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology** in order to study its documents on disease preparedness and management:

- Preparedness for Response to a Trans-Boundary Animal Disease in Wildlife, and
- Managing Significant Emerging Diseases Involving Wildlife.

The Working Group also suggested that this important topic should form **the theme of an international scientific conference** focusing on preparedness, surveillance and management of foreign animal diseases in wildlife.

277. **Wildlife health education and training**

The Group took note of Resolution XXXIV of the 74th General Session of the OIE and specifically the recommendation that the OIE should develop standards and guidelines for the continuing education of the agents of the Veterinary Services to ensure the quality of veterinary services and that the OIE should intensify its action to help prevent and control zoonotic diseases.

The Group considered most emerging human infections to be zoonotic and that, in recent years, a significant proportion of these infections emerged from a wildlife reservoir. For this reason, training in wildlife health and diseases should be made available to official and private veterinarians because of the public health implications.

The Group requested that the Director General ask **the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres (in Teramo, Italy, Lyon, France, and Buenos Aires, Argentina) to prepare educational programmes related to wildlife diseases and health and prepare an inventory of documents and media already available in Member Countries,** and specialised training programmes in line with continuing education objectives.

The Working Group expressed its availability to assist the Collaborating Centres in these tasks.

278. **Commercial wildlife trade issues**

Commercial wildlife trade increases the risk of human and livestock diseases, threatening international trade, rural livelihoods, native wildlife populations and ecosystems. The Working Group therefore recommended that the **Director General should consider formalising arrangements to develop and implement strategies to assess and manage risks associated with commercial wildlife trade.**

279. **Accessibility of wildlife disease information**

The Working Group recommended that the Director General consider **setting up** within 6 months **an *ad hoc* Group to work with the Animal Health Information Department to develop a new section of WAHIS specifically for diseases in wild animals**, the aim being to enable wildlife disease data to be entered into WAHIS.

The Working Group recommended that, from 2007, a limited number of wildlife diseases be reported directly into WAHIS by Delegates and their wildlife disease contact points, while data on all other diseases occurring in wild animals be gathered through the Working Group questionnaire. These two systems would gradually have to be integrated.

The Working Group recommended that **the Web pages of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases be recognised by the OIE as an essential component of the OIE wildlife disease surveillance programme, and, as such, that the needs of the Working Group for improvements to the Web pages and their navigation be accorded a high priority for implementation.**

280. **OIE international responsibilities related to invasive alien species and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Working Group fully supported the OIE's position on this topic and indicated that invasive alien pathogen or vector lists would have to be established by country or by region.

281. The President invited Delegates to comment on the presentation by Dr Artois.

282. The Delegate of Australia congratulated Dr Artois on his excellent presentation. The Delegate mentioned the occurrence of undiagnosed diseases in 2006, in particular in magpies in Eastern Australia. Reference was made to AI, NDV and West Nile virus but eventually no diagnosis was made and the disease spontaneously disappeared. In 2007 the disease did not re-occur and it was thought to have been toxicosis of mineral origin (lead). The Delegate asked whether countries are obliged to notify a event that is probably due to toxicosis of mineral origin. The President of the OIE, in his response, mentioned that there is no obligation to do so since toxicosis is not an infectious disease. Dr Artois added that the information would be of interest to the Working Group should there be a very large outbreak of poisoning with significant consequences. Although it is not an obligation, information of this kind is always of interest to the Working Group.

283. The Delegate of Denmark congratulated Dr Artois on his excellent presentation. He was particularly interested in the comments of Dr Artois on bat lyssaviruses. Cases in bats have been detected in Denmark and these were reported in the WAHIS system. One could say that it is merely a wildlife disease that Denmark reported. The Delegate enquired whether the Working Group would appreciate receiving this kind of information. Dr Artois responded that the suggestion of the Working Group would be to report through WAHIS

only a very limited number of diseases, one of these being rabies. The definition of rabies can be interpreted in different ways but the term is generally used to refer to rabies in terrestrial mammals. The reporting of bat lyssavirus rabies can therefore not be considered as mandatory but it is very valuable information. Reporting to the Working Group through the questionnaire should however continue.

The Director General thanked Dr Artois for his excellent presentation and thanked the members of the Working Group for their contributions. Dr Artois proposed to publish a review in the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* to describe the AI outbreaks in wild birds in Europe. The Director General mentioned that until 2010 all the thematic subjects are already decided upon but that this paper could be included in the yearly plurithematic issue.

The Director General welcomed the broadening of the Group with South American and Asian wildlife experts. The representatives of these regions could immediately start as observers in the Group.

A Collaborating Centre will be proposed for endorsement by the International Committee during the present week. As wildlife diseases are a growing area of interest, the Director General insisted on the need for Delegates to appoint national focal points to improve transparency for animal health in wildlife. The focal point functions under the authority of the Delegate to report wildlife events to the OIE. The Director General also suggested that the OIE Regional Representatives organise regional seminars for the wildlife focal points, as had been done for the focal points for animal health information. In September a member of the Working Group could also attend the *ad hoc* Group on notifiable diseases to take part in the discussions on wildlife diseases that are being considered for inclusion in the OIE list, as well as the links with WAHIS.

The Director General mentioned that the Convention on Biological Diversity has asked the OIE to take part in the preparation of standards for the protection of countries against invasive species. Although this is not the highest priority for the OIE, this request certainly cannot be neglected and the OIE has already scheduled internal discussions on possible standards to govern imports of invasive species. The discussions in the different OIE Commissions will be reported back to the International Committee.

284. The Committee noted the report of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

285. Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), commenced her presentation by stating that the past 12 months had been extremely busy, as was the case in previous years. She sincerely thanked members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, the Commission's *ad hoc* Groups and other participants at its meetings, as well as the many experts providing out-of-session assistance, for their continued support.
286. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Bernoth gave special recognition to the dedicated efforts of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and staff from the Central Bureau of the OIE. She noted that the Commission now meets regularly with representatives from most of the OIE's Departments during its meetings in Paris. She also expressed appreciation for the readily available assistance of the President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), Dr Alejandro Thiermann.

287. During the last 12 months, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice, from 2 to 6 October 2006 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A) and from 5 to 9 March 2007 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B). The draft text that is being proposed for adoption at this General Session has not changed from the versions that were circulated as appendices to the Commission's March 2007 meeting report (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).
288. The Aquatic Animals Commission now enjoys the assistance of seven currently active *ad hoc* Groups. Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that many of the Commission's decisions on draft texts are based on these *ad hoc* Groups' recommendations. She encouraged Delegates to ensure that those reports are read in conjunction with the Commission's reports and the resulting draft texts, as the reports frequently contain the answers to Member Countries' questions.
289. Dr Bernoth noted that there were still few responses to the Commission's reports from Asian countries, only one from an African country and none from the Middle East, despite significant aquaculture activities in each of these regions. However, she also pointed out that the overall number of Member Countries providing comments had increased during this period, and she commended especially those countries that had provided comments for the first time. With the support of the Director General, the Commission will continue to emphasise the importance of engaging with the OIE on aquatic animal health issues at forthcoming conferences of each of the OIE's Regional Commissions.
290. Dr Bernoth noted that by early April 2007, 48 Member Countries had followed Dr Vallat's invitation to nominate a specific official as the OIE contact person for aquatic animal diseases with responsibility for sending, under the authority of the Delegate, comments on the Commission's proposals for new standards. This is an increase from last year of five countries; Dr Bernoth strongly encouraged Delegates whose countries have not nominated such a contact to consider this opportunity.
291. Dr Bernoth presented a brief outline of her presentation. She stressed that due to the limited time available, she would focus on the suggested changes to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*.
292. **Revision of the list of diseases in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

At last year's General Session, the International Committee had adopted the delisting of two fish diseases (infectious pancreatic necrosis [IPN] and bacterial kidney disease [BKD]) and one mollusc disease (infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*) (see Resolution No. XX Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*).

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the list of diseases is related to the reporting obligations of Member Countries. While the consensus had been that IPN, BKD and infection with *Mikrocytos mackini* did not meet all the listing criteria, disease chapters had been retained for these diseases in the *Aquatic Code* to assist Member Countries to develop their import regulations. Dr Bernoth also drew Delegates' attention to the fact that certain reporting requirements still existed for non-listed diseases. To better identify such diseases (i.e. for which specific disease chapters are retained in the *Aquatic Code*, despite their removal from the list of diseases), Dr Bernoth proposed to insert an explanatory note in the corresponding *Aquatic Code* chapter as follows: "NB: This disease does not meet the listing

criteria in Chapter 1.2.2. Nevertheless, reporting requirements for non-listed diseases apply with regard to significant epidemiological events (Article 1.2.1.3., point 1e)".

Chapter 1.2.3. of the current version of the *Aquatic Code* annotates two crustacean diseases (necrotising hepatopancreatitis [NHP] and infectious myonecrosis [IMN]) with "Listing of this disease is under study". Nicaragua had commented that therapeutic methods are readily available for NHP and recommended not to list this disease. Dr Bernoth explained that while the availability of therapeutic treatment is not part of the listing criteria, managerial procedures can mitigate the losses due to the pathogen. The Commission had therefore decided to ask the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases to reassess NHP against Criterion 1. Dr Bernoth proposed that, for the time being, NHP would therefore stay listed as "under study".

In its October 2006 report, the Commission had suggested that three additional crustacean diseases (hepatopancreatic parvovirus disease [HPVD], Mourilyan virus disease [MoVD] and white tail disease [WTD]) be listed as emerging diseases. Madagascar and the United States of America had raised concern that HPVD and MoVD do not fully meet the listing criteria for emerging diseases (Article 1.2.2.2.). The Commission decided that these two diseases will need to be reassessed against the listing criteria by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases. Dr Bernoth proposed to list HPVD and MoVD as "under study", pending the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that there are no proposed changes to the list of fish and mollusc diseases.

The revised list now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix IV to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

293. **Disease chapters for the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

At last year's General Session, the International Committee had adopted revised versions for most fish and mollusc disease chapters (Resolution No. XX Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*). A draft revision of the chapter for the fish disease gyrodactylosis and a draft for an entirely new chapter on koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD) had been circulated to Member Countries for comment with the Commission's October 2006 meeting report (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A). The Commission agreed with many of the points raised on the draft chapter for KHVD and made some changes to several articles accordingly. In contrast, the Commission decided to forward comments received on the updated chapter on gyrodactylosis to the OIE *ad hoc* Group for Fish Disease Chapters for the *Aquatic Code* because of the highly technical and specialised nature of those comments.

The new draft chapter on KHVD now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XIV to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

The Commission had received queries regarding the basis for establishing timeframes recommended for basic biosecurity conditions in the revised mollusc disease chapters. Dr Bernoth explained that the timeframes for these conditions were proposed on the basis of the biology and lifecycles of the agent and susceptible species, the requirement for and presence of intermediate hosts, and direct transmission and incubation periods. However, she acknowledged that other factors could be considered. The Commission will ask the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance to propose what criteria should be used for establishing timeframes for all disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code*. Queries

regarding the listing of mollusc larvae as “safe” commodities will be forwarded to the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Chapters for Mollusc Diseases for the *Aquatic Code*, for disease-by-disease consideration. Dr Bernoth pointed out that unlike mollusc spat, mollusc larvae are not traded internationally on a large scale.

The revised draft chapters on mollusc diseases now proposed for adoption were appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendices VI to XI to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

Draft revisions of all chapters for crustacean diseases had been circulated to Member Countries for comment with the Commission’s October 2006 meeting report (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A). The Commission made some changes, based on Member Country comments.

The revised draft chapters on crustacean diseases now proposed for adoption were appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendices XV to XX to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B). That report also flagged the revised draft chapter on crayfish plague (Appendix XXI) as proposed for adoption. However, Dr Bernoth explained that, because of the very different nature of the disease (when compared with the other crustacean diseases), there had been many changes to that draft. She suggested that Member Countries should provide comments on this version in time for the October 2007 meeting of the Commission. The chapter is therefore not proposed for adoption at this General Session.

Dr Bernoth then provided details on some of the Commission’s general considerations:

- The Commission simplified Article 3 (Commodities) in each chapter. This included tidying up the list of “safe” commodities in point 1, referring – in point 2 – to the specific recommendations detailed in the following articles, and in point 3 restricting the recommendation to conduct a risk analysis to only those other commodities that can reasonably be expected to be a vector of the disease.
- In Articles 4 and 5 under point 4 (regaining freedom after an outbreak in a country or zone), the Commission added a requirement that previously existing basic biosecurity conditions must have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years. This requirement was added because a breach in biosecurity could have occurred prior to the initial outbreak.
- The Commission reworded Article 8 (Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free) to better convey the recommendation to hold these animals in biosecure conditions for their entire life. The previous wording was “delivery into quarantine”, which implies release at some stage.

Dr Bernoth finished this part of her presentation by once again thanking Delegates for submitting their country’s expert comments to the Commission. She pointed out that the Commission now increasingly relies on advice from its *ad hoc* Groups, because of the volume of questions asked as well as their complexity. Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates to bear this in mind and not get impatient if their comments do not appear to have been

addressed from one Commission meeting to the next. She assured Delegates that all comments are considered, but that it was not possible to have all relevant *ad hoc* Groups meet between Commission meetings.

294. Zoning and compartmentalisation

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the Commission had consulted the Terrestrial Code Commission to ensure that revised chapters on zoning and compartmentalisation are consistent for both *Codes*. The revised draft chapter for the *Aquatic Code* now proposed for adoption, which takes into account Member Country comments, was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix V to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

Dr Bernoth explained that the Commission will await the adoption of the draft chapter prior to formulating any specific recommendations, for example, the pathway for infected compartments to again be declared free from the disease in question.

295. Definitions for the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

At last year's General Session, Canada had suggested introducing a definition for 'veterinary para-professionals'. The Commission had prepared such a definition based on the one given in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and circulated it with the October 2006 meeting report (Appendix III to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A). Several Member Countries expressed concern with this proposed definition. The Commission will liaise with the Terrestrial Code Commission prior to any modification, and the draft definition is therefore not proposed for adoption at this year's General Session.

Some proposed new definitions as well as revised definitions were modified in line with Member Country comments received on the October 2006 drafts. In response to a suggestion from Australia, the Commission also modified several other definitions that cross reference to the term "infection" to accommodate the newly proposed term "infestation". All definitions now proposed for adoption were appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix III to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

296. Recommendations for transport

Dr Bernoth took Delegates back to the disease chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and reminded them that for many mollusc diseases, gametes, eggs and larvae are identified as "safe" commodities. Australia had previously queried whether the risks associated with any accompanying transport water had been taken into consideration, and the Commission had referred this question to the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Chapters for Mollusc Diseases for the *Aquatic Code* for expert opinion. The *ad hoc* Group's advice had been to incorporate the consideration of transport water in the 'horizontal' Chapter 1.5.1. (Recommendations for transport) of the *Aquatic Code*, rather than in individual disease chapters. A draft revision of Chapter 1.5.1. had been circulated with the Commission's October 2006 meeting report (Appendix XII to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A). The Commission made some modifications in line with Member Country comments. The revised text now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XII to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

Dr Bernoth explained that this chapter was not about aquatic animal welfare during transport. Rather, work on aquatic animal welfare during transport is being addressed by the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, but there is currently no draft text proposed for adoption.

297. OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the OIE International Committee had adopted the fifth edition of the *Aquatic Manual* at last year's General Session (Resolution No. XXV Adoption of the fifth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*). She informed Delegates that feedback from individual experts had been positive, and that the *Aquatic Manual* is widely regarded as the definitive guide to diagnostic methods for OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases and other diseases of importance in international trade. It was also greatly appreciated that chapters for delisted diseases had been retained.

While the next edition is planned for publication in 2009, intermittent changes, if adopted by the International Committee, will be added to the Web version of the *Aquatic Manual* in the interim. Dr Bernoth explained that one such interim proposal was now being submitted for adoption, i.e. the new chapter on KHVD, a disease listed only last year. The text now proposed for adoption was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XXII to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

Dr Bernoth thanked the Director General for employing Dr David Alderman from the United Kingdom (UK) as a consultant editor for the *Aquatic Manual*. She explained that Dr Alderman had joined the Commission's March meeting and agreed to revise the design of the disease chapter template for the *Aquatic Manual* in time for the Commission's October meeting. Once the Commission approves the new template, it will be sent to disease chapter authors with the request to use it to update their chapters for the next edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. It is planned to include in this edition updates of all the chapters, including those that were not updated in the 2006 edition.

298. OIE Reference Laboratories

Annual reports were received from all 28 Reference Laboratories and the Collaborating Centre for Information on Aquatic Diseases. The Commission acknowledges the valuable participation of these laboratories and the Centre and the support they provide to Member Countries and the Commission.

The Aquatic Animals Commission received two applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status for KHVD. One application is from the Fisheries Research Agency, Research Promotion & Development Department, Yokohama, Japan, with Dr Motohiko Sano as the expert. The other one is from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Weymouth, UK, with Dr Keith Way as the expert. The Commission reviewed the applications and recommends their acceptance.

The Commission also received nominations for Dr Peter Dixon to replace Prof. Barry Hill as the expert for spring viraemia of carp and Dr Birgit Oidtmann to replace Dr David Alderman as the expert for crayfish plague. Both OIE Reference Laboratories are located at CEFAS, Weymouth, UK. The Commission reviewed the nominations and recommends their acceptance.

Dr Bernoth expressed disappointment that there had been no applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status for abalone viral mortality and once again encouraged applications to be submitted through the OIE Delegate. She also invited applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status for the two crustacean diseases IMN and WTD, provided the International Committee adopted their listing at this General Session.

The Commission acknowledged a request from the Delegate of the United Kingdom that the OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious pancreatic necrosis located at CEFAS, Weymouth, UK be removed from the list.

299. **Diseases of amphibians**

Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates of the questionnaire on amphibian diseases that had been circulated late last year. She pointed out that 65 countries had replied, compared with 15 when a similar questionnaire had been circulated in 2002. She suggested that this significant rise in the number of responses may be an indicator of increasing awareness about the relevance of amphibian diseases worldwide. She expressed her gratitude to all those Delegates who had replied to the questionnaire.

Dr Bernoth pointed out that over seventy per cent ($n=46$) of the responses supported the inclusion of amphibian diseases in the remit of the OIE. In view of this supportive majority, she proposed that the Internal Committee agree in principle to the expansion of the OIE's remit. The OIE would then reconvene the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Amphibian Diseases, with revised terms of reference that include the development of a list of diseases and draft chapters for the *Aquatic Code* and the *Aquatic Manual*.

300. **On-going activities**

Dr Bernoth summarised the status of some of the Commission's on-going activities:

- The need to **harmonise OIE approaches to aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases** continues to be one of the main drivers for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission. While there has already been good progress on zoning and compartmentalisation, and on animal health surveillance, the Commission has now commenced the preparation of guidelines for the **handling and disposal of carcasses and wastes**. These guidelines, while specific to aquatic animals, will be consistent with the provisions in the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that numerous comments had been received on the first set of draft guidelines for **aquatic animal welfare**. These comments had been summarised in the October 2006 meeting report of the Commission (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 A). They had been referred to the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, and the Commission is awaiting the Working Group's recommendations.
- Dr Bernoth was pleased to report excellent progress on aquatic animal health surveillance. Since the last General Session, the **OIE *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance** had met twice to tackle this complex area. Two documents on aquatic animal health surveillance, i.e. a draft appendix for the *Aquatic Code* and a draft chapter for the *Aquatic Manual*, are currently with Member Countries for comment (Appendices XXIX and XXX to the Commission's March 2007 meeting report [Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B]). She explained that the draft chapter for the *Aquatic Manual* is to replace the current Chapter 1.1.4. (Requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection), and she encouraged Delegates to ensure thorough consultation on this draft. Additional work is progressing well, for

example, on guidelines for *Aquatic Manual* chapter authors to follow when specifying the surveillance requirements for individual diseases. Dr Bernoth reminded Delegates that the full report of the *ad hoc* Group was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XXXII to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B) and encouraged Delegates to make it available to experts.

- Dr Bernoth drew Delegates' attention to the success of the **OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health**, which was held in Bergen, Norway, in October last year. She thanked the Norwegian Government for collaborating with the OIE on this Conference. The Conference developed a set of draft recommendations that were endorsed by the Commission at its March 2007 meeting. Dr Bernoth gave a brief summary of these recommendations; the full version will be included in the Conference proceedings.
- The Aquatic Animals Commission had prepared a concept paper on **pathogen strain differentiation**, which was presented at a special workshop held in conjunction with the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Brazil in December 2006. The workshop reached the conclusion, endorsed in the recommendations of the Conference, that this issue should be discussed in a wider forum at the next conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and that the implications of differentiating between genotypes for OIE notification and reporting criteria should be considered by the Aquatic Animals Commission.
- Finally, Dr Bernoth reported progress on the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* issue "Changing Trends in Managing Aquatic Animal Disease Emergencies", due to be published in April 2008.

301. New activities

Dr Bernoth presented a summary of two of the Commission's new activities.

- A new **OIE *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Feeds** met in December 2006. Its report was appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XXXI to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B) for information. The draft Guidelines for the Control of Aquatic Animal Health Hazards in Aquatic Animal Feeds were appended to the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XXVIII to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B) for Member Country comment. Dr Bernoth pointed out that this was a new initiative of the OIE, and that there had been some discussion at the Commission's March meeting regarding the scope of the *ad hoc* Group's work. She explained that the *ad hoc* Group should – as a priority – complete its work on aquatic animal pathogens. Additional work could take place on hazards of public health significance, but the Commission recommended that this be done under the auspices of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.
- The OIE plans to extend the application of the **Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS)** tool to aquatic animal health services and to offer training to potential assessors of aquatic animal health services. Dr Bernoth stressed that the Commission welcomed this extension and will cooperate with the Central Bureau to develop the aquatic PVS.

302. **Work plan for 2007–2008**

Dr Bernoth closed her presentation by informing the OIE International Committee that more detail on the Aquatic Animals Commission's work plan for the rest of the year 2007 and for the year 2008 was provided in the March 2007 meeting report (Appendix XXXIV to Doc. 75 SG/12/CS4 B).

303. The President of the International Committee thanked Dr Bernoth for her work and that of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission. He appreciated the commitment of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission to work together with the aim of harmonising the horizontal standards. He encouraged the Delegates along with their national aquatic focal points to engage with the Aquatic Animals Commission to ensure that the proposals are appropriate.
304. The Delegate of Norway thanked Dr Bernoth for the excellent presentation of the Commission's work. The Delegate supported the decision to withdraw the proposal of the crayfish plague chapter for adoption. The Delegate also commented that Chapter 1.5.1. Recommendations for transport should apply only to transport by land and air. She pointed out that Norway has agreed to develop a text on transport by sea. Dr Bernoth proposed to indicate clearly where this chapter does not apply to transport by sea by amending Articles 1.5.1.5. and 1.5.1.6. (see Resolution No. XXX).
305. The Delegate of Finland speaking on behalf of the European Community (EC) thanked Dr Bernoth for the work of the Commission. She advised against the OIE making references to external organisations, such as ICES (International Council of the Exploration of the Seas), and their guidelines, because of a lack of clarity of regarding the validity of such external documents. However, she welcomed the OIE initiative to establish more formal arrangements with ICES. She also opposed requiring freedom from disease in the country of origin, or implementation of risk mitigation measures at the destination, when importing non-viable products as safe products. She questioned the inclusion of larvae as safe commodities in the mollusc chapters, adding that there is no scientific evidence that these products are safe. She therefore considered that this proposal should be withdrawn. Finally, she supported the proposal from Norway on the revision of Chapter 1.5.1.
306. Dr Bernoth replied that making references to external organisations is not unprecedented at the OIE; this has been done on many occasions by the Terrestrial Code Commission, for example in relation to the IETS (International Embryo Transfer Society). In regard to trade in products, she commented on the use of health certificates, saying that, in the event that an exporting country considers itself to be free of a given disease, it is not unreasonable for the importing country to request a health certificate for traded commodities. Dr Bernoth also pointed out that for a range of products no measures are suggested, i.e. if those commodities are listed as 'safe' in Article 3. With regard to the issue of mollusc larvae, Dr Bernoth mentioned that this would be referred back to the *ad hoc* Group on mollusc diseases for advice.
307. The Delegate of Japan thanked Dr Bernoth for recommending acceptance of the application from a Japanese research centre to be designated as an OIE Reference Laboratory for koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD). He suggested changes to the proposed chapter on KHVD in the *Aquatic Manual*: the submission of an alternative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) protocol developed by Dr Yuasa. Dr Bernoth welcomed this offer.

308. The Delegate of Saudi Arabia thanked Dr Bernoth for the excellent presentation. He noted that the increase in the number of registered diseases may stem from changes in the environment of the animals and he also noted that the environment is of great importance to animal health. Secondly, he underlined that most viral diseases mentioned in the *Aquatic Manual* have an impact on cold water species. The Delegate asked if these viruses could also be transmitted to animals living in warm waters. Dr Bernoth agreed that the issue of environmental impact is most relevant to aquatic animal health because of the poikilothermic nature of these animals.
309. The Delegate of Chile thanked Dr Bernoth for the work of the Commission and offered to submit some comments on the March report. Regarding risks to fish health, such as toxins and mycotoxins, the Delegate suggested that the Aquatic Animals Commission should ensure good coordination with the Terrestrial Code Commission. Additionally, work should be done on environmental changes, such as global warming. Finally, Chile highlighted its project on sea transport biosecurity and offered to provide relevant findings to the OIE. Dr Bernoth commented that the risks associated with toxins do not fall within the scope of the Aquatic Animals Commission but that this topic could be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Feeds, under the auspices of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, as the subject is appropriate to the mandate of that Working Group. She welcomed Chile's offer of information on sea transport biosecurity.
310. The Delegate of the United States of America (USA) acknowledged the Commission's work and made reference to a comment already submitted by the USA regarding the definition of infestation. His concern was that the term 'infestation' could be misinterpreted and proposed to replace the current definition with "means the presence of a notifiable parasitic or commensal agent in or on the host". Dr Bernoth did not agree to immediately modify the current proposed text, but rather suggested to address this proposal at the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission to allow all Member Countries to fully consider further changes.
311. The Delegate of Australia acknowledged the outstanding work of the Commission and its President. He expressed interest in the general policy on listing of diseases in disease cards, for example for abalone viral mortality, and suggested that it may be useful for the Aquatic Animals Commission to reconsider this disease. Dr Bernoth explained that the disease card for abalone viral mortality had been amended by the Commission to include the Australian disease condition in abalone at a time when that condition appeared to be sufficiently similar to warrant this. However, in the light of new scientific findings on the Australian abalone viral ganglioneuritis, the Commission would now, as a first step, assure whether the Australian condition meets the listing criteria, and, if it does, consider its listing within the abalone viral mortality complex or as a separate disease, as a second step.
312. A Member of the Canadian Delegation commended the Commission on progress made in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*, particularly in regard to the text on surveillance. He noted, however, that an item in the work programme, namely the revision of the model health certificates, was still outstanding. He asked when this would be addressed. Dr Bernoth confirmed that health certification was a matter for future work and that this would await progress in the Terrestrial Code Commission's revision of the model OIE's model veterinary certificates.
313. The Director General noted the comments of the Aquatic Animals Commission on the PVS tool. He confirmed that the OIE would take steps to incorporate in the PVS tool some specific features for aquatic animals. He welcomed future involvement of the Aquatic Animals Commission in this work. Dr Vallat stressed the importance for Delegates to designate aquatic focal points and the need to cooperate, where necessary, with their national counterparts dealing with aquatic animal health. He asked the Regional Representatives to organise training courses for these focal points. He also supported

appropriate harmonisation between the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*. The Director General mentioned that resources have been made available and work is under way to provide a Spanish language translation of the *Aquatic Manual*. He announced a forthcoming meeting between the OIE and the FAO to address aquatic animal health problems, notably in relation to the needs of developing countries.

314. The Committee noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission. The President of the International Committee pointed out that the International Committee had accepted the proposed changes to the list of Reference Laboratories, and had also agreed to expand the remit of the Aquatic Animals Commission to include amphibian diseases.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXI

Adoption of one draft chapter for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

315. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXXI on the Adoption of one draft chapter for the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXI at the end of this report.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

316. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission), reported on the work of the Commission since the previous General Session. He stated that a full Commission meeting had been held at the OIE headquarters from 2 to 13 October 2006. The Commission had met again from 12 to 16 March 2007 to examine comments made by Member Countries on the report of its October meeting and to identify issues that could be presented during the General Session. The remaining items and comments would be discussed at the next meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission in September, together with new comments on the report of the March meeting.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Commission (Drs W.-A. Valder, S.K. Hargreaves and J. Caetano and Profs S.C. MacDiarmid and A.M. Hassan) for their dedication and expertise. He also thanked Dr Sarah Kahn and her staff at the OIE headquarters for their hard work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

In general, he believed that it had been another productive year, with 30 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption and 18 others in preparation. He referred Delegates to the reports of the meetings of the Terrestrial Code Commission in October 2006 (Doc. 75 SG/12/CS1 A) and March 2007 (Doc. 75/SG/CS1 B) for additional details.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide electronically a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates' Web site as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. He also noted that it was the policy of the OIE to place Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, on the OIE public Web site as this provided an opportunity for other organisations and the general public to be aware of the important work being done in the OIE on international standards, and for them to contribute to that work.

Dr Thiermann appreciated the recent increase in the number of countries providing comments on *Terrestrial Code* texts and the style of their comments, i.e. suggested modifications with scientific rationales to support their claims. He reiterated that submission of detailed comments should be made prior to the Commission's September meeting (by mid-August each year), and further comments on the Commission's September

meeting report should be made prior to the Commission's March meeting (by mid-February), rather than just before or during the General Session. He reminded Members that the Terrestrial Code Commission would not examine any submission received after the Commission's March meeting, prior to the General Session. Any additional comment from Member Countries would have to be made during the discussion and adoption process at the General Session.

317. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr Thiermann reminded the OIE International Committee that any insertion or amendment to the *Terrestrial Code* would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Committee for adoption during the course of the week.
318. Dr Thiermann presented the following texts to the OIE International Committee for adoption:
319. **Chapter 1.1.1. General definitions**

Dr Thiermann reported that after having considered many Member Countries' concerns about the definition of 'animal handler' adopted at the last General Session, including the proposed requirement for certification of competency, the Terrestrial Code Commission modified the text.

At its October meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission reviewed the definitions in the *Terrestrial Code* for 'Veterinary Services', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Administration' and the usage of these terms. The Terrestrial Code Commission proposed to eliminate the term 'Veterinary Administration', as no useful purpose was served by retaining separate definitions for 'Veterinary Administration' and 'Veterinary Authority'. Considering comments from Member Countries, the definitions of 'Veterinary Services', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Competent Authority' were further modified at the March meeting.

Dr Thiermann indicated that the Terrestrial Code Commission had accepted a recommendation from the *ad hoc* Group on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals and modified the definitions of 'market' and 'collecting centre' accordingly.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Germany thanked Dr Thiermann on behalf of the European Union (EU). He commented that the proposed change to the definition of 'Veterinary Authority' could be accepted with the following modifications: the definition should refer to the whole country and after 'measures' the OIE should include a reference to 'international veterinary certification'. Dr Thiermann agreed that the inclusion of 'whole' and of 'international veterinary certificate' would be appropriate and proposed to make these changes.

The Delegate of Japan proposed deletion of the reference to 'animal welfare' in the definitions for 'Veterinary Services' and 'Veterinary Authority'. The draft definition of 'Competent Authority' covers this important area adequately. Dr Thiermann replied that the reason for including definitions of both 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority', and for making reference to both animal health and animal welfare, is to provide scope for all the organisational structures found among OIE Member Countries.

The Delegate of Italy supported the intervention by the Delegate of Germany on behalf of the EU. He emphasised that the authority of the Veterinary Authority is for the whole country.

The Delegate of South Africa congratulated Dr Thiermann on the good work done by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission. He also commented that the OIE is a platform for sharing scientific information and that Member Countries would like to have feedback from the OIE on how their comments on draft *Code* texts were handled. The Delegate raised some concerns regarding the proposed changes to the definitions. He noted

that the definition of 'Competent Authority' is very close to that of 'Veterinary Authority' and there did not seem to be a clear reason for having two separate definitions. South Africa also feels that 'Veterinary Authority' should be clearly defined in terms of national responsibility and that it is important to retain a reference to the Statutory Body responsible for regulating the standards of veterinary professional activities. The Delegate requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission further consider these questions. In response to the point about the Statutory Body, Dr Thiermann advised that no change was proposed to this definition and that it would be retained as currently in the *Code*. In regard to the separate definitions of 'Competent Authority' and 'Veterinary Authority', it is important to note that OIE Member Countries do not all have the same organisational arrangements in regard to animal health and welfare and that the definitions provide for the range of possible situations and government systems of the OIE Member Countries.

The Delegate of Israel raised the issue of responsibility for animal health. Clearly this lies with the veterinarian and this should be made clear in the definitions provided by international organisations such as the OIE.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the intervention of the Delegate of Germany.

The Delegate of Cuba congratulated the President and the Commission for its long and hard work. The Delegate commented that the Veterinary Authority is the centre of responsibility within the OIE context and that definitions of other authorities are not needed. The President did not accept this for reasons already mentioned.

The chapter, amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

320. **Chapter 1.3.5. Zoning and compartmentalisation**

Dr Thiermann advised that the chapter had been revised by the Terrestrial Code Commission, taking into account the input from the Scientific Commission's concept paper published in the OIE *Bulletin* (No. 2006 – 2).

He also noted that the definition of 'biosecurity plan' had been modified, based on Member Countries' comments, for clarification and to avoid redundancies.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann noted that a draft text of general guidelines on compartmentalisation prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, and endorsed by the Scientific Commission, was circulated for Member Country comments as Part B of the October 2006 report. These guidelines were drafted to provide a structured framework for the application and recognition of compartments based on the provisions of Chapter 1.3.5. He stated that the Terrestrial Code Commission was expecting this text to be adopted at the General Session next year. However, the text can be adopted this year if there is no opposition from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann also advised that a checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation for avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry was now available as a booklet and would also be made available to the public on the OIE Web site.

He noted that this checklist was not intended to form part of the *Terrestrial Code*, nor would it be considered as an OIE standard. Nonetheless, the Terrestrial Code Commission considered that the checklist would be useful for Member Countries wishing to establish secure poultry compartments that have the status of freedom from AI and/or ND.

The Delegate of Japan praised the inclusion of the draft General Guidelines for comment at this General Session but did not support adoption of the text at this stage. Rather, it should be studied and then considered for adoption next year. The Delegate commented that the two-year adoption cycle should be respected, to ensure that countries can take account of the views of stakeholders. The Delegate further commented that the Checklist for Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease would provide a good model for future chapters on compartmentalisation applied to these two diseases. He also requested that the phrase “that establish the zone” in point 1 c) ii) and 2 d) ii) of Article 5 be replaced by “which are the subject of recognition”, for consistency with Article 1.3.6.5. The Delegate commented on discussions in the SPS Committee on regionalisation, and said that the OIE *Terrestrial Code* should be respected because the procedures for zoning and compartmentalisation are not only administrative but also technical.

In response, Dr Thiermann commented on the important work being done in the SPS Committee and the good dialogue with the OIE. He encouraged Delegates to support this coordination at a national level. Dr Thiermann further identified the recommendation in the *Terrestrial Code* that trading partners work together, providing access to relevant information, to implement compartments for the purposes of international trade.

Dr Thiermann said that he is currently discussing with the Director General and the Scientific Commission the timeframe for development of guidelines on compartmentalisation for specific diseases. He also commented that the ‘Checklist’ would not form part of the *Code*. It would not have any legal weight. While there is no intention to offer the checklist for adoption, Member Countries are welcome to provide feedback to the OIE if they so wish.

The Delegate of South Africa commented on Article 1.3.5.4. He appreciated that changes had been made to this point, with a change in the position of the portion of text relating to animal traceability. He recommended instead that this portion of text be completely deleted.

The Delegate of Zimbabwe supported the comments by the Delegate of South Africa, and recommended that the reference to traceability be replaced by a reference to an identification system.

The Delegate of the Netherlands made comments on behalf of the EU. The EU can support the proposed text but would like to see more precision with regard to the responsibility for recording animal movements as an industry responsibility. The EU prefers the notion of traceability rather than identification.

The Delegate of Swaziland thanked Dr Thiermann on behalf of the 53 African Member Countries. He supported the interventions by the Delegates of South Africa and Zimbabwe, adding that ‘full traceability’ is not the objective in maintaining a zone. Rather, the goal is to identify animals and control movements. He requested that the change also be made to ‘line 4 paragraph 5’.

The Delegate of India spoke in support of the comments by the Delegates of South Africa and Zimbabwe and by the African Regional Commission. The Delegate reiterated comments from the previous day to the effect that traceability is an expensive exercise and that many countries would be unable to implement it. She supported a requirement for identification, not full traceability, within a zone.

In response to the comments of several Delegates about traceability, Dr Thiermann explained that the goal is to be able to identify animals and ascertain where each animal has come from. For the purposes of international trade, a country establishing a compartment needs to be able to prove to trading partners that the identification and source of the animal can be relied upon and the health status of the sub-population is preserved. It is not necessary to adopt costly identification systems, such as microchips. Rather, a brand or tag system can be used to the same effect.

The Director General reminded Delegates that the Checklist distributed to Member Countries should prove useful. With regard to compartmentalisation, the Director General commented that this is an important tool for access to international markets. The system must be credible. If animals cannot be clearly shown as originating from the disease-free areas, trading partners will not accept trade from the disease-free compartment.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea asked for the chapter on compartmentalisation to be reviewed over the coming year. Dr Thiermann explained that the Checklist has no legal status and Member Countries are therefore not obliged to implement its recommendations.

A representative of the delegation of Australia thanked the President and the Director General for their explanations. Australia agreed with the EU comment supporting adoption of the text and noted that comments and concerns could be considered at a future time.

The Delegate of Botswana supported the comments of South Africa and like-minded countries. He urged Delegates to consider the historical development of this issue. A requirement for traceability in order to define a zone would put this tool out of reach of many countries. He pointed to examples of diseases, such as rinderpest, CBPP and FMD, which have been addressed effectively without introducing traceability systems.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the compartment could be established on the basis of identification systems, providing that there is provision to check and confirm the origin of animals that move into or out of the compartment or zone. There is no need to trace movements within a zone or compartment *per se*. Rather, it is knowledge and control of animal movement into or out of a zone that is the subject of identification and veterinary control. The President of the International Committee asked the Delegate of the Netherlands if he shared this understanding. The Delegate of the Netherlands and, subsequently, the Delegate of Denmark cautioned that the credibility of the compartment or zone depends on the capacity to identify and preserve the health status of the sub-population and that this is an important issue.

The Delegate of Colombia asked about defining the scope of traceability. Dr Barcos, Chair of the *ad hoc* Group on Traceability and Identification, explained that the General Principles for Animal Identification and Traceability had been developed with flexibility to allow Member Countries to apply them to suit their own purposes and within the scope of their systems.

In conclusion, Dr Thiermann asked countries to take time to review the text on the General Principles for Animal Identification and Traceability, before finalising their position on the text on compartmentalisation.

Apart from the references to traceability, the remainder of the text was considered to be acceptable.

Discussions continued on Thursday with Dr Thiermann briefly recapitulating the discussion of the previous day and thanking the Delegates of Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa and others who attended a meeting held that morning to discuss the outstanding issue of traceability in zoning and compartmentalisation. Dr Thiermann indicated the replacement of the word 'traceability' by the word 'identification' in the last sentence of paragraph 4 of Article 1.3.5.4. No other change is proposed to the text.

The Delegate of Ecuador requested a written copy of the amended text. In response Dr Thiermann read out the proposed amendment.

The Delegate of Japan expressed concern at the proposed amendment, stating that traceability is a prerequisite for zoning and compartmentalisation. The Delegate recommended that the item be identified as 'under study' if the amendment goes ahead.

The Delegate of India supported the proposal made by Dr Thiermann.

In response to a request for clarification from the President of the International Committee, Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that the addition of text on traceability in paragraph 4 was in addition to existing text on traceability that is found elsewhere in this chapter.

The amended text was adopted unanimously.

321. Chapter 2.2.5. Rabies

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission had followed advice from the Biological Standards Commission and updated the article of the chapter on rabies containing provisions relating to the use of recombinant vaccines having a live virus vector, and that comments from several Member Countries on the need for further clarification on such a vaccine had been taken into account.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the OIE International Committee.

The proposed amendment to Chapter 2.2.5. Rabies was adopted unanimously.

322. Chapter 2.2.10. Foot and mouth disease

Dr Thiermann recalled that a study of the procedure to expedite the recovery of status in the event of a limited outbreak in a previously FMD free country or zone had been requested in Resolution No. XXX of the 74th General Session. He advised that, based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group created to examine this issue, the Terrestrial Code Commission had presented the new article 2.2.10.6 bis) and a definition for 'containment zone' in its October meeting report.

The comments received from Member Countries on the chapter were forwarded to the Scientific Commission and its *ad hoc* Group, and the Terrestrial Code Commission made further modifications taking into account their recommendations.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann referred to the Scientific Commission's work to facilitate regaining status after a disease incursion into a previously free country/zone and commended the new draft article on a containment zone (Article 2.2.10.6 bis)

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the principle of a containment zone as presented by Dr Caporale. However, this subject could be dealt with by applying the principle of zoning and compartmentalisation as presented in *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.3.5. The concept still needs revision including in regard to its application to other diseases. Item 6 b should remain under study until its application to FMD has been verified. The EU also insists that risk mitigation measures be applied when importing beef and buffalo meat from the containment zone.

In response, Dr Thiermann advised that the basis on which the containment zone would be implemented is described in some detail in the text for adoption. The parameters are consistent with or stricter than the text in the current chapter. Dr Thiermann questioned what further action could be required as a basis to demonstrate that the containment zone had been effectively implemented. Dr Thiermann said that, if the article is to be placed under study, he would welcome advice from Member Countries as to what additional text may be needed.

In regard to Articles 2.2.10.19. and 2.2.10.20., the Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the African countries, raised concerns and requested a review of the *Terrestrial Code* on the use of maturation and deboning to minimise presence of the virus. The Delegate asked if all these procedures are necessary for meat exported from FMD free zones, when they are preceded by quarantine, ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, deboning and major lymph node removal.

The Delegate of Japan supported the EU comments on Article 2.2.10.6 bis. He felt that the containment zone principle needs further study and the article should be kept under study for the time being.

The Delegate of Jordan asked about the inactivation of FMD virus in forage (Article 2.2.10.28) using formalin. Dr Thiermann advised that this article was based on expert advice and that he could not comment in detail for the time being on the carcinogenicity of formalin.

The Delegate of South Africa, commenting on Articles 2.2.10.3. and 2.2.10.5., recommended that additions be made as follows: countries should provide the OIE with information on the effectiveness of vaccination as part of their initial dossier and annual report to the OIE on FMD freedom with vaccination. In regard to 2.2.10.6 bis, the Delegate commented that the proposed text on the containment zone calls for stamping out, whereas Dr Caporale, in his presentation, spoke of an 'effective control strategy'. Finally, the Delegate mentioned the difficulty of demonstrating the absence of virus circulation in FMD free countries or zones with vaccination and issues relating to vaccine quality.

The Director General noted that Article 2.2.10.1. requires that the vaccines used comply with the standards in the *Manual*. If this is not the case, the OIE would consider that the vaccine is not being correctly used.

The Delegate of Colombia commented on 2.2.10.6 bis, noting that the OIE has ratified free zones and some are very large. In the case of a single outbreak, a very large area may lose its status. The proposed arrangements for a containment zone are appropriate and should be maintained.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the proposed text for Article 2.2.10.6 bis, based on both science and practical experience in the Americas. He considered that the list of elements was appropriate and that this text represents real progress.

The President of the International Committee invited countries to submit their comments for consideration by the OIE.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

323. **Chapter 2.2.12. Rinderpest**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Terrestrial Code Commission had noted, at its October meeting, the need to review new scientific information and experience in managing rinderpest in the field in order to update the chapter.

The Terrestrial Code Commission received a significantly revised draft Chapter 2.2.12. prepared by an *ad hoc* Group and endorsed by the Scientific Commission. A notable change in this draft chapter is the deletion of the concept of provisional freedom.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann presented the new draft chapter on rinderpest, reminding Member Countries of the longstanding need for this work. The concept of 'provisional freedom' has been removed from the draft chapter. Dr Thiermann proposed immediate adoption of the text, based on the urgent need for a revised text and the excellence of the work done in preparing it.

The Delegate of Germany, on behalf of the EU, supported the proposal, bearing in mind the urgency of the matter, but wished to remind the OIE that new chapters should not be proposed for adoption such a short while before the General Session.

The Chapter was adopted unanimously.

324. Appendix 3.8.2. Guidelines on surveillance for rinderpest

Dr Thiermann advised that the Terrestrial Code Commission had received a new Appendix on surveillance developed by an *ad hoc* Group and endorsed by the Scientific Commission which is consistent with the revised Chapter 2.2.12.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

325. Chapter 2.2.13. Bluetongue

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had reviewed comments received from Member Countries and the recommendations from the Scientific Commission on the chapter on bluetongue. The outcome of the meeting of an emergency *ad hoc* Group on Bluetongue held in October 2006 was also taken into consideration.

Considering recent outbreaks in Europe and the understanding that bluetongue is increasing its geographical distribution in this region, the Terrestrial Code Commission modified the northern latitude boundary in Articles 2.2.13.1. and 2.2.13.2.

Article 5 was deleted as recommended by the Scientific Commission. The Terrestrial Code Commission considers that the risks associated with importation from a bluetongue virus infected country are adequately addressed in the articles on commodities.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the EU, congratulated the Terrestrial Code Commission on its excellent work. The EU supports the chapter but recommends deleting text in other chapters, as has been done for Article 2.2.13.5. The EU encourages the OIE to continue the revision of the chapter, especially in regard to the use of vaccines. Dr Thiermann agreed with the EU recommendation, noting that it is the prerogative of Veterinary Authorities to conduct risk assessments as they deem appropriate.

The Delegate of South Africa appreciated the comments by Dr Caporale regarding the use of compartmentalisation for other diseases and asked if this principle could also be applied in the case of bluetongue.

Dr Thiermann advised that the Commission did not feel that it was appropriate at this time to apply the compartmentalisation concept to bluetongue or other vector-borne diseases, given the complexity of applying this concept and the lack of any specific guidance as to how this could be done in practice. Based on the advice of the Scientific and Technical Commission, conditions to prevent exposure to vectors are difficult to apply and this could only be done in insemination centres and quarantine facilities. The President of the International Committee asked that the President of the Scientific Commission and the President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission work together to identify whether compartmentalisation could be applied to vector-borne diseases.

Dr Thiermann urged countries to provide advice on future directions for the OIE in this regard as in his view this was not just a difference of opinion between the two Commissions.

The Director General announced that a meeting would be organised with the two Presidents for this purpose.

The Delegate of Australia noted that Australia has commented over many years regarding its approach to bluetongue, e.g. the concept of vector populations that are able to maintain circulation of the virus – a risk based approach. He said that Australia would continue to press its arguments because the emergence of the disease in northern Europe probably warrants a new approach. The Delegate clarified that he did not wish to impede progress in adoption of the draft text. Dr Thiermann agreed with the comments of the Australian Delegate.

326. **Appendix 3.X.X. Guidelines on surveillance for bluetongue**

Dr Thiermann reported that a number of Member Countries had submitted comments on the draft guidelines on surveillance for bluetongue and that these comments had been submitted to the Scientific Commission for consideration. The Terrestrial Code Commission made changes to the text on the basis of advice received from the Scientific Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the draft text except with regard to the reference to endemically infected countries in the Introduction, paragraph 4. The Delegate recommended deletion of the words 'or endemic' before 'country/zone' until further study has been done on this concept. The Delegate of Denmark clarified that there is no need to include the word 'endemic' given that the word 'infected' has been introduced and includes the notion of 'endemic'.

Dr Thiermann agreed with the proposal to remove the word 'endemic' from the text.

The text was adopted unanimously with the word 'endemic' deleted.

327. **Chapter 2.3.3. Bovine tuberculosis**

Dr Thiermann reported that comments from Member Countries had been reviewed by an *ad hoc* Group and that the Scientific Commission had proposed appropriate changes to the chapter on bovine tuberculosis. The Terrestrial Code Commission agreed with the Scientific Commission that the scope of the chapter should be limited to *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection in domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) bovines, including cattle (*Bos taurus*, *B. indicus* and *B. grunniens*), water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and bison (*Bison bison* and *B. bonasus*).

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann thanked Member Countries for providing comments, which have been addressed in the text presented for adoption.

The Delegate of Australia mentioned the expertise of Australian experts in regard to tuberculosis eradication. He commented that Australia would not support adoption as there had been insufficient time for consideration of the text.

The Delegate of the United States supported the comments made by the Delegate of Australia. While the chapter has been circulated it has not previously been proposed for adoption.

In response, Dr Thiermann stated that it was in the hands of the International Committee but reminded Delegates that guidance on public health related matters is needed and is overdue. The President of the International Committee noted that no other Delegates appeared to have concerns with the draft chapter and, therefore, proposed the text for adoption.

The text was adopted. Australia and the United States opposed adoption.

Dr Thiermann requested that Australia and the United States provide comments to the OIE and assured Member Countries that the comments would be addressed by the OIE. The Director General undertook to convene an *ad hoc* Group to address these comments.

328. **Chapter 2.3.13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

Dr Thiermann asked Delegates reading the report in English, to refer to Appendix XII marked 'corrigendum', as the OIE had found editorial errors after printing the English language version of the March report. He apologised for any inconvenience caused by this error.

Dr Thiermann recalled that the Terrestrial Code Commission had clarified its view that data from cattle-to-cattle transmission studies should be taken as the baseline for recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*, as suggested in the fully revised supporting document on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) appended to its October meeting report. Dr Thiermann expressed concern on behalf of the Terrestrial Code Commission that some Member Countries were still basing their arguments on experimental models derived from studies in laboratory animals, in some cases genetically modified, and that these studies are not necessarily relevant to disease risk in cattle and in humans.

Dr Thiermann reported that a number of submissions, strongly supported by peer-reviewed scientific studies, had proposed that gelatine and dicalcium phosphate should be considered safe regardless of origin, and that the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed a change to Article 2.3.13.1. to include gelatine prepared from bones as a safe commodity.

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined outstanding concerns raised by the EU and Japan regarding the risk of potentially infected animals present in the age cohorts born before the BSE risk management measures were enforced. As a result, Article 2.3.13.6 a was expanded and Articles 2.3.13.7. and 2.3.13.12. were modified.

In Articles 2.3.13.6 a, 2.3.13.7. and 2.3.13.8., references to 'dam' and 'herd of origin' were deleted following the decision taken in 2006 by the OIE International Committee on the basis of expert advice that the risk of vertical transmission of BSE is negligible. The reference to 'herd of origin' was deleted as the requirement is already addressed by linking these Articles to paragraph 3 b) iii) of Article 2.3.13.3., paragraph 3 b) iii) of Article 2.3.13.4. and point 2) of Article 2.3.13.8., respectively.

Dr Thiermann noted that, based on the modification proposed for Article 2.3.13.1., Article 2.3.13.14. also needed modification, i.e. deletion of 'gelatine' from the list of commodities. He clarified the modifications proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission to Article 2.3.13.14. by stating that this Article would refer only to collagen; the phrase 'pressure

washing' would be deleted as it is not used in the degreasing process; and all cattle bones would be allowed as a source material, provided the cattle have passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann briefly presented the revised chapter, making reference to the key consideration relating to the risk posed by ruminant-to-ruminant or ruminant-to-human transmission of the BSE agent. He indicated that the comments provided by Member Countries have been specifically addressed, except in the case of comments received repeatedly over the years and previously dismissed. Dr Thiermann also explained the OIE's thinking in regard to the risks presented by animals born before the feed ban in negligible risk countries that had previously had an indigenous case (see Articles 2.3.13.6., 2.3.13.7., and 2.3.13.12.). Dr Thiermann also mentioned the deletion of references to tracing the dam of a case and that the requirement to be able to identify cohorts of cases has been maintained. Finally, the inclusion of gelatine as a safe commodity had been proposed on the basis of scientific evidence and the advice of experts.

The President of the International Committee drew the attention of English-speaking Delegates to the corrigendum in the English version of this text.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, opposed adoption of the proposed amendments on gelatine and the identification of cattle.

The EU awaits the outcome of its consultation process. Significant problems are associated with brain removal from the skull. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Opinion states that residual infectivity in gelatine derived from bones from a country of undetermined risk is 10,000-fold higher than that from a country of controlled risk. In addition, the requirement for strict processing conditions means that the item is not a 'safe item' as intended for items listed in point 1 of Article 2.3.13.1.

Since the articles do not refer to identification systems to enable tracing of exposed cattle, the provision in Articles 2.3.13.6 a and 2.3.13.7. should not be amended.

The Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the African Region, commented that to date there is still no scientific evidence showing the existence of prions in the muscle of animals over 30 months of age, let alone in grass-fed animals. This is an important issue for trade. The Delegate proposed that the text be revised so that meat from grass-fed animals over 30 months of age is included in the list of commodities that can be traded without restriction.

In response, the President of the International Committee asked Dr Thiermann and the Terrestrial Code Commission to review the request of the Delegate and provide advice to the International Committee the following year.

The Delegate of Japan supported the comments made by the Delegate of Germany and stated that he had the same concerns as presented by the WHO experts on Monday. He stated that Japan is waiting to see the scientific opinion. He also noted that there is a conflict between the articles on the safety of gelatine derived from any bones and the articles regarding the non use of skulls from cattle over 30 months of age in any food item.

The Delegate of Lesotho, speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, supported the comments made by the Delegate of Swaziland.

The Delegate of Australia commented on the issue of the safety of gelatine. He stated that the issue should remain under study, based on the WHO position on this matter, and that Australian experts have not yet finalised their position on gelatine.

The Delegate of Uruguay supported the comments made by the Delegates of Germany and Australia.

With regard to the views of the Africa Region, Dr Thiermann advised that this section of the existing text on the safety of meat is not being offered for adoption and therefore no change could be made at this General Session. Dr Thiermann did, however, invite Delegates to submit comments on this proposal for consideration the following year.

Dr Thiermann commented that the gelatine issue is large and complex. He proposed that a new text be developed, excluding skull and vertebral column of animals from countries of undetermined risk but allowing the use of long bones under appropriate conditions of risk.

On the proposed amendments regarding the identification of animals, Dr Thiermann noted that the requirement for traceability of case cohorts was not modified (see Article 3.b.iii). Rather, the proposed modification relates to the deletion of tracing to the dam of a case.

Dr Thiermann proposed the following two changes to the proposed text. The OIE would revert to the previous text in Article 1 'gelatine and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins', and Article 14 on gelatine and collagen would revert to the 2006 *Terrestrial Code* version.

The Delegate of Germany requested more time to consider the issue. The President of the International Committee summarised the outcome of the discussion. He considered that negligible risk countries should be allowed to make gelatine out of long bones and urged the Terrestrial Code Commission to consider this possibility.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported the recommended changes on gelatine. He expressed the view that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support this position and requested that, if it does not go ahead, Delegates should provide scientific evidence for their position.

The Delegate of Singapore requested clarification on the status of Article 2.3.13.14., including the extent to which it satisfied the concerns raised by several Delegates. Dr Thiermann explained that this Article would be unchanged from the 2006 Edition of the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr O'Neill requested clarification as to the other changes proposed to the text of Article 2.3.13.14. Dr Thiermann explained that the changes would all be reversed except for deletion of 'pressure washing' (which is not relevant to gelatine made from bones). This should be consistent with the opinions of Delegates as expressed at the meeting. The Delegate of Germany confirmed that he agreed with the approach outlined by Dr Thiermann.

The chapter, amended as described above, was adopted unanimously.

329. **Chapter 2.5.5. Equine influenza**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the original text circulated among Member Countries as part of the March 2006 meeting report had been drafted by an *ad hoc* Group taking into account the fact that almost all movements of horses occurred between countries that are not free of equine influenza. He noted that as a result the original text looked rather different from other *Terrestrial Code* chapters, which assume free status or the existence of certain control measures in the importing countries.

The Terrestrial Code Commission, taking into account a number of submissions from Member Countries, modified the text to be consistent with the format and the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Terrestrial Code Commission received an enquiry about the scientific basis for recommending that no measures be applied in regard to trade in equine semen and embryos (Article 2.5.5.5.). The Terrestrial Code Commission will seek additional advice from experts and will revisit this issue at its next meeting. In the meantime, this article is placed 'under study'.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann drew the attention of Delegates to an oversight, namely that the amendment made to paragraph 3 of Article 2.5.5.6 should also be made to Article 2.5.5.7.

The revised chapter was adopted unanimously.

330. **Chapter 2.5.4. Equine infectious anaemia**
Chapter 2.5.6. Equine piroplasmosis
Chapter 2.5.7. Equine rhinopneumonitis

Dr Thiermann recalled that these chapters had been revised at the 74th General Session after consultation with OIE Reference Laboratories.

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined further comments received on these chapters. For equine infectious anaemia, point 3 of Article 2.5.4.2. was modified to cover equines imported on a temporary basis. For equine piroplasmosis, point 3 of Article 2.5.6.2. was modified to give clearer guidance. In response to Member Country requests, 'equine herpes virus type 1 infection' was incorporated into Article 2.5.7.2. and added to the chapter title in parentheses. The reference to equine rhinopneumonitis cannot be deleted as this is the name used in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Dr Thiermann presented the proposals on these three equine disease chapters to the OIE International Committee.

The revised chapters were adopted unanimously.

331. **Chapter 2.5.8. Glanders**

Dr Thiermann recalled that the revision of this chapter prepared by an expert from an OIE Reference Laboratory had been presented to the International Committee last year together with the above-mentioned three equine disease chapters, but that it had not been adopted.

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined comments on glanders received at and after the General Session in addition to those received for its March 2007 meeting. Recognising the use of surveillance programmes, Article 2.5.8.2. was modified based on a comment from Member Countries. Point 3 of Article 2.5.8.3. was deleted, as testing is considered unnecessary for equines from glanders free countries. In Point 3 of Article 2.5.8.4., the period of 15 days was changed to 30 days based on a proposal from a Member Country to adopt a practical approach by aligning with other disease testing periods. Article 2.5.8.5. was deleted, as the Terrestrial Code Commission agreed with Member Countries' concerns about exemption from testing for equines, even for immediate slaughter, taking into account the zoonotic potential of *Burkholderia mallei*.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of India requested clarification on the extension of the period for determining country freedom from 2 to 3 years (see Article 2.5.8.2.2.) Dr Thiermann replied that this was based on the advice of experts. Dr Thiermann agreed to a request from the Delegate of India that the Terrestrial Code Commission provide a copy of the relevant expert advice.

The revised chapter was adopted unanimously.

332. Chapter 2.5.10. Equine viral arteritis

Dr Thiermann noted that the revision of this chapter prepared by an expert from an OIE Reference Laboratory had been circulated for Member Country comments as part of the September 2005 meeting report.

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined comments received from Member Countries and made appropriate changes. The main change to Article 2.5.10.2. related to young horses with maternal antibodies. Articles 2.5.10.4. and 2.5.10.5., relating to fresh and frozen semen, were combined.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of South Africa identified a problem with this chapter regarding infected stallions. Point 2 b) of Article 2.5.10.2., noted the Delegate, was not applicable to stallions, although it could be applied to mares. This article should be modified so that countries would be able to apply either virus isolation or test mating as a basis for the importation of stallions. Dr Thiermann replied that this issue had been discussed with experts on equine diseases. Dr Thiermann proposed to provide further clarification on this article during the year. In the case of positive results to serological testing, paragraph 5 of article 2.5.10.2. should be consulted. Dr Thiermann proposed to provide clarification on the text but stated that it would require a little more time and the advice of experts. In the interim, Dr Thiermann proposed that the text be adopted as proposed.

The revised chapter was adopted unanimously.

333. Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever

Appendix 3.8.8. Guidelines on surveillance for classical swine fever

Dr Thiermann reported that while the last General Session adopted a broad restructuring of Chapter 2.6.7., the Terrestrial Code Commission recognised that certain of its articles were still in need of revision. Thus, Chapter 2.6.7. was reviewed by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Classical Swine Fever at its meeting in November 2006, taking into account the following rationales:

- a) All references to conducting a risk assessment should be removed, as the nature of the disease and the clinical surveillance proposed render a risk analysis redundant.
- b) The approach used in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on foot and mouth disease (Chapter 2.2.10.) for the declaration of freedom and recovery of status should also be used in this chapter, to ensure consistency within the *Terrestrial Code*.
- c) Article 2.6.7.4. should be deleted as in the presence of a wild pig population presumed to be infected, country freedom could not be achieved – only zonal or compartmental freedom – as control in wild pigs is not relevant to a compartment.

- d) The completion of slaughter of animals after emergency vaccination need not be a requirement provided that it is possible to distinguish between vaccinated and infected animals.
- e) Articles 2.6.7.8., 2.6.7.12., 2.6.7.15. and 2.6.7.18. should be deleted, as their content is covered by the preceding Articles 2.6.7.7., 2.6.7.11., 2.6.7.14. and 2.6.7.17.
- f) The reference to swill feeding should be deleted as the Group concluded that it is possible to impose a ban, but monitoring its implementation is less feasible, and even with effective monitoring it remains the prerogative of the Member Country to apply a restriction.

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined the revised chapter prepared by the *ad hoc* Group and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and made some appropriate changes.

Dr Thiermann reported that Appendix 3.8.8. had been revised by the *ad hoc* Group on Classical Swine Fever at its meeting in November 2006 to include the principles of compartmentalisation and to take into account the proposed changes in Chapter 2.6.7. The Terrestrial Code Commission examined this draft, which had been endorsed by the Scientific Commission, and made some appropriate changes.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann outlined the difficulties that the Commission had encountered in trying to incorporate the concept of compartmentalisation into the chapter on classical swine fever. The Scientific Commission had proposed changes to the format of the chapter to maintain consistency with other parts of the *Terrestrial Code*. This work had been completed only a short time before the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission meeting in March.

The Delegate of Germany, commenting on behalf of the EU, expressed the European Community's lack of support for the adoption of the revised chapter at this time. The Delegate commented that several changes that had been proposed were not sufficiently justified, the timeframe was inadequate and the guidelines on surveillance could not be supported. The European Community could not accept changes to the current text regarding the determination of free status of a country or zone.

In response the Director General proposed the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group on classical swine fever, supported by both the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission, to provide detailed advice on these questions for the International Committee to consider next year. The removal of references to risk assessment was an important consideration for the OIE, because sufficient scientific information was available to publish detailed standards and risk analysis was a procedure used mainly where standards were lacking. Dr Thiermann agreed with this approach and encouraged Member Countries to submit comments in good time for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its September meeting.

The Delegate of Denmark made observations on the comments of Professor Caporale earlier in the week, regarding the implications of infection in a wild animal population for the status of the country. The Delegate of Denmark felt that it would be useful to seek the advice of experts in regard to the more appropriate model to follow for classical swine fever. He indicated that a decision needs to be made whether to follow the avian influenza or the FMD approach regarding the consideration of wildlife.

The President encouraged countries to comment on Chapter 2.6.7. and withdrew this chapter as well as Appendix 3.8.8. on Guidelines for the surveillance of CSF from consideration by the International Committee.

334. **Chapter 2.7.12. Avian influenza**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had noted that the Central Bureau had been receiving many inquiries, from Member Countries and industry representatives, about the health status of particular countries following occurrences of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) infection in various species of birds including wild birds and zoo birds. The Terrestrial Code Commission therefore had clarified the definition of poultry (see point 2 of Article 2.7.12.1.). Considering the many comments received on the revised definition of poultry, the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed minor changes at its March 2007 meeting.

Dr Thiermann explained that a new point 4 clarifying the obligations of countries had been added to Article 2.7.12.1., the Commission having considered the ongoing difficulty of Member Countries in applying the measures in the *Terrestrial Code*. He clarified that the reporting of occurrences of HPNAI in birds other than poultry is required for the purpose of global surveillance for avian influenza but is not intended to lead to immediate bans on trade, and warned that the imposition of inappropriate (immediate) trade bans following reports of HPNAI in birds other than poultry discourages reporting and hinders global surveillance for avian influenza.

Dr Thiermann explained that a new point 5 had been created in Article 2.7.12.1. to provide a clarification in regard to the detection of antibodies. The Terrestrial Code Commission believed that further investigation should be conducted to identify the source of the antibodies, and that the detection of antibodies should not be considered as an occurrence of infection if further investigation fails to isolate the virus or to detect viral RNA.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann made comments clarifying the intention of the OIE in proposing to modify the definitions in Chapter 2.7.12., especially in the light of comments made by the WHO representative earlier in the week. Dr Thiermann also referred to proposed new text regarding the obligation of countries not to impose immediate trade restrictions in response to findings of HPAI in wild birds.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea recommended that the Terrestrial Code Commission delete point 4 of Article 2.7.12.1. The Delegate noted that, based on the experience of his country, the entry of HPAI virus into countries results from wild migratory birds. The Delegate recommended that countries should recognise this risk.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the EU, supported the proposal. However, with regard to point 4 of Article 2.7.12.1., the Delegate advised that the reference to 'NAI' should in fact be a reference to 'HPAI'.

The Delegate of the United States of America also spoke on this item and urged that countries should be advised not to impose automatic trade bans in response to findings of either HPAI or LPAI in birds other than poultry.

The Delegate of India supported the intervention of the Delegate of the Republic of Korea. The Delegate urged that notification of LPNAI should also be made in response to a finding in wildlife. She did not support the adoption of point 4 in its present form.

The Delegate of South Africa commented that he disagreed with the proposed definition of poultry and, rather, recommended that the definition of poultry should not be modified. The Delegate also had concerns with point 5 on seroconversion and urged that this text revert to the original version in the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Delegate of Jordan made comments about the trade implications of an HPAI outbreak. She stated that her country had regained freedom but still faced trade restrictions. She also requested advice concerning low pathogenic strains of H5N1 and the use of zoning with regard to HPAI. In response, Dr Thiermann advised that he could not comment on the unjustified trade restrictions imposed by countries. He stated that there was a possibility of finding H5N1 viruses of low pathogenicity and that zoning (and compartmentalisation) could be used, in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* when either HPAI or LPAI is found in a country.

In response to the Delegate of South Africa, Dr Thiermann advised that the declaration of an outbreak should not be based on antibody findings alone, but that antibody findings should trigger an epidemiological investigation and that the results of this investigation should be the basis for a final decision. This was the reason for suggesting the changes to the text.

With regard to point 4, Dr Thiermann advised that there was a big risk of discouraging countries from reporting HPAI in wildlife if the modifications were not adopted.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented that his proposal was of an editorial nature in that, if a finding of HPAI in wild birds should not attract automatic trade bans, it is clear that a finding of low pathogenic AI should certainly not attract such bans. He proposed that the text be modified to refer to 'NAI' rather than 'HPNAI'. Dr Thiermann proposed that, instead, 'HPNAI' should be replaced by 'HPAI and LPAI' in the text.

The Delegate of the Republic of Korea raised concerns about avian influenza surveillance in duck farming systems. Outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds could result in infection in domestic ducks but surveillance is not very easy for ducks.

The Delegate of Colombia referred to point 4 of Article 2.7.12.1. and stated that his country would continue to follow the rules in the WTO SPS Agreement in this regard, including the conduct of science-based risk assessments as a basis for the measures to adopt in response to avian influenza findings.

In response to the proposal to adopt the chapter, India was opposed and both Morocco and South Africa abstained. The chapter, amended as described above, was adopted.

335. Appendix 3.8.9. Guidelines on surveillance for avian influenza

Dr Thiermann noted that, after reviewing Member Countries' comments, the Terrestrial Code Commission had revised the title of Article 3.8.9.5. to clarify that it refers to countries declaring that they have regained freedom in respect of the country or a zone or compartment in the country.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

336. Appendix 3.6.5. Guidelines for the inactivation of the avian influenza virus

Dr Thiermann explained that Article 3.6.5.1. had been modified based on a new communication from the expert whose research had been used to develop this article, regarding his review of his research findings on egg products. In response to a request to allow flexibility in the treatment process, a paragraph was added to Article 3.6.5.1.

The Terrestrial Code Commission reviewed a research paper entitled “Thermal Inactivation of H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Virus in Chicken Meat”, which was sent by a Member Country, and modified the recommendations on the thermal inactivation of avian influenza virus in poultry meat in Article 3.6.5.2.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

337. Appendix 3.2.1. Bovine and small ruminant semen

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had considered submissions from Member Countries on whether point 1 of Article 3.2.1.6. should refer to measures for Border disease. On the basis of expert advice, the Terrestrial Code Commission re-inserted a recommendation with regard to testing semen donors for Border disease.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

338. Appendix 3.2.2. Porcine semen

Dr Thiermann reported that, following consideration of comments from a Member Country, the Terrestrial Code Commission had proposed the deletion of measures for vesicular stomatitis virus in porcine semen (Article 3.2.2.3. paragraph d) to make this article consistent with those applicable to bovine semen.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

339. Appendix 3.5.1. General principles (animal identification and traceability)

Dr Thiermann noted that, at its October 2006 meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission had revised the Appendix in light of the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety. Certain amendments, mostly for clarification, were made at its March 2007 meeting in response to the comments received from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

340. Appendix 3.6.6. General guidelines for the disposal of dead animals

Dr Thiermann recalled that this Appendix had been finally adopted at the previous General Session after several years of consideration. The Terrestrial Code Commission reviewed additional comments from Member Countries and made appropriate changes to the Appendix.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

341. **Appendix 3.10.2. Guidelines on the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* in poultry producing eggs for human consumption**

Dr Thiermann recalled that, for the past several years the development of guidelines on salmonellosis had been listed on the future work programme of the Terrestrial Code Commission, based on advice of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

He reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had examined the guidelines drafted by an *ad hoc* Group in February together with the recommendations of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety on that draft. The Terrestrial Code Commission was appreciative of the work of the *ad hoc* Group and made some minor editorial changes.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission had considered developing guidelines on salmonellosis to be an urgent issue, thus had decided to put this draft on the fast track, rather than waiting a further year before proposing the text for adoption.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates of the importance of providing public health guidance and the longstanding recognition of such a need. Recognising the urgent nature of the matter, Dr Thiermann requested that Member Countries consider adopting the new text.

The Delegate of the United States of America opposed adoption, based on the fact that his country had not had time to review the draft appendix and provide comments.

The Delegates of Japan and Canada both opposed adoption of this draft text on grounds similar to those raised by the Delegate of the United States of America.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, opposed adoption of the draft appendix. He felt that there were some minor changes required and that although the EU agreed in principle with the direction, more time was needed.

Dr O'Neil withdrew the text from consideration by the International Committee and urged countries to provide comments to the Terrestrial Code Commission. Dr Thiermann thanked Delegates for their support for the principle and stated that the Commission would take care to address all comments, if they could be sent before the meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission in September, with a view to presenting a draft appendix for adoption the following year.

342. **Section 3.7. Animal welfare**

Dr Thiermann recalled that, at the General Session two years ago, four appendices on animal welfare were adopted, after having undergone energetic discussion at meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, and that at the General Session last year modifications were made to all four Appendices to address outstanding concerns of Member Countries. He noted that revisions were proposed this year to finalise these appendices by addressing remaining problems, based on experts' opinions and Member Countries' comments.

Appendix 3.7.2. Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea

At its October 2006 meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined the comments of Member Countries and the work done by the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare to refine the draft guidelines for the transport of animals by sea and land. At its March 2007 meeting, the Terrestrial Code Commission examined further comments received from Member Countries and made the appropriate amendments to the guidelines.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of Uruguay advised that references to the Competent Authority and other defined terms appear in various parts of the Appendix, and elsewhere in the appendices dealing with animal welfare, where they should clearly refer to the Veterinary Authority. He requested that the Terrestrial Code Commission ensure consistency in the use of terms throughout the appendices dealing with animal welfare. The President of the International Committee supported the Delegate of Uruguay in this request. Dr Thiermann replied that the Terrestrial Code Commission was aware of the need to review the use of defined terms throughout the *Terrestrial Code* and that this would be undertaken now that the revised definitions have been clarified and adopted.

The Delegate of Ecuador indicated that there was a lack of information on aquatic animals in this Appendix and he would therefore have to abstain. In response, Dr Thiermann explained that aquatic animals would be considered in the future.

The Delegate of Peru commented that references to 'new world camelids' should, rather, refer to 'South American camelids'. The President of the International Committee agreed that 'South American camelids' could be used as proposed by the Delegate of Peru.

The Delegate of Fiji requested clarification regarding the disposal of animals dying at sea. Dr Thiermann advised that this matter was the subject of further consideration and advice would be forthcoming next year.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

Appendix 3.7.3. Guidelines for the transport of animals by land

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

Appendix 3.7.5. Guidelines for the slaughter of animals

The Delegate of the United Kingdom commented on behalf of the European Union. The EU noted that some of their comments (such as the use of a rotating box as a restraining method) had not been addressed and asked that the OIE attend to this. Dr Thiermann replied that this concern had been noted and made reference to a relevant modification to the title of the summary table at the end of the Appendix. The table is now entitled 'Summary analysis of handling and restraining methods' rather than 'summary of acceptable handling and restraining methods', reflecting some lack of agreement on the acceptability of methods.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

Appendix 3.7.6. Guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control purposes

The Terrestrial Code Commission, at its March 2007 meeting, examined the comments made by the Expert Electronic Consultation Group that was convened to analyse Member Countries' comments submitted to the Commission meeting in October 2006 and revised these guidelines.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the OIE International Committee.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested that their comment on the use of neck dislocation be included in the list of methods for use in killing birds. Dr Thiermann indicated that this would be considered by an *ad hoc* Group on killing methods for birds to be convened during the year.

The Appendix was adopted unanimously.

343. Revision of the structure of the *Terrestrial Code*

Dr Thiermann reported that the Terrestrial Code Commission had agreed to a recommendation from the International Trade Department that, in view of the quantity of material and due to technical considerations, the printed version of the *Terrestrial Code* should be divided into two separate volumes: one volume containing horizontal chapters (i.e. all of Part 1 plus some information from Parts 3 and 4, including guidelines on animal welfare) and another volume containing specific disease chapters together with appendices relevant to specific diseases (including guidelines on surveillance, inactivation of specified pathogens and risk analysis for specified diseases).

Dr Thiermann informed the International Committee that the OIE plans to publish the *Terrestrial Code* as two volumes beginning with the 2008 Edition.

344. Future work programme

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission, at its October 2006 meeting, had reviewed the Commission's work programme, as agreed at its September 2005 meeting, taking into account the outcomes of the 74th General Session, submissions received from Member Countries, and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

He expressed his appreciation to the Scientific Commission for its quick action on revising the chapter and the surveillance guidelines on rinderpest, which had been given top priority in the future work programme of the Terrestrial Code Commission. He also expressed his satisfaction at the development of guidelines on salmonellosis, the progress made on the chapter on BSE regarding gelatine, on the chapter on equine influenza, and on the appendix on the disposal of dead animals, all of which had been listed in the future work programme.

Dr Thiermann noted that 18 new or revised texts, included as Part B of the March 2007 meeting report, were currently with Member Countries for comment. These texts include issues scheduled for consideration in the future work programme, such as chapters on Newcastle disease and African swine fever, guidelines on traceability, and harmonised international health certificates.

Dr Thiermann noted that the Terrestrial Code Commission was aware that revising Appendix 3.8.5. on BSE risk assessment was an outstanding issue. He stated that until the status of Appendix 3.8.5. and the relationship to the categorisation process had been clarified, the Terrestrial Code Commission would continue to address comments received from Member Countries.

Dr Thiermann reconfirmed that once the proposed changes in the definitions 'Veterinary Services', 'Veterinary Authority', and 'Competent Authority' had been adopted, the Terrestrial Code Commission would review the entire *Terrestrial Code* and undertake the work of appropriate modification.

Finally, Dr Thiermann asked the International Committee to review not only the draft proposals, but also the Commission's future work programme, and to send its recommendations on the issues that the Commission should address in future.

345. In closing, Dr Thiermann encouraged Member Countries to review the topics in Part B of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission report and to advise the OIE of any comments.
346. The Delegate of Canada sought clarification regarding the letters sent by countries to the OIE requesting attention in different areas of work. Dr Thiermann replied that all requests would be taken into account in discussions with the Director General prior to announcing the future work programme of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission during its September 2007 meeting.
347. The International Committee noted the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission.

≡ THURSDAY 24 MAY 2007 ≡

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Biological Standards Commission

348. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 13 to 15 September 2006 and from 23 to 25 January 2007, were presented by Prof. Steven Edwards, President of the Commission (Docs 75 SG/12/CS2 A and B). Additional business had been transacted between meetings by e-mail. He thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, Dr Mehdi El Harrak, Secretary General, Dr Santanu K. Bandhopadhyay and Dr Vladimir Drygin, Members, for their support. He expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants, Dr Adama Diallo, representing the OIE Collaborating Centre for ELISA²⁷ and Molecular Techniques in Animal Disease Diagnosis, IAEA²⁸, Vienna, Austria, and Dr Peter Wright, Chair of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on NSP²⁹ Tests for FMD Diagnosis, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. He also thanked the staff at the OIE Central Bureau, and especially the Scientific and Technical Department, for their tireless support.

349. OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres

During the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, held in Florianopolis, Brazil in December 2006, the OIE re-launched its twinning initiative. The idea is for existing OIE Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres to engage in a *twinning agreement* with selected laboratories in developing and in-transition countries. The aim would be to build capacity and scientific expertise to the point where the laboratory could become an OIE Reference Laboratory engaged in international activities. Twinning should in future provide a more even geographical spread of available expertise to provide the essential scientific support to the veterinary services across all countries and regions, thereby enabling them to negotiate and apply OIE guidelines and standards more easily. Thanks to the generous contribution of a Member Country, funds will be made

²⁷ ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

²⁸ IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

²⁹ NSP: nonstructural protein

available to endorse some selected candidate proposals. Delegates of countries that host existing Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres are encouraged to support those institutions to enter twinning agreements.

A number of laboratories have expressed an interest in twinning and they have been encouraged to draft project proposals. Projects need to be accompanied by a detailed financial plan for which the OIE has developed a suitable budget template. Upon receipt of the dossier, the OIE could indicate for which aspects it would try to find funding. Project proposals should specify how the laboratory plans to achieve sufficient capability for recognition by the OIE.

350. The Commission supports and recommends proposals to establish an OIE Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management at the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC), University of Saskatchewan, Canada; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology, Training and Control of Emerging Avian Diseases at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe), Padova, Italy; an OIE Collaborating Centre for Research on Emerging Avian Diseases at the Southeast Poultry and Research Laboratory (SEPR), Georgia, United States of America, and an OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis (Asia and Oceania), New Zealand.
351. The Commission recommends acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status. Specific contact information and the names of the designated disease experts in each case are listed in the written reports of the Commission meetings.

New World Screwworm: COPEG (Panama–US Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of NWS), Panama.

Chlamydiosis (ovine and avian) and Glanders: Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute, Institute of Bacterial Infections and Zoonoses, Jena, Germany.

Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis): Institute for Veterinary Pathology (IVPZ), Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Salmonellosis: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Legnaro (PD), Italy.

Scrapie and Chronic wasting disease: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa Laboratory – Fallowfield, Canada.

Equine piroplasmiasis, Bovine babesiosis and Surra: National Research Center for Protozoan Diseases, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Japan.

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome: National Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Swine Diseases, Pulawy, Poland.

Turkey rhinotracheitis: AFSSA³⁰ Ploufragan, France.

352. The OIE Collaborating Centre for the Application of Polymerase Chain Reaction Methods for Diagnosis of Viral Diseases in Veterinary Medicine, Uppsala, Sweden, had requested that its title be changed to OIE Collaborating Centre for Biotechnology-based Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases in Veterinary Medicine. The Biological Standards Commission accepted this proposal.
353. Because of an inability to comply with the mandate given by the OIE and following consultation with the Designated Expert and the OIE Delegate of the country concerned, the Commission recommends suspending the designation of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Tularemia and Enzootic bovine leukosis at the National Veterinary Institute Uppsala, Sweden, and the OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis at the Central Institute for Animal Disease Control Lelystad (CIDC-Lelystad), the Netherlands.

³⁰ AFSSA: Agence française de sécurité sanitaire des aliments (French Food Safety Agency)

354. A number of OIE Reference Laboratories have notified changes in their designated disease expert. In each case the Commission has reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she has the appropriate expertise. The names have been circulated to Member Countries in the Commission reports.
355. Reports were received from all 132 Reference Laboratories and 19 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. An analysis of the reported activities is included in the report of the January meeting. 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.
356. Participants at the First International Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, Florianopolis, Brazil, December 2006, agreed unanimously that it had been a successful, useful and productive meeting that gave experts an opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss, network, build future collaboration and exchange expertise. Some useful feedback was obtained on the organisation of the conference, which will be taken into account for future meetings, as detailed in the Commission's January report. The Commission recommends that a further conference be held in two years' time.
357. **International standardisation of diagnostic tests and vaccines**

a) Tests for dourine

A discrepancy had been reported between the CFT³¹ results obtained by the OIE Reference Laboratory for dourine and the German national reference laboratory for two exported Russian mares. It is unclear whether the problem relates to the strain of parasite used for antigen preparation or to some other aspect of the methodology. The Commission agreed to a proposal to try to resolve this through interlaboratory comparisons. In particular, there is a need to obtain new isolates of *Trypanosoma equiperdum* representative of currently circulating strains, to progress work on parasite species definition and differentiation between *T. equiperdum* and *T. evansi*, and to validate alternative serological methods such as ELISA. Prof. Edwards asked Delegates to make enquiries of laboratories in their countries to try to identify current strains of this important but relatively uncommon parasite.

b) Tuberculin production

Dr Amelia Bernardelli from the OIE Reference Laboratory for Tuberculosis in Argentina had submitted a report on a satellite meeting of reference experts held during the Florianopolis conference. She indicated that there are a number of unresolved issues related to tuberculin production and standardisation. This is important because of the global importance of tuberculosis and its potential impact on international trade. The Commission considered that making progress on this topic would be challenging, but agreed to the proposal that an *ad hoc* Group should be convened to address the problems related to the production of tuberculin. The Group will be asked to consider what are the barriers to international harmonisation and standardisation of tuberculin production taking into account regulatory and scientific factors, and to recommend a work programme that OIE Reference Laboratories could take forward.

c) Standard reference serum for enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL)

A new reference serum for EBL, designated 'E5', was adopted by the Commission. It had been developed by the OIE Reference Laboratories for EBL to replace the current 'E4' serum, stocks of which are now very low.

³¹ CFT: complement fixation test

d) Other diseases

Further efforts were made to encourage OIE Reference Laboratories to collaborate on harmonisation of diagnostic tests and to develop OIE reference sera. A number of projects are in progress and have been detailed in the Commission reports.

358. List of prescribed and alternative tests

a) Real-time PCR³² for detection of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) virus in extended bovine semen

Biosecurity New Zealand had sent a validation dossier on behalf of a consortium of Reference Laboratories in support of an application to designate a real-time PCR test for detection of IBR virus in extended bovine semen as a prescribed test for trade. Prof. Edwards explained the need for such a test in that the existing prescribed test (isolation of virus from semen) was technically difficult due to cytotoxic factors in seminal fluid. The dossier was examined against the full OIE validation template in consultation with experts. The Commission was satisfied that there was sufficient evidence to recommend that the test be adopted as a prescribed test for trade. The protocol had been circulated to Delegates with the September 2006 report of the Commission (Appendix III). Subject to approval of the Committee, the protocol will be added to the Web version of the *Terrestrial Manual* this year, and incorporated in the next full edition in 2008.

b) Proposal for rabies ELISA to be a prescribed test for international trade/movement of dogs and cats

The Commission recommends that the rabies ELISA be adopted as a prescribed test for international trade/movement of dogs and cats, with the proviso that a kit be used that has been recognised on the OIE Register as fit for that purpose. The existing virus neutralisation methods will remain as prescribed tests.

The Commission recommends adoption of these two proposals.

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

Prof. Edwards expressed thanks to the Consultant Editor, Dr James Pearson, for his ongoing efforts to collate comments received from experts and Member Countries in order to produce consensus texts for consideration by the Commission.

In view of the existence of the register of OIE validated and certified diagnostic tests, it was agreed that references to individual commercial kits should, as far as possible, be removed from the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, although this may need to be a progressive process. A disclaimer would be added at the beginning of the *Terrestrial Manual* stating that “reference to commercial kits does not imply their endorsement by the OIE. All commercial kits should be validated; tests on the OIE Register have already met this condition”.

The Commission discussed the necessity for chicken pathogenicity testing on low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) isolates of H5 and H7 from wild birds whose RNA sequence had been determined to be of LPAI type and similar to other isolates. Bearing in mind the cost and the welfare implications of pathogenicity testing, the Commission

³² PCR: polymerase chain reaction

supports the concept that individual countries should determine the need for such testing on LPAI isolates of known RNA sequence from wild birds on the basis of local risk assessment.

The Commission noted that some Member Countries use lapinised vaccines for the control of foot and mouth disease. It was agreed that the chapter should include a statement that lapinised vaccines do not comply with OIE standards and should not be used.

All draft chapters for the sixth edition of the *Terrestrial Manual* have been circulated to Delegates as well as to relevant Reference Laboratories and expert peer reviewers. Many useful comments have been received. Prof. Edwards presented the new edition to the International Committee for adoption. He also request the International Committee's approval for the Biological Standards Commission to make any remaining minor modifications during its autumn 2007 meeting, based on Member Country comments. This would avoid delays in the very tight publication schedule.

360. First kit proposed for inclusion in the OIE Register: "Platelia Rabies II", Bio-Rad

Following a report from the expert evaluation panel, the Commission recommends the "Platelia Rabies II", Bio-Rad kit for inclusion in the OIE Register as fit for purpose for the determination of immune status post-vaccination in individual dogs or cats (for regulation of international movement or trade), and in fox populations (for monitoring wildlife vaccination programmes).

The Commission recommends adoption of this proposal.

361. *Ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of NSP Tests for FMD Diagnosis

The *ad hoc* Group met for the fifth time from 22 to 23 January 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to review further the validation data for sheep and pigs, to review evaluation panels and to develop guidelines on the use and interpretation of NSP assays. Prof. Edwards summarised the conclusions in the report, which had been circulated with the Commission's January 2007 report (Appendix IV). It was concluded that vaccinated pigs subjected to contact exposure by FMD virus-infected pigs can become subclinically infected, accompanied by seroconversion. However, on the basis of the three different commercial ELISAs that were evaluated, the detection of NSP antibodies is sometimes incomplete and transient. Further evaluation is in progress. Preliminary indications are that the performance of the tests in sheep is similar to that in cattle; however, further studies are in progress to clarify this. The Group also reported on progress with establishing international reference sera for pigs and sheep, as well as porcine and ovine serum panels that can be used for test evaluation.

362. *Ad hoc* Group on OIE Guidelines for International Reference Sera for Antibody Assays

The *ad hoc* Group had, as agreed, worked by electronic communication. The Group reviewed and amended the OIE Guidelines, in particular to recognise either gamma irradiation or binary ethyleneimine (BEI) chemical treatment as acceptable alternatives to inactivate adventitious agents in international reference sera. The revised guideline including a protocol for BEI inactivation was circulated with the Commission's September 2006 report (Appendix V). The text will be incorporated in the next edition of the OIE Guidelines booklet.

363. Report of the Meeting of the Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine influenza

The Commission received the conclusions and recommendations of the Equine Influenza Surveillance Panel (January 2007 report, Appendix VII). It was noted that the number of virus isolates received by OIE Reference Laboratories was low. The Commission agreed with the Panel that there is a need for more Reference Laboratories for this disease in other parts of the world, possibly initially via twinning arrangements. The Expert Panel questioned the role of licensing authorities in allowing the continued use of unreliable methods of measuring antigenic content. Prof. Edwards asked Delegates to draw the OIE recommendations on vaccine production for this disease to the attention of their licensing authorities. The Commission also endorsed the Panel's proposal for a meeting of vaccine manufacturers and licensing authorities, to be held under the auspices of the OIE.

364. *Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

The *ad hoc* Group met from 26 to 28 September 2006. The report was appended to the report of the January 2007 meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix V of Doc. 75 SG/12/CS2 B).

The draft list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance was presented to the OIE International Committee during the General Session in May 2006, when it had stimulated debate and discussion. The Group was asked to consider the comments of OIE Member Countries, taking into account Resolution XXXIII from 2006, and to further refine and develop the list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance. The Group took note of the FAO/WHO/OIE expert consultation meetings on antimicrobial use in both terrestrial and aquatic animals, as well as WHO proposals for a list of critically important antimicrobials in humans. The report was presented to both the Biological Standards Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission. The refined list prepared by the Group is shown in Appendix IV to the *ad hoc* Group report (pp.37–44 of the Commission's January 2007 report). The list applies only to use in food-producing animals. The key refinements are that three different categories of veterinary antimicrobials have been defined: critically important, highly important, and important. Furthermore, the animal species in which each antimicrobial is used are also listed. The revised list is proposed for adoption by the International Committee.

365. *Ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology

The *ad hoc* Group met on 30 and 31 October 2006. The report was appended to the report of the January 2007 meeting of the Commission and circulated to Member Countries (Appendix VI of Doc. 75 SG/12/CS2 B). Prior to this meeting, some revisions had been made by the Commission to the Terms of Reference of the Group. The Commission agreed to the Group's proposal to continue its work in three select subgroups. The priorities of the *ad hoc* Group should be vaccines, and health aspects of animal cloning technology. An information brief should be maintained on nanotechnology. The vaccine subgroup will focus initially on refinements to the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on Principles of veterinary vaccine production, in particular the section on recombinant-derived vaccines. The reproductive animal biotechnology subgroup has begun work on the development of OIE guidelines on animal health risks from somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning in food animals. The draft guidelines are shown in Appendix III of the *ad hoc* Group report. An update on nanotechnology, produced by the third subgroup, is included in the *ad hoc* Group report.

366. ***Ad hoc* Group on Biosecurity**

The Group had revised the chapter in the *Terrestrial Manual* taking into account both animal disease biosecurity and human safety factors. The Group also had inputs to a Veterinary Biosafety Facility Construction Handbook that was now being produced and published by an independent consortium.

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

a) Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Commission endorsed the view of the Scientific Commission in its latest report that it is very important to validate diagnostic tests for use in wildlife species and encourages OIE Reference Laboratories to do so.

b) Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Diagnostic methods for paratuberculosis

The Terrestrial Code Commission wished to know if there were any recent improvements in diagnostic tests for this disease. Based on advice from one of the disease experts, the Commission advised the Terrestrial Code Commission that tests for paratuberculosis continue to have serious limitations, and it would therefore be premature to consider a radical revision of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

Transport of pathogens

A Member Country had expressed concern that, if the proposal to move the table on Guidance on the laboratory requirements for the different containment groups from the *Terrestrial Code* to the *Terrestrial Manual* is not carefully synchronised, this valuable information may be temporarily unavailable. Both Commissions agreed that no change would be made to the *Terrestrial Code* until the *Terrestrial Manual* is adopted and available on-line, thus avoiding the temporary loss of information.

The Commission discussed the continuing dialogue and input to the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. The OIE continued to press for a proportionate approach on transport of avian influenza diagnostic materials and also on transport of carcasses.

Border disease

The Terrestrial Code Commission reported that Appendix 3.2.1. on small ruminant semen had been amended in response to Member Country comments, and no longer required testing of semen donors for Border disease. The *Terrestrial Manual* continues to recommend such testing for rams used for breeding. Expert advice was sought, and the Terrestrial Code Commission was recommended to consider reinstating in the *Terrestrial Code* the requirement to test small ruminant semen donors for this disease.

Rabies recombinant vaccines for international trade

Following a recommendation from the OIE Conference on Rabies in Europe, held in June 2005 in Kiev, Ukraine, the Commission reiterated its advice (see report for September 2005) that parenteral vaccination of domestic animals using recombinant vaccines expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein in a live virus vector such as canary pox, should not be considered as live rabies virus vaccines. The *Terrestrial Manual* chapter had been modified to reflect this view, and a suitable text had been provided to the Terrestrial Code Commission for the *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

Bluetongue

The Commission advised the Terrestrial Code Commission that when an inactivated bluetongue vaccine was used there was no reason inherent in the vaccine itself to wait for 60 days before moving animals. Nevertheless the Commission recognised there may well be other epidemiological factors that could still make such a holding period necessary. This would be a matter for the Scientific Commission to advise on.

c) Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Aquatic Animals Commission had supplied the names of two experts who provided input to the list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance from an aquatic animal health perspective.

368. OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories

Work on the second edition of the booklet “OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories” had progressed well. The updated guidelines on “Validation of Diagnostic Assays for Infectious Diseases” and on “Laboratory Proficiency Testing” and a new guideline on “Validation and Quality Control of Polymerase Chain Reaction Methods used for the Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases” were appended to the report of the January 2007 meeting (Appendices VIII, IX and X). The remaining guideline on “International Reference Antibody Standards for Antibody Assays” was appended to the report of the September 2006 meeting. Texts and references in the OIE Quality Standard have been updated in line with new editions of the ISO/IEC³³ standards, and the glossary has been reviewed. It is proposed to publish the second edition of the booklet later in 2007.

369. Miscellaneous items

a) OIE Registry of experts

The Commission was pleased to note that OIE is preparing an online template to create a database of individual experts who could assist the OIE. This would supplement rather than replace the existing network of Reference Laboratory-based experts.

b) OIE/FAO Avian Influenza Network (OFFLU)

Avian influenza continues to be a matter of global concern. A meeting of the OFFLU Steering Committee had been held at VLA Weybridge, United Kingdom, on 19 July 2006, together with Drs Vallat and Domenech. It was agreed that OFFLU itself would not organise Missions to affected countries, but would in most cases supply names of experts to the FAO/OIE Crisis Management Centre based in Rome, Italy. Good progress was being made in persuading laboratories world-wide to share virus strains and/or sequence data with the global scientific community, and OFFLU was a co-signatory to the Global Initiative on Sharing Avian Influenza Data (GISAID). Obtaining the active participation of members of the OFFLU network still posed a problem, and progress on acquiring resources and appointing staff to advance the aims of the network was disappointingly slow.

³³ ISO/IEC: International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission

c) Report of the ‘Consultants meeting; Standards, referencing and validation’, IAEA, Vienna, Austria, 21–24 November 2006

The Commission noted the draft report, conclusions and recommendations of the above-named meeting. A number of recommendations concerning the OIE Procedure for the Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays had also been made by the AEFRV³⁴, including a request that the fee be reduced and that the evaluation template be made more flexible.

d) OIE Biotechnology Seminar

The Commission finalised the draft programme and a proposed list of speakers for the OIE Biotechnology Seminar to be held in conjunction with the next WAVLD³⁵ Symposium in Melbourne, Australia, from 11 to 14 November 2007. The Commission agreed to the suggested title of the seminar: “Applications of biotechnology to the diagnosis and pathology of animal diseases”.

370. The President thanked Prof. Edwards for his comprehensive presentation and opened discussions on the various issues raised.
371. The Delegate of Denmark congratulated Prof. Edwards. Referring to the work of the *ad hoc* Group on NSP Tests, he was pleased to see that the request he had made last year – that the Group further review the validation data for sheep and pigs – had been taken into account. He acknowledged that not all the problems associated with the use of NSP technology in vaccinated pigs have been solved and the work should be continued. He informed Delegates about workshops that are being arranged in Europe on simulation exercises to experience the use of the NSP technology in the event of a real outbreak. He found these workshops very helpful and would encourage other regions to organise similar exercises.
372. The Delegate of Sweden thanked Prof. Edwards. He agreed with the proposal to suspend the designation of the Reference Laboratory for Enzootic bovine leukosis in Sweden, but requested that the proposal to delete the Reference Laboratory for Tularemia be reconsidered by the International Committee. He appreciated the work completed by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. However, due to insufficient time to study the proposed list of Critical antimicrobials and not knowing that it would be presented for adoption he asked if it would be possible to postpone the adoption of Resolution No. XXVIII on the List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance to the following day to allow time to consult with national experts.
373. The Delegate of the United States of America congratulated Prof. Edwards. He remarked that his proposal for a Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Services Capacity Building in the United States of America was not included in the final list of Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories proposed for adoption. He pointed out that this Centre would be complementary to the work of the Centres in France and Argentina, and would operate in the English language.
374. Prof. Edwards thanked the Delegates for their support. In answer to the comments from the Delegate of Denmark, Prof. Edwards said there would be no further meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on NSP Tests, but that work in OIE Reference Laboratories on NSP tests would continue, with special reference to pigs. He was confident that any new information would be forwarded to the Biological Standards Commission. With regard to the request from the Delegate of Sweden, Prof. Edwards said that he was in favour of maintaining the Reference Laboratory for Tularemia, especially as it is the only one on this important disease, as long as the Delegate could give his assurance that the laboratory would fulfil its obligations to

³⁴ AEFRV: Association Européenne des Fabricants de Réactifs Vétérinaires

³⁵ WAVLD: World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

the OIE. If she provided this assurance he would ask the Director General to retain the laboratory. In response to the Delegate of the United States of America, Prof. Edwards explained that the Biological Standards Commission reviews applications from a scientific point of view, but that the final decision lies with the Administrative Commission. Dr O'Neil explained that some detailed information was lacking from the dossier and he invited the Delegate to provide more information on how the Centre will operate. He went on to say that the Administrative Commission would review its policies on acceptance of Collaborating Centres and would develop clear definitions of the requirements.

375. The Delegate of Sweden assured the International Committee that the Reference Laboratory for Tularemia would fulfil its obligations to the OIE and that a letter for further confirmation was already on its way to the Director General of the OIE.
376. The Delegate of Morocco pointed out that the results of diagnostic tests carried out in dromedaries are often unusual probably because the tests are not adapted to this species. He also emphasised that this species may have an important role in the transmission of FMD, Rift Valley fever and possibly bluetongue. He asked that an *ad hoc* Group of experts be convened to consider this important issue.
377. The Delegate of Zimbabwe asked if the NSP tests for FMD had been fully validated for the southern African strains. He went on to ask Prof. Edwards his opinion on requiring OIE Reference Laboratories to achieve ISO 17025 accreditation.
378. The Delegate of Ecuador said that the ELISA for FMD should be applied to animal populations rather than individual animals, and that infection can be detected by ELISA if a sufficient number of samples are available. Confirmation can then be carried out using the EITB (enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot) assay, which is highly specific. He asked if this system could be perfected in sheep.
379. Prof. Edwards replied to the Delegate of Morocco that it is difficult to find sufficient information on dromedaries. He added that this is also the case in wildlife and other less common species. He said he would consult the Director General on the possibility of convening an *ad hoc* Group to examine these questions and he invited the Delegates to provide the names of suitable experts for such a Group. He informed the Delegate of Zimbabwe that he did not have immediate access to information on whether the NSP tests have been validated for the southern African strains, but that he would try to obtain this information for the Delegate. Concerning the ISO quality standards, Prof. Edwards said that they are the highest and the best, but are difficult to achieve. He added that the OIE Standard is in line with ISO 17025 and OIE Reference Laboratories should be encouraged to work towards achieving this standard. In response to the Delegate of Ecuador, he assured him that he would seek the information requested.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVII
Adoption of the sixth edition of the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

380. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVII on the Adoption of the sixth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVII at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXVIII
List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance

381. The Delegate of Sweden again raised his country's concern as regards supporting the drafted List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance due to the uncertain adoption procedure.

382. The Director General recalled the importance of this resolution in the light of ongoing work with WHO and FAO in this field, the aim of which is to protect animal and human health and to avoid antimicrobial resistance.
383. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXVIII on the List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance. The text appears under Resolution No. XXVIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXIX
Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE

384. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. XXIX on the Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE. The text appears under Resolution No. XXIX at the end of this report.
385. The President invited the International Committee to adopt the report of the Biological Standards Commission and its recommendations: the proposed changes to the list of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and the two new prescribed tests. The International Committee adopted the report unanimously.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXX
Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

386. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XXX on Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code.
387. The Delegate of Finland raised concerns about the references to external organisations, for example the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES), as mentioned earlier in the week. She wished to know if this type of citation could cause difficulties in terms of Member Countries' WTO obligations under the SPS Agreement. The Director General advised that the OIE does not see any conflict with regard to obligations relating to the SPS Agreement. He further commented that the OIE has sought to establish a formal agreement with the ICES, but for the moment that organisation did not appear to be very interested.
388. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. XXX at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXII
Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

389. The President proposed Draft Resolution No. XXXII on Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The Resolution was adopted with modifications. One country voted against (India). The text appears under Resolution No. XXXII at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIII
The Use of Epidemiological Models for the Management of Animal Diseases

390. At the invitation of Dr O'Neil, Dr Preben Willeberg made some introductory comments on the Draft Resolution.
391. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution. The text appears under Resolution No. XXXIII at the end of this report.

**Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XXXIV
The Role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Providing
Permanent Support for the Objectives and Mandates of the OIE**

392. The Director General presented this Resolution on behalf of Dr Gajhadar.
393. The Delegate of the United Kingdom commended the work on this item and requested clarification of the wording in item 5 of the recommendations: 'other relevant international or regional organisations'. The Delegate asked if this would include the FAO.
394. The Delegate of Belgium recommended further clarification of the wording in item 5, to make specific reference to the European Commission reference laboratories.
395. In response, the Director General commented that the OIE is the worldwide reference organisation for animal health. Based on the proposals from OIE Member Countries, the OIE follows a democratic and transparent process to endorse the addition of new Reference Laboratories or Collaborating Centres to the OIE list (selection by the Biological Standards Commission based on excellence, followed by a vote of the International Committee).
396. Other organisations, including the FAO and the WHO, deal with these issues differently. The OIE wants to avoid having to manage a process where different organisations operate according to different rules for laboratories that are considered to be a reference by several organisations. In the case of the EU, the reference laboratories are listed according to a well-established process. This is a regional context, and for the OIE this is a relatively straightforward form of collaboration. There is a need to simplify and clarify the process with the FAO and the WHO and this is under consideration by the Administrative Commission.
397. The Director General proposed that this paragraph be held in abeyance until the Administrative Commission has advised the OIE on the preferred approach. The President of the International Committee proposed that the Resolution be adopted without paragraph 5 and that the outcome on the issue raised by the Delegates of the United Kingdom and Belgium would be reported later in the year.
398. The Committee unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution with the noted modification. The text, as amended, appears under Resolution No. XXXIV at the end of this report.

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs 75 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

399. Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris (Doc. 75 SG/11B AF)
400. He also presented the recommendations of the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa, which was held in Asmara, Eritrea, from 26 February to 1 March 2007.
401. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Asmara.

Regional Commission for the Americas

402. Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris (Doc. 75 SG/11B AM).

403. He also presented the recommendations of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, which was held in Florianopolis, Brazil, from 28 November to 2 December 2006.
404. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Florianopolis.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

405. Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Commission, gave a report on the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris (Doc. 75 SG/11B AS).
406. The Committee noted the report.

Regional Commission for Europe

407. Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris (Doc. 75 SG/11B EU).
408. He also presented the recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe, which was held in Lyon, France, from 25 to 29 September 2006.
409. The Committee noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Lyon.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

410. Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain), President of the Commission, gave a report on the meeting of the Commission held on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris (Doc. 75 SG/11B ME).
411. The Committee noted the report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIV Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

412. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.
413. The Delegate of Norway stated that Norway supports the Declaration. However, the inclusion of aquatic animal welfare is recommended.
414. The Delegate of Belgium supported the Declaration. However, the Delegate sought clarification on the reference to organisations. The Director General recommended that the text be amended to refer to 'organisations that promote animal welfare'.
415. The Delegate of Israel recommended that the International Committee avoid philosophical debate and respect the veterinary qualification with regard to animal welfare.
416. The Delegate of Costa Rica was in favour of the proposed text, and noted that his country had, in fact, hosted the first Ministerial meeting.
417. The President accepted the wording proposed by Swaziland. However, he did not support the 2nd recommendation, feeling that the text should instead be strictly defined according to the OIE mandate.

418. The President responded to the Delegate of Norway, saying that while he sympathised with her position, the OIE had not yet set standards for aquatic species. Once this occurs, more specific reference to aquatic species may be appropriate.
419. The Director General advised that appropriate amendments would be made in the French and Spanish language versions of the text.
420. The Delegate of Ecuador thanked the Director General for this initiative and commented that it appropriately recognises the role of veterinarians.
421. The Delegate of Uganda queried the English text ('an' before 'universal') and proposed a change that was supported by the President.
422. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously with modifications and appears as Resolution No. XIV at the end of this report.

Distribution of animal health status certificates

423. The representatives of the following countries received a certificate from the OIE on behalf of their country certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, is recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE has a mandate to recognise animal health status: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, India, Mauritania, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Taipei China, Tanzania, United States of America and Uruguay.

Dates of the 76th General Session (May 2008)

424. The Committee decided that the 76th General Session of the OIE International Committee would be held from Sunday 25 May to Friday 30 May 2008. The Director General stated that the 76th General Session would be held at an external venue (Maison de la Chimie) up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 76th General Session (May 2008)

425. The Committee confirmed the following Technical Item already chosen last year from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda and by the Administrative Commission:
- Integrating small farmers in animal health programmes.
426. Further to a decision of the Administrative Commission on 21 May 2004, the second Technical Item is determined by the Administrative Commission at its meeting in February prior to each General Session, so that the latest developments in the field of animal health and welfare can be taken into account. This Item will not involve a questionnaire being sent to Member Countries. This procedure will come into effect as from the 76th General Session.

The same procedure will be applied to Technical Items for the Regional Conferences with effect from the Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

Technical Items for the 77th General Session (May 2009)

427. The Committee selected the following Technical Item from those proposed by the Sub-Commission for the Agenda:
- Impact of climate change and environmental changes on emerging and re-emerging animal disease and animal production.

428. Further to the decision of the Administrative Commission on 21 May 2004, the second Technical Item is determined by the Administrative Commission at its meeting in February prior to each General Session, so that the latest developments in the field of animal health and welfare can be taken into account.

≡ FRIDAY 25 MAY 2007 ≡

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

429. The roll call of Delegates showed that 144 countries were represented at the Administrative Session and that a quorum had been reached.

Report of the Director General
On the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2006
(Doc. 75 SG/3)

430. Dr Jean-Luc Angot, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, finance and human resources, reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE and the elections that were due to be held during the Administrative Session.
431. He went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE headquarters building and the rented office space in the adjacent building.
432. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. II on the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. II at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 80th Financial Year
(1 January - 31 December 2006)
(Doc. 75 SG/4) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor
and adoption of the Financial Report for the 80th Financial Year**

(Docs 75 SG/15 and 75 SG/16)

- 442. The Committee noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) and Dr Nicola T. Belev (Bulgaria).
- 443. The Committee noted the reports of the External Auditor.
- 444. Draft Resolution No. III on the Financial Report for the 80th Financial Year of the OIE was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. III at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and to the Intergovernmental Organisations making Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or participating in the Organisation of OIE Meetings

445. The Director General sincerely thanked the Governments of:

- Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, Netherlands, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, Vietnam as well as the World Bank, the European Commission and the FAO for their voluntary contributions or subsidies for the implementation of OIE programmes in 2006.
- Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, People's Republic of China, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Republic of Macedonia, Mali, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Serbia, Syria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam for their contribution to the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops held in 2006.

446. The Committee unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. VII. The text appears as Resolution No. VII at the end of this report.

Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor

(Doc. 75 SG/17)

447. The President proposed that the Committee renew the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as the External Auditor of the OIE for a period of one year.

448. The Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. VI. The text appears as Resolution No. VI at the end of this report.

2007 Budget

(Doc. 75 SG/5) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Proposed 2008 Contributions Scale
and 2008 Budget Estimates**

(Doc. 75 SG/6) **RESERVED ON DELEGATES**

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. VIII
Work Programme for 2008**

464. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. VIII on the Work Programme for 2008.
465. The Draft Resolution was adopted by a majority, one country having abstained (United States of America), and appears as Resolution No. VIII at the end of this report.

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)**

466. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), approved by the Administrative Commission.
467. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. IX at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of
Affordable Food Everywhere Initiative (SSAFE)**

468. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere Initiative (SSAFE), approved by the Administrative Commission.
469. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. X at the end of this report.

**New Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)**

470. The Director General submitted for adoption the new Agreement with the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), approved by the Administrative Commission.
471. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XI at the end of this report.

**Extension of the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal
Health (OIE) and CABInternational (CABI)**

472. The Director General submitted for adoption the extension of the agreement with CABInternational (CABI), approved by the Administrative Commission.
473. The Draft Resolution was unanimously adopted and appears as Resolution No. XII at the end of this report.

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)**

474. The Director General submitted for adoption the Agreement with the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), approved by the Administrative Commission.
475. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XIII at the end of this report.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XV
Modification of the composition of the OIE Biological Standards Commission**

476. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XV on the Modification of the composition of the Biological Standards Commission, which takes into account the increasing workload of this Commission.

477. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XV at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVI
Modification of the composition of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

478. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XVI on the Modification of the composition of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, which takes into account the increasing workload of this Commission.
479. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVI at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVII
Modification of the composition of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Commission

480. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XVII on Modification of the composition of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Commission which takes into account the increasing workload of this Commission.
481. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVII at the end of this report.
482. The Delegate of Norway thought that it would be necessary to reinforce the Commissions in 2008 and therefore to organise elections for the vacant posts during the 76th General Session.
483. The President stated that the Administrative Commission had already thought of this possibility, but that it would be difficult to implement. The Director General pointed out that it would be simpler to elect all the members of the Commissions at the same time in order to obtain a good geographical balance.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XVIII
Creation of an OIE Sub-regional office in Brussels

484. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. XVIII relating to the creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Office in Brussels, Belgium.
485. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XVIII at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XIX
Terms of Reference of the Sub-Regional Representations of the OIE

486. Dr Vallat submitted for adoption the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Regional Representations of the OIE, drawn up for the purpose of clarification.
487. The Delegates of Botswana and Swaziland thought that it would be appropriate to give more autonomy to the Regional Sub-Representations. The Director General recalled that the OIE was a harmonisation organisation, which could only implement a single policy. It was necessary to reconcile centralisation and independence. He suggested that Member Countries that so desired should submit their comments to the Central Bureau as the text submitted for approval by the Delegates was open to improvement.
488. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously and appears as Resolution No. XIX at the end of this report.

Activities of the Administrative Commission

489. The President commented on document 75 SG/25, which summarises the activities of the Administrative Commission between May 2006 and May 2007, and recalled the statutory provisions concerning this Commission. He informed the International Committee of the points that would be reviewed by the Administrative Commission during the extraordinary meeting in September 2007, organised thanks to financial support from Canada.

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Americas

490. The President asked the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Americas to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez (Cuba).

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

491. The President asked the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Ms Chaweewan Leowijuk (Thailand).

Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

492. The President asked the President of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to communicate the proposal of the Commission for the position of Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Committee unanimously adopted the proposal:

Vice-President: Dr Bashir Taha Mohammed Taha (Sudan).

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. XX Restoration of the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China to the OIE

493. The President recalled that a first draft Resolution had been sent to OIE Delegates on 25 April 2007 and that, following comments submitted by various Member Countries and after examination by the Administrative Commission and additional advice provided by the Legal Counsel of the OIE, a new draft Resolution was being submitted to the International Committee. This draft was likely to find a broad consensus. He stated that certain countries had submitted alternative drafts, but that the Administrative Commission had not accepted them as they referred to Resolution No. XVIII of May 2003, which had proved impossible to implement. He proposed that two countries in favour of the draft Resolution and two countries opposed be given the floor prior to the vote, which would take place, in accordance with the OIE Statutes, by a show of hands and a simple majority. He called the members of the Administrative Commission to the platform.
494. Drs Bougedour (Algeria) and Khouri (Syria), Members of the Administrative Commission, were designated as scrutineers, assisted by the Legal Counsel of the OIE.

495. The President presented Draft Resolution No. XX on the Restoration of the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China to the World Organisation for Animal Health.
496. The Delegate of Taipei China stated that the OIE was not a political organisation, only a technical one (animal health). He recalled that article 2 of the Organic Statutes stipulated that the OIE could not interfere in the administration of the various States, and that there was no legal basis concerning the sovereignty of a state within the OIE. He considered that the draft Resolution was unacceptable and that, in its relations with Taipei China, the OIE deals directly with the Taiwanese health authorities and not with those of the People's Republic of China.
497. The Delegate of Pakistan thought it indispensable to re-establish the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China within the OIE since this was the only country that represented China.
498. The Delegate of Gambia emphasised the constant involvement of Taipei China in OIE activities since it joined in 1954. He believed that Taipei China had always shown good faith because it had already changed its name in 1992 and the People's Republic of China was responsible for the lack of follow-up to Resolution No. XVIII of 2003.
499. The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 countries of the European Union, thought that it was essential for the OIE to have as a member a country representing a large part of the world animal population. He noted that the draft Resolution allowed the retention of Taipei China, to which he paid homage for the quality of its participation in OIE activities. For this reason the European Union would vote in favour of the Resolution.
500. The Draft Resolution was adopted by a majority (91.4% of the votes cast). Out of the 144 countries present, 12 countries voted against and 5 countries abstained³⁶. The Resolution appears under No. XX at the end of this report.
501. The Delegate of Singapore explained that the vote was consistent with United Nations Resolution 2758 of 1971 recognising only one China. As active and meaningful participation of both the People's Republic of China and Chinese Taipei is essential for the OIE to be effective, Singapore urged Chinese Taipei to continue its longstanding active participation in the OIE.
502. The Delegate of Argentina welcomed the adoption of the Resolution and commented that animal health problems know no frontiers. He nevertheless pointed out that the status of 'non-sovereign regional member' should not apply to territories that have a sovereignty dispute recognised by the United Nations.
503. The Delegate of Cuba thanked the President, the Administrative Commission and the Director General of the OIE for the Resolution, which would enable the People's Republic of China to participate fully in the activities of the OIE. The People's Republic of China would now be able to give the Organisation the benefit of its knowledge in matters of animal health management and scientific research.
504. The Delegate of Taipei China strongly protested against the adoption of this draft Resolution. He believed that this decision taken today contravened the Basic Texts of the OIE. He called on the OIE Member Countries to ask for this Resolution to be amended.
505. The Delegate of Costa Rica considered that Resolution No. XX was adopted to the detriment of a Member of the OIE. He pointed out that his country maintains diplomatic relations with Taipei China but not with the People's Republic of China; for this reason he had voted against the Resolution.

³⁶ After the 75th General Session, the Governments of South Africa, Botswana, Fiji and the Philippines informed the Director General that their countries were in favour of the draft Resolution (the Delegates of South Africa, Botswana and the Philippines had abstained and the Delegate of Fiji had voted against). The final result is thus, 11 countries against and 2 abstentions, giving an effective adoption of Resolution No. XX by 92.3% of the votes cast.

506. The Delegate of Paraguay considered the Resolution detrimental to the international interests of Taipei China, recognised by Paraguay as a sovereign State.
507. The Delegate of the United States of America stated that his country is very pleased that a resolution has been negotiated, resulting in participation by both China and Chinese Taipei as full members of this organisation. He welcomed China's involvement and looked forward to working with China on the important technical activities that are carried out in the OIE. He looked forward to Chinese Taipei's continued involvement in the organisation. He stated that the United States of America anticipates using the coming year to work collaboratively with all of its colleagues in the OIE to develop and enhance scientifically sound animal health standards and to promote the OIE's global animal disease reporting system, to the benefit of the world community. He went on to say that full and active participation of both China and Chinese Taipei can only help the OIE fulfil its goals with respect to these and other key projects.

The Delegate of the United States of America then stated that his country would continue to adhere to its one China policy, based on United States law and the three Joint Communiques. He said that he was grateful for the statesmanship of the colleagues in the room, for the recognition by all that the OIE is not an appropriate forum to address political matters, and for the negotiating zeal that many of them have mustered, resulting in China's participation. He proposed now to turn the attention to traditional areas of responsibility for the OIE, and push ahead with a collective work.

508. The Delegate of Mauritania thanked the President, the Director General and the countries whose efforts had enabled this Resolution to be presented and he congratulated the International Committee on the adoption of the Resolution. He said that this confirmed the OIE's determination to promote science in a spirit of universality. The People's Republic of China, whose presence is so important for the global equilibrium of the OIE, will now be able to play a full role in improving world animal health and food safety and contribute its know-how in this respect.
509. The Delegate of Guinea was pleased with the adoption of Resolution No. XX which restores the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China within the OIE as a sovereign State. He welcomed the People's Republic of China and thanked the Central Bureau and the Administrative Commission for all their efforts to enable this satisfactory solution to be reached.
510. The Delegate of Burkina Faso declared his solidarity with Taipei China and stated that he had voted against Resolution No. XX.
511. The Delegate of Benin explained that he had voted in favour of Resolution No. XX as he considered that the OIE could not reasonably pursue its activities without the participation of the People's Republic of China as a sovereign country. He expressed his satisfaction at seeing the rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China restored within the OIE.
512. The Delegates of Ecuador and Afghanistan expressed their pleasure at the adoption of Resolution No. XX.
513. The Delegate of Lebanon stated that the effective participation of the People's Republic of China in the activities of the OIE is very important for international trade.
514. The Delegates of Mali and the Republic of the Congo expressed their pleasure at seeing the People's Republic of China effectively join the Organisation and collaborate with it.
515. The Delegate of Burundi was pleased with the adoption of Resolution No. XX, which he had supported, and he expressed his satisfaction that Taipei China was not excluded from the OIE.
516. The Delegate of Ukraine considered it a very important decision, which would enable the OIE to have access to a considerable amount of sanitary and scientific information from the People's Republic of China.

517. The Delegates of Bangladesh and Senegal spoke in support of Resolution No. XX and said that it would allow the OIE to continue to progress.
518. The Delegates of Chad and Somalia congratulated the Administrative Commission for having enabled a favourable outcome to be achieved regarding the participation the People's Republic of China in the activities of the OIE.
519. The accredited Delegate of New Zealand expressed his country's satisfaction at the broad consensus that the Resolution had made possible and congratulated all the parties on their efforts to reach this agreement.
520. The Delegate of Syria was pleased to note that there were no losers: the People's Republic of China was now effectively integrated into the OIE and Taipei China remained in the Organisation with all its rights and obligations.
521. The President warmly thanked the International Committee for its collective wisdom and also welcomed the People's Republic of China, hoping that it would actively participate in the activities of the OIE. He informed the Delegates that Dr Jia Youling, the Delegate of the People's Republic of China would deliver an address before the International Committee after the break for lunch.

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report

522. The President invited Dr Jia Youling to take the floor.
523. In his address, the Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked the President, the Director General and the International Committee for their support. Thanks to the vote in favour of Resolution No. XX, the People's Republic of China would now be able to participate fully in the activities of the OIE and fulfil all its obligations as a member of the Organisation. He considered that the OIE should be given more resources to carry out its missions and he gave a commitment that the People's Republic of China would actively support the OIE.
524. The President thanked Dr Jia Youling for his address.
525. The President, as requested, presented the Delegate of Fiji with a certificate certifying Fiji's status as a member of the Organisation with effect from 18 May 2007.
526. The President stated that the Draft Final Report would from now on be printed in two stages (first the Technical Sessions, then the Administrative Sessions). This would save time by enabling Delegates to start examining it earlier.
527. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.
528. 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 2007** 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.

Closing Session

529. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He paid tribute to the solidarity shown by the Delegates and their active contribution throughout the General Session. He congratulated 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 75th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.
530. He invited the Delegates to return for the 76th General Session and looked forward to the presence of both the People's Republic of China and Chinese Taipei in May 2008.
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.../Resolutions/Recommendations/Regional Commission Reports

Resolutions

Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE

during its 75th General Session

20 – 25 May 2007

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- [No. I](#) Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2006 and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2006 and the Beginning of 2007
- [No. II](#) Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2006
- [No. III](#) Approval of the Financial Report for the 80th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2006)
- [No. IV](#) Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 82nd Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2008)
- [No. V](#) Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2008
- [No. VI](#) Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor
- [No. VII](#) Acknowledgements to the Governments and Intergovernmental Organisations of Member Countries that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the organisation of OIE Meetings
- [No. VIII](#) Work programme for 2008
- [No. IX](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
- [No. X](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere initiative (SSAFE)
- [No. XI](#) New Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)
- [No. XII](#) Extension of the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and CABInternational (CABI)
- [No. XIII](#) Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council For Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)
- [No. XIV](#) Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare
- [No. XV](#) Modification of the composition of the OIE Laboratories Commission
- [No. XVI](#) Modification of the composition of the OIE Scientific Commission
- [No. XVII](#) Modification of the composition of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission
- [No. XVIII](#) Creation of an OIE Sub-Regional Office in Brussels
- [No. XIX](#) Terms of Reference of the Sub-Regional Representations of the OIE
- [No. XX](#) Restoration of the Legal Rights of the People's Republic of China to the World Organization for Animal Health
- [No. XXI](#) Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries
- [No. XXII](#) Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection and Rinderpest Disease

<u>No. XXIII</u>	Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries
<u>No. XXIV</u>	Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries
<u>No. XXV</u>	Animal Welfare
<u>No. XXVI</u>	Animal Production Food Safety
<u>No. XXVII</u>	Adoption of the sixth edition of the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals</i>
<u>No. XXVIII</u>	List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance
<u>No. XXIX</u>	Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE
<u>No. XXX</u>	Amendments to the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i>
<u>No. XXXI</u>	Adoption of one draft chapter for the <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>
<u>No. XXXII</u>	Amendments to the OIE <i>Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>
<u>No. XXXIII</u>	The Use of Epidemiological Models for the Management of Animal Diseases
<u>No. XXXIV</u>	The Role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres in Providing Permanent Support for the Objectives and Mandates of the OIE

RESOLUTION No. I

**Approval of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2006
and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2006 and the Beginning of 2007**

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 2006 (75 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status World-wide in 2006 and the beginning of 2007 (75 SG/2).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. II

**Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities
and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2006**

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 80th Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2006) (75 SG/3).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. III

**Approval of the Financial Report for the 80th Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2006)**

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 80th Financial Year of the OIE (1 January – 31 December 2006) (75 SG/4).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. IV

**Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 82nd Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2008)**

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

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RESOLUTION No. V

Financial Contributions from OIE Member Countries for 2008

RESERVED ON DELEGATES

RESOLUTION No. VI

Renewal of the Appointment of the External Auditor

In accordance with Article 12.1. of the Financial Regulations concerning the appointment of the External Auditor and the renewal of her mandate,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of one year (2007) the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. VII

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations that made Voluntary Contributions or Subsidies to the OIE, or contributed in the Organisation of OIE Meetings

Having noted the voluntary contributions or subsidies received by the OIE in 2006 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2006,

THE COMMITTEE

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of:

1. Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, Vietnam, and the European Commission, the FAO and the World Bank, for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2006.
2. Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mali, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Senegal, Serbia, Syria, Chad, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2006.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. VIII

Work Programme for 2008

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Third Strategic Plan by the International Committee during its 74th General Session in May 2006,

Resolution No. X adopted by the International Committee during the 74th General Session in May 2006,

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. DECIDES

To approve the 2008 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Annex I of document 75SG/6).

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 when possible.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. IX

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA),

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 21 February 2007 (75 SG/18),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. X

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of Affordable Food
Everywhere Initiative (SSAFE)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety for the Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere Initiative (SSAFE),

The Agreement between the OIE and SSAFE approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 21 February 2007 (75 SG/19),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XI

**New Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)**

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) adopted on 28 May 2002,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to update the terms of cooperation between the OIE and the IFAH,

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 17 May 2007 and signed by the Director General (75SG/20),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XII

**Extension of the Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and
CABInternational (CABI)**

CONSIDERING

The Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and CABInternational (CABI) adopted by CABI on 27 July 2001 and by the OIE on 4 December 2001 and the extension of this Agreement signed on 3 February 2004 by CABI and on 10 February 2004 by the OIE,

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, to extend the application of the Agreement between the OIE and CABI to food safety issues,

The extension of the Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 17 May 2007 and signed by the Director General (75SG/21),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XIII

**Agreement between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)**

CONSIDERING

That it is desirable, in the general interest of all concerned, that cooperation be established between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)

The Agreement between the two organisations approved following the deliberations of the Administrative Commission on 17 May 2007 (75 SG/24),

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

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

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XIV

Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING

That the International community at large recognise the OIE as the international standard-setting organisation for animal welfare,

That the International Committee has adopted international standards for animal welfare which recognise the need for humane treatment of sentient animals, while ensuring that these standards are science based,

That it is important to achieve acceptance worldwide of animal welfare as an issue of common concern and importance,

That a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, which establishes the importance of this issue for the humane treatment of sentient animals, would complement and promote the work of the OIE, and facilitate global acceptance of OIE standards and their application at a national, regional and global level,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To support, in principle, the development of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare which calls on countries to acknowledge the importance of animal welfare and, at the same time, recognises the OIE as the established international animal welfare standard-setting body,

To encourage the efforts of governments seeking to support this goal,

To encourage the efforts of globally recognised animal welfare organisations seeking to achieve this goal,

To ask the Director General to continue with the development of scientific activities and standards in animal welfare.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XV

Modification of the composition of the OIE Biological Standards Commission

CONSIDERING

The increasing workload of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, hereafter referred to as the Laboratories Commission, which makes it necessary for this Commission to have one additional expert at its disposal,

The need for a wide geographical representation in the composition of this Commission, insofar as is possible,

GIVEN

The Terms of Reference, Internal Rules and Qualifications of the Members of the OIE Laboratories Commission adopted by the OIE International Committee on 22 May 2003,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

Articles 1 and 2 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Laboratories Commission shall be abrogated and replaced by the articles hereafter:

“Article 1

The OIE Biological Standards Commission shall consist of a Bureau (comprised of a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary General) and three other Members.

Article 2

The International Committee elects the Members of the Bureau individually and then the other three Members, taking into account the need for a geographically balanced representation, and the need for relevant expertise.

The Members of the Commission are elected for a period of three years.

The mandate of the Commission may be renewed by the International Committee. Positions should be filled as they fall vacant, before the elections referred to in the first paragraph.”

The elections corresponding to the additional position to be filled will take place in 2009, when the Commissions will be renewed.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XVI

Modification of the composition of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

CONSIDERING

The increasing workload of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, hereafter referred to as the Scientific Commission, which makes it necessary for this Commission to have one additional expert at its disposal,

The need for a wide geographical representation in the composition of this Commission, insofar as is possible,

GIVEN

The Terms of Reference, Internal Rules and Qualifications of the Members of the OIE Scientific Commission adopted by the OIE International Committee on 22 May 2003,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

Articles 1 and 2 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Scientific Commission shall be abrogated and replaced by the articles hereafter:

“Article 1

The OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases shall consist of a Bureau (comprised of a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary General) and three other Members.

Article 2

The International Committee elects the Members of the Bureau individually and then the other three Members, taking into account the need for a geographically balanced representation, and the need for relevant expertise.

The Members of the Commission are elected for a period of three years.

The mandate of the Commission may be renewed by the International Committee. Positions should be filled as they fall vacant, before the elections referred to in the first paragraph.”

The elections corresponding to the additional position to be filled will take place in 2009, when the Commissions will be renewed.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XVII

Modification of the composition of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Commission

CONSIDERING

The increasing workload of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, hereafter referred to as the Aquatic Animals Commission, which makes it necessary for this Commission to have one additional expert at its disposal,

The need for a wide geographical representation in the composition of this Commission, insofar as is possible,

GIVEN

The Terms of Reference, Internal Rules and Qualifications of the Members of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission adopted by the OIE International Committee on 22 May 2003,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES THAT

Articles 1 and 2 of the Internal Rules of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission shall be abrogated and replaced by the articles hereafter:

“Article 1

The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission shall consist of a Bureau (comprised of a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary General) and three other Members.

Article 2

The International Committee elects the Members of the Bureau individually and then the other three Members, taking into account the need for a geographically balanced representation, and the need for relevant expertise.

The Members of the Commission are elected for a period of three years.

The mandate of the Commission may be renewed by the International Committee. Positions should be filled as they fall vacant, before the elections referred to in the first paragraph.”

The elections corresponding to the additional position to be filled will take place in 2009, when the Commissions will be renewed.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XVIII

Creation of an OIE Sub-regional office in Brussels

CONSIDERING

The need for an OIE Sub-Regional Office in Brussels, headquarters of the European Commission (EC),

GIVEN

The Terms of Reference of the Regional Representations and of the Sub-Regional Representations,

The International Committee's decision of 19 May 1995 to create a Regional Representation for Eastern Europe,

The exchange of letters between the OIE (23 February 2004) and the EC (17 September 2003),

The International Committee's decision of 26 May 2006 relative to the creation of a Sub-Regional Office in Brussels,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

The creation in Brussels of a Sub-Regional Office of the OIE Regional representation for Eastern Europe.

This Office shall take the name of "OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels".

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XIX

Terms of Reference of the Sub-Regional Representations of the OIE

CONSIDERING

The need for defining the terms of reference of the OIE Sub-Regional Representations,

GIVEN

The Terms of reference of the OIE Regional Representations adopted by the International Committee on 19 May 1995,

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

To adopt the text entitled “Terms of reference of the OIE Regional Sub-Representations” (Doc. 75SG/22).

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE OIE SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATION OFFICES

The OIE Sub-Regional Representations shall operate under the aegis of the respective OIE Regional Representation in each region.

1. Administrative procedures

The administrative procedures shall be identical for Regional Representation (RRs) as well as for Sub-Regional Representation (SRRs), including, for example, the physical and electronic archiving system or the coding of incoming and outgoing mail.

2. Basic documents

RRs and SRRs shall hold archives with the following basic documents:

- OIE Basic Texts including terms of reference for OIE Regional Representations and Sub-Representations- Strategic Plan and Work Programmes
- Agreement between the country hosting the head office of the Sub-Regional Representation and the OIE
- Diplomatic agreement with the host country
- Sub-Regional Representatives' contracts
- Contracts of office staff
- Responsibilities of the Sub-Regional Representations, in accordance with OIE regulations, for the budget and for weekly and annual reports
- Personnel management issues
- Relevant letters from/to Delegates and Ministers
- Follow-up of payments of contributions
- Applications for Membership from new countries
- Communication material
- Tool kit for training (namely from Collaborating Centre of Lyons)

3. Management of funds – Budget - Reports

3.1. **Budget:** the budget of the SRRs shall be drawn up by the Sub-Regional Representative and sent to the RRs for approval, discussion and subsequent approval by the Central Bureau.

The OIE RRs shall send to the OIE Central Bureau the condensed proposed budget of the Regional Representation and of the Sub-Regional Representation as separate items.

3.2. **Request for funds:** The Sub-Regional Representation, according to its budget previsions, shall request funds from the Regional Representation, which shall, after analysis and approval, in turn request these funds from the Central Bureau.

3.3. **Dispatch of funds:** The funds shall be transferred from the OIE Central Bureau to the account of the SRRs, and relevant information relayed to the Regional Representation.

3.4. **Financial reports:** Quarterly reports shall be sent to the Regional Representation with copy to the Central Bureau.

4. Missions

Authorisations for the Sub-Regional Representations to undertake missions shall be examined by the respective Regional Representative, on the basis of a quarterly programme; the Regional Representative will forward to the OIE Central Bureau in Paris a provisional programme, for final approval.

The Sub-Regional Representative shall not request mission authorization directly to the OIE Central Bureau in Paris.

Mission reports shall be sent first to the OIE Central Bureau with systematically a copy to the Regional Representative.

5. Communications

All outgoing correspondence, e-mails, faxes and letters from the Sub-Regional Representations shall be copied to the respective Regional Representation and if relevant to the OIE RAD.

Letters to Delegates and Ministers will be addressed to the respective Regional Representative for his approval prior to signature either by the respective Regional Representative or by the Director General whenever appropriate.

6. Activity Plan – Report

The Sub-Regional Representatives, together with the respective Regional Representation, shall draw up an overall Activity Plan for the sub-region. The Sub-Regional Representation's Activity Plan shall form part of the Regional Representation's Activity Plan.

The Regional Representations shall in consultation with the Sub-Regional Representations draw up a common Plan of activities for the region. However consideration will be given to specific activities related to the sub-regions.

The half-yearly report on the activities of the Sub-Regional Representation shall be sent to the Regional Representation, which shall forward it to the OIE Central Bureau together with the Regional Representation's half-yearly report.

7. Meetings

The meetings of the Sub-Regional Representatives with Ministers or other relevant political authorities shall be authorised by the respective Regional Representative, and subsequent information transmitted to OIE Headquarters.

8. Official Agreements

Official Agreements proposed by the Sub-Regional Representatives shall be sent to the respective Regional Representative for consideration and subsequently to the OIE Director General for his final approval.

9. Personnel

All aspects related to the Staff of the Sub-Regional Representations, included the Sub-Regional Representatives, shall be proposed to the respective Regional Representative for his consideration, and onward transmission to the Central Bureau for approval whenever appropriate.

RESOLUTION No. XX

**Restoration of the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China
to the World Organisation for Animal Health**

GIVEN the International Agreement for the creation of OIE done on 25 January 1924, and the entire General Rules, tasks and development goals of the OIE, in particular the provisions concerning the rights and obligations of OIE members,

MINDFUL of the need to strive unceasingly to achieve the aim of universality of the Organization,

AFFIRMING that it is absolutely necessary to restore the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China in order to maintain and promote the work of OIE,

AFFIRMING adherence to One China policy,

NOTING China's view that the government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China which includes Taiwan,

CONSIDERING that there is no precedent in OIE to expel a member and considering the fact that OIE has members from non-sovereign regions,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To restore the exercise of the legal rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China within the OIE as a sovereign state member of the OIE.

That Taiwan continues to participate in the activities of OIE as a non-sovereign regional member of the OIE.

That Taiwan will be known as "Chinese Taipei" in all activities, documents, publications, websites, etc. of OIE.

REQUESTS

The Director General to take all necessary actions in order to achieve this goal before the 76th General Session.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXI

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. By means of subsequent Resolutions¹ the International Committee has accepted a procedure establishing and annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones within their national territories, recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. 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,
3. 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 during the month of November that their FMD status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
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. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for this evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
6. 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 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*,
7. 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.

¹ 62nd General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) IX; 63rd GS Res XI and Res XII; 64th GS Res XII and 65th GS Res XVII.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. 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 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*²:

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

2. 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 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*¹:

Taipei China and Uruguay.

3. 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 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: enlargement of an existing zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

Botswana: enlargement of an existing zone as designated by the Delegate of Botswana in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2006;

Brazil: State of Santa Catarina;

Colombia: zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department) and in April 1996;

² 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

* Including the territory of Kosovo administered by the United Nations

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

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

Peru: zones as designated by the Delegate of Peru in two documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004 and in January 2007;

Philippines: Islands of 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 2005.

4. 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 2.2.10. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Argentina: zone of Argentina designated by the Delegate of Argentina in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007.

Bolivia: zone of Chiquitania designated by the Delegate of Bolivia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003 and a zone situated in the western part of the Department of Oruro in documents addressed to the Director General in September 2005;

Brazil: States of Acre along with two adjacent municipalities of Amazon state, Rio Grande do Sul, Rondonia and the middle southern part of the State Parà, as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in March 2004 and February 2007;

Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2003, two zones designated by the Delegate in documents addressed to the Director General in December 2004 and a south western zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2007;

Paraguay: zone designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007.

AND

5. The Delegates of these countries will immediately notify the Central Bureau if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXII

**Recognition of Member Countries Free Status from Rinderpest Infection
and Rinderpest Disease**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. By means of subsequent Resolutions¹ the International Committee has accepted a procedure establishing and annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones within their national territories, recognised as free from rinderpest disease or infection according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking fees to be paid by Member Countries applying for evaluation for freedom from rinderpest disease or rinderpest infection and that these fees would be recovered whenever possible from sources other than the applicant countries,
3. During the 71st General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII which stated that Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as rinderpest free, annually reconfirm by letter during the month of November that their rinderpest status and the criteria by which the status was recognized have remained unchanged,
4. 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 from disease or infection.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from rinderpest infection, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Albania	Germany	New Caledonia
Algeria	Ghana	New Zealand
Andorra	Greece	Norway
Angola	Guatemala	Pakistan
Argentina	Guinea	Panama
Australia	Guinea Bissau	Paraguay
Austria	Guyana	Peru
Barbados	Honduras	Philippines
Belgium	Hungary	Poland
Benin	Iceland	Portugal
Bhutan	India	Romania
Bolivia	Indonesia	Rwanda
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ireland	Senegal
Botswana	Italy	Singapore

¹ 63rd General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) XIV; 67th GS Res XVI and 68th GS Res XIII

Brazil	Jamaica	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Japan	Slovenia
Burkina Faso	Korea (Rep. of)	South Africa
Burundi	Latvia	Spain
Canada	Lesotho	Swaziland
Chile	Lithuania	Sweden
Colombia	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Congo (Dem. Rep. of the)	Madagascar	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Taipei China
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Tanzania
Croatia	Mali	Togo
Cuba	Malta	Trinidad and Tobago
Cyprus	Mauritania	Tunisia
Czech Rep.	Mauritius	Turkey
Denmark	Mexico	Ukraine
Ecuador	Moldavia	United Kingdom
Egypt	Mongolia	United States of America
El Salvador	Morocco	Uruguay
Eritrea	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Estonia	Myanmar	Venezuela
Finland	Namibia	Vietnam
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Nepal	Zambia
France	Netherlands	Zimbabwe

2. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries as being free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Cameroon	Lebanon
Central African Republic	Niger
Chad	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Sudan
Gambia	Tajikistan
	Uganda

3. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries having zones designated by their respective Delegates as free from rinderpest disease according to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Kenya: zone designated by the Delegate of Kenya in a document addressed to the Director General in August 2005.

AND

4. The Delegates of these countries will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest infection or disease occur in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXIII

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. By means of subsequent Resolutions¹ the International Committee has accepted a procedure establishing and annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones within their national territories, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. 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,
3. During the 72nd General Session the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as CBPP free, annually confirm by letter during the month of November that their CBPP status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
4. During the 72nd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII that implemented the establishment of a list of countries or zones free from CBPP disease or CBPP infection and included in that list countries already recognised free of CBPP by the OIE,
5. 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 from CBPP,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 2.3.15. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia
Botswana

India
Portugal

Switzerland
United States of America

AND

2. The Delegates of these countries will immediately notify the Central Bureau if CBPP occurs in their countries or in zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

¹ 71st General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) XXIV; 73rd GS Res XVI and 74th GS Res XXIX.

RESOLUTION No. XXIV

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. By means of subsequent Resolutions¹ the International Committee has accepted a procedure establishing and annually updating a list of Member Countries and zones within their national territories, categorised by their BSE risk according to the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Member Countries applying for a BSE risk evaluation to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
3. During the 72nd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI requesting the Director General to inform Delegates of Member Countries whose countries or zones within their national territories are recognised with regard to their BSE status should annually confirm during the month of November whether their status and the criteria by which their status was recognised have remained unchanged,
4. During the 73rd General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXI confirming that countries which had already submitted dossiers for the evaluation of country status need not pay any additional costs should they have to renew their applications,
5. During the 74th General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXVII confirming that Countries listed as provisionally free from BSE in accordance with Chapter 2.13.13 of the 13th Edition (2004) of the *Terrestrial Code* wishing to submit an application before the end of 2006 for confirmation of their status will be assessed against the *Terrestrial Code* of 2004 and will remain on the list published by the OIE until May 2008,
6. 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 the BSE risk status.

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as countries with a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 15th edition (2006) of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, Singapore and Uruguay.

¹ 67th General Session (GS) Resolution No (Res) XVI; 69th GS Res XV and 71st GS Res XXII.

2. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as countries with a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 15th edition (2006) of the *Terrestrial Code*:

Brazil, Canada, Chile, Switzerland, Taipei China and United States of America.

3. The Director General publish the following list of Member Countries recognised as ‘provisionally free’ from BSE in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the 13th edition (2004) of the *Terrestrial Code* and Resolution XXVII of the 74th General Session The countries below will remain on the list published by the OIE until May 2008:

Iceland and Paraguay.

4. Since January 2007, all applications for BSE status have been and will be assessed against the *Terrestrial Code* current at the time.

AND

5. The Delegates of these countries will immediately notify the Central Bureau if BSE occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXV

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.
2. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, which draws up and implements a detailed annual 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. Publication of "Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges", in October 2005, in a special edition of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review Series further reinforced the OIE's international leadership role in animal welfare.
5. A set of four animal welfare guidelines were adopted at the May 2005 General Session and are regularly updated.
6. Draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines have been developed and will be the subject of further discussion between the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and the Animal Welfare Working Group.
7. Scoping work is well underway in respect of the four additional areas of strategic priority, agreed as the 2005 General Session, with an *ad hoc* group on Dog Population Control having met on two occasions and prepared a first draft report.
8. 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 and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal health Standards Commissions on OIE activities in the field of animal welfare.
2. The Working Group and Central Bureau 2006/2007 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and the OIE Central Bureau and Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
3. Veterinary Services in each member country be actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of animal welfare legislation and that countries immediately take steps to advise the OIE of their national OIE animal welfare focal point to facilitate communication.

4. 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.
 5. OIE Regional Commissions play an active role in promoting the OIE initiative (particularly in relation to animal welfare in education), with active involvement of Working Group regional members.
 6. The OIE Central Bureau and Working Group continue to give high priority to effective and regular communication and transparent consultation in implementing the animal welfare work programme, including activities related to animal production, wild animals and laboratory animals.
 7. The OIE hold a second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Cairo in October 2008. The proposed title of the conference is: “Putting the OIE Standards to Work”.
-

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXVI

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its sixth meeting in November 2006 and drafted a work programme for 2007.
2. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a “Guide on Good Farming Practices” which will be further developed in cooperation with FAO, WHO and Codex.
3. The Working Group reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding, which produced draft Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed.
4. The Working Group reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which produced draft Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption.
5. The Working Group prepared an appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection, to provide guidance to Veterinary Services.
6. The Working Group supported the development of an appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* on General Principles for Identification and Traceability of Live Animals.
7. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by either party are consistent and complementary and take a ‘whole food chain’ approach to food safety.
8. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO which provide additional expert advice and expertise in food safety, zoonoses and related issues.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.
2. The participation of FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The 2007 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with resources needed to address the identified priorities.
 4. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group give special attention to its work on the development of texts on animal identification and traceability, animal feeding and salmonellosis for consideration by the International Committee.
 5. The OIE develop a document to clarify how the Veterinary Services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXVII

**Adoption of the sixth edition of the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, like the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation and promotion of trade in animals and animal products,
2. The *Terrestrial Manual* is entirely revised approximately every four years, and the International Committee, in Resolution No. X of the 63rd General Session, adopted a method for its amendment if required between the times of its revision, such amendments being published by the OIE on the Web site,
3. Member Countries are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised Chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* before it is finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,
4. All Chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Member Countries and the Biological Standards Commission will address any pending comments during its autumn meeting,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To adopt the sixth edition of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*.

RESOLUTION No. XXVIII

List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance

CONSIDERING THAT

During the 74th General Session of the OIE in May 2006, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXIII. This Resolution allowed the publication of a preliminary list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance based on the list compiled by the OIE from the answers received to the questionnaire sent to OIE Member Countries, and requested the OIE Director General to further refine the list and consider breaking it down into subcategories according to type of usage,

The OIE refined and further developed the list in accordance with Member Country comments and based on further analysis of the data previously supplied by OIE Member Countries. The revised list was circulated to Member Countries with the report of the January 2007 meeting of the Biological Standards Commission (Appendix V of Doc 75 SG/12/CS2 B)

The list will be used within the framework of the work in progress with the WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on antimicrobial resistance,

The list will be regularly updated in accordance with new scientific information,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To adopt the list of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXIX

Register of Diagnostic Tests Validated and Certified by the OIE

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session of the OIE in May 2003, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIX endorsing the principle of validation and certification of diagnostic assays (test methods) for infectious animal diseases by the OIE and giving a mandate to the Director General of the OIE to set up the specific standard procedures to be used before the final decision on the validation and certification of a diagnostic assay is taken by the OIE International Committee,
2. The Resolution establishes that ‘fitness for purpose’ should be used as a criterion for validation,
3. The aim of the procedure for diagnostic kits is to produce a register of recognised assays for OIE Member Countries and for test manufacturers,
4. OIE Member Countries need assays that are known to be validated according to OIE criteria in order to improve the quality of assays, to ensure that the test can be used to correctly establish animal disease status and to enhance confidence in assays,
5. The process of producing a register of recognised assays will provide greater transparency and clarity of the validation process, and a means for recognising those manufacturers that produce validated and certified tests in kit format,
6. During the 74th General Session of the OIE, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXXII on the importance of recognising and implementing OIE standards for the validation and registration of diagnostic assays by Member Countries,
7. In order to render the process transparent, all results of the test validation procedure by the OIE will be included in detailed form on the OIE web site,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES THAT

1. In accordance with the recommendation of the OIE Biological Standards Commission, the Director General add the following to the register of test kits certified by the OIE as validated fit for purpose:

Name of the diagnostic kit	Name of the Manufacturer	Fitness for purpose
Platelia Rabies II	Bio-Rad	For the determination of immune status post-vaccination in individual dogs or cats (for regulation of international movement or trade), and in fox populations (for monitoring wildlife vaccination programmes)

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

RESOLUTION N° XXX

Amendments to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous OIE General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with the recommendations in the March 2007 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III to XX of Document 75 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Aquatic Code* proposed in Appendices III to XX of Document 75 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:
 - In the Spanish text only, in Appendix V (Chapter 1.4.4.), in Article 1.4.4.3., in points 3 and 4, replace the words “*gracias a*” with the word “*a través de*”.
 - In Appendix XII (Chapter 1.5.1.):
 - in Article 1.5.1.5., add a third paragraph stating the following: “This Article does not apply to treatment of transport water for transport by sea”;
 - in Article 1.5.1.6., add a second paragraph stating the following: “This Article does not apply to transport of aquatic animals by sea”.
2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXXI

**Adoption of one draft chapter for the
*Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, like the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation and promotion of trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,
2. The *Aquatic Manual* is entirely revised approximately every three years. It is the intention of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the International Committee, the Web version of the *Aquatic Manual* will be updated on an annual basis,
3. Member Countries are asked for the contributions of their specialists for each new or revised chapter of the *Aquatic Manual* before it is finalised by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission,
4. The chapter for the revised edition has been sent to Member Countries and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

To adopt one new chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 23 May 2007)

RESOLUTION N° XXXII

Amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

CONSIDERING

1. The present content of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (in brief, the *Terrestrial Code*), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Terrestrial Code* in accordance with recommendations in the March 2007 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (in brief, the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 75 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Member Countries,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXIX, XXX, XXXI and XXXII of Document 75 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.
2. To adopt the updates to the *Terrestrial Code* proposed in Appendices III, IV, X, XII and XXI of Document 75 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Appendix III (Chapter 1.1.1.)

In the definitions of both *Competent Authority* and *Veterinary Authority*:

- a) insert the words “, international veterinary certification,” after the word “measures”;
- b) insert the word “whole” before the word “country”.

2.2. In Appendix IV (Chapter 1.3.5.)

In Article 1.3.5.4., replace the word “traceability” with the word “identification” in the last sentence of point 4.

2.3. In Appendix X (Appendix 3.x.x.)

In Article 3.x.x.1., delete the words “or endemic” in the fourth paragraph of the introduction and add the word “or” before “infected country/zone”.

2.4. In Appendix XII (Chapter 2.3.13.)

In Article 2.3.13.1.:

- a) in point 1d), go back to the existing text of the 2006 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* i.e. “gelatine and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins”;
- b) delete proposed point 1e).

In Article 2.3.13.14.:

- a) in the second paragraph, retain the words “gelatin and” after the word “for”;
- b) in point 2, go back to the existing text of the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*, except the proposed deletion of the words “pressure washing” in sub-point i);
- c) in point 3, go back to the existing text of the 2006 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*, except the proposed deletion of the words “pressure washing” in sub-point b)i).

2.5. In Appendix XXI (Chapter 2.7.12.)

In Article 2.7.12.1., replace the word “HPNAI” with the words “HPAI or LPAI” in point 4.

- 3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 25 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXXIII

The Use of Epidemiological Models for the Management of Animal Diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Epidemiological modelling is a valuable tool that can assist disease managers and policy makers in identifying and evaluating existing and/or novel approaches to disease control and risk mitigation.
2. Almost all Member Countries that responded to the survey and that are not currently using epidemiological models, expressed the desire to do so.
3. A majority of Member Countries have expressed limitations with regards to the use of epidemiological models due to lack of expertise and resources, while some countries reported shortage of suitable data.
4. Epidemiological modelling is a specialised field that requires an adequate level of expertise.
5. One of the benefits of model construction is the identification of the gaps of knowledge necessary to build it. This approach may suggest further research to better understand the biology of the infection or influence the collection of suitable data.
6. There is general recognition of the value of modelling to support policy development through retrospective analyses and contingency planning.
7. The role of predictive modelling during an animal health crisis as a tool to support tactical decision-making needs more elaboration.
8. Any epidemiological model ultimately depends for its validity on the accuracy and completeness of the data underpinning it.
9. There is significant value associated with international collaborations on model development and validation.
10. Veterinary Services are the most involved in all steps of epidemiological modelling such as development, application and usage of results and these services therefore need to be strengthened worldwide through international collaboration and technical support.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE should develop general guidelines for epidemiological model development, verification, validation and use.

2. Member Countries should be encouraged to establish OIE Collaborating Centres on epidemiological modelling, which should provide training in the development and application of such models and provide advice to the Member Countries wishing to develop or choose models for use in animal health emergency preparedness, response and analysis.
 3. Member Countries should ensure the completeness and quality of data inputs into the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) to make the best use of data stored in the WAHID database for epidemiological modelling.
 4. The OIE should publish a special edition of the *Scientific and Technical Review* on the application of epidemiological modelling on aspects related to the support of animal disease management and assessment of the economic impact of such diseases.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

RESOLUTION No. XXXIV

**The Role of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
in Providing Permanent Support for the Objectives and Mandates of the OIE**

CONSIDERING

1. That the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres are mandated to provide Member Countries with expertise and laboratory services in support of capacity building of national Veterinary Services, diagnostic support for the detection and control of diseases relating to animal health and public health zoonoses, and for facilitating safe trade and science-based mediation of disputes;
2. The need for scientific support and advice to the OIE for the development of science-based international standards, recommendations and guidelines for the prevention, detection and control of animal diseases including zoonoses, and for safe trade in animals and animal products;
3. That the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres are essential sources of diagnostic testing, reagents, training, research, validation and harmonisation of methods, scientific advice and other services;
4. That the clustering of most of the OIE's Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres predominantly in a few areas of the world has resulted in a disproportionate access and use of these services from one region to another because of issues related primarily to communication, transportation and costs;
5. That the OIE's plans for the twinning of laboratories to develop regionally relevant and sustainable expertise and service capacity in developing and in-transition countries;
6. The need to provide appropriate, sustainable funding, support and recognition for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres;
7. That the success of OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Collaborating Centres relies on their ability to both maintain the confidence of clients in utilising these services and to acquire, enhance and maintain scientific skills and expertise through multilevel interaction and collaboration;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The mandate and activities of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres should be reviewed to enhance satisfaction of service delivery, and alignment with the objectives of the OIE and the evolving priorities of its Member Countries, such as the need for support services to assist Member Countries to acquire, process, publish and disseminate information related to local disease surveillance, emergence, prevention and control.
2. The OIE should achieve with the support of its Regional Offices a balanced, proactive, strategic plan in each geographical region to improve the geographical distribution and specialty of its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres with the priorities and investments of Member Countries and regions to address both the present and long term priorities of the OIE.

3. The OIE should review and address the funding requirements of its current Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres beyond the resource and in-kind contributions from national sources to improve and increase the sustainable services as mandated, taking into consideration funding from non-OIE sources and various non-economical rewards.
 4. The OIE should facilitate synergy within its current network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and continue to develop and implement its recently announced twinning initiative as part of a broader strategy to strengthen and expand its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.
 5. The OIE should continue to accord high priority to International Standards and Guidelines, including those elaborated by IATA and under the CITES Convention, impacting on transportation of laboratory samples so not to impede the operations of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and not to impose unnecessary costs and delays.
 6. The OIE should continue to harmonise its quality assurance (QA) guidelines with other relevant international quality standards for laboratories and ensure that this aspect is assessed as part of the PVS (Performance, Vision and Strategy) tool.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2006**

**endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 24 May 2007**

**22nd Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Lyon (France), 25-29 September 2006

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools

Recommendation No. 1

**Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network,
public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians**

CONSIDERING THAT

Epidemiological surveillance systems are essential for the good governance of animal health, zoonoses and food safety control programmes,

Private sector veterinarians and farmers are the most likely persons to early detect the presence of diseases in livestock and epidemiological surveillance is strongly dependent upon their contribution,

Compensation to livestock owners for direct losses incurred for the presence of animal diseases together with sanctions for violations is crucial,

General principles of epidemiological surveillance as well as those relating to specific animal diseases, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue and avian influenza, are described in the various appendices contained in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),

The Chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* relating to the quality of Veterinary Services spell out the importance of early detection of and rapid response to animal diseases including zoonoses, which are linked to the efficiency of the Veterinary Administration,

The ability of collecting data at field level with all the appropriate information based on animal identification and traceability, is essential to assure the effectiveness of epidemiological surveillance systems,

The efficiency and efficacy of an epidemiological surveillance system depends on the level of knowledge of all the participants,

A public-private partnership requires a good co-operation between private and public sectors,

Bluetongue virus can be given as an example of an emerging disease that appears to be currently spreading in the European region. The implementation of a surveillance system to monitor its spread and the efficacy of control measures appear necessary to facilitate trade,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of Member countries organise and manage countrywide epidemiological surveillance networks at national levels in a way that will allow the collection, collation and analyses of data generated at all possible levels taking into consideration the livestock sector including backyard flocks and wildlife.

2. The analysis of epidemiological data be performed by specifically trained personnel. Specialised national centres or units should be organised to function as focal and reference points to assure coherence of the network. The OIE collaborating centres and reference laboratories should take a leading role in ensuring training and expertise to Member Countries to achieve this objective.
 3. Veterinary Services implement epidemiological surveillance systems assuring early detection of, and rapid response to animal diseases including zoonoses. This system should be led by an efficient Central Veterinary Administration, involving networks of veterinary practitioners in all rural and urban areas as well as livestock owners. This is to be set up in compliance with OIE international standards on disease surveillance and quality of Veterinary Services.
 4. Training and refresher courses or continuing education be organised and made available to all stakeholders involved in the surveillance system.
 5. Adequate compensation be provided for livestock owners for the slaughter and destruction of animals carried out as part of disease control programmes. The compensation schemes should promote good preventative management practices including high biosecurity standards.
 6. Appropriate measures be adopted on the obligations for veterinarians and livestock owners to report and notify suspicion of disease, including sanctions to be applied in case of non compliance.
 7. The OIE promote the creation of surveillance networks for relevant diseases, for example bluetongue, based on its OIE Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and existing networks. If necessary, the network should involve other neighbouring regions.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 29 September 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and
prevention and repression tools**

CONSIDERING THAT

The illegal introduction (smuggling) of live animals is an on-going threat to animal health and international trade in all countries,

Smuggling of animal products and veterinary biologicals is an on-going threat to animal health, public health and consumer confidence in all countries,

Smuggling is considered to be an important issue by Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe,

Member Countries in the region with limited resources and funds consider that they would benefit from assistance from other countries, particularly in training, meetings and improved information flow,

Practical experiences from some Member Countries suggest that partnership between Veterinary Services and Customs Services in planning and application of risk management measures on the basis of risk assessment has been the key step in improving the use of limited enforcement resources,

All countries in the region consider that the OIE could contribute to deal with the issue of smuggling, including of companion animals, at the regional and international level,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries be encouraged to ensure political commitment and an effective legal base and co-ordination of activities among various government departments, other relevant agencies, industry, transport companies, private practitioners and potential 'end-users' to effectively deal with the issue of smuggling.
2. The OIE contribute at a regional level through encouraging increased communication, co-operation and sharing of intelligence through an arrangement between Member Countries. Details of such a mechanism could be further examined by pilot studies and possibly by the establishment of an OIE Ad hoc Group.
3. The OIE and Member Countries contribute at the international level to deal with the issue of smuggling by ensuring: intergovernmental collaboration, information campaigns, training, setting international standards and by producing an evaluation of economic incentives.

4. A review of the Chapter of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* relating to the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, in particular to bring out the link between Veterinary Services, Customs Services and Police Services be carried out. Updating of the OIE certificate models, using both new obligations on the security of supporting documentation, and on electronic communication between the competent authorities of importing and exporting countries should be envisaged. The possibility of a central data base should be investigated.
 5. The OIE examine whether the existing OIE notification systems could be modified to include notifications on intercepted and rejected large consignments by Member Countries.
 6. The OIE examine to what extent the existing international organisations (e.g. IATA or similar organisations) that deal with transport companies on a global level should be involved in the process
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 29 September 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

**18th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Florianopolis (Brazil), 28 November - 2 December 2006

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Animal Welfare in the Americas

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Compensation mechanisms for producers for economic losses
caused by the implementation of sanitary measures

Recommendation No. 1

Animal Welfare in the Americas

CONSIDERING THAT

The Member Countries of the Regional Commission of the OIE for the Americas (hereinafter referred to as Countries) attach importance to the issue of animal welfare,

Legislations on animal welfare exist in only some countries but they are not always based on OIE standards,

There are different animal production systems among the Countries,

Research on animal welfare has been conducted in areas such as production, transport and slaughter,

Few Countries have institutions that include in their curricula, undergraduate and graduate programmes on animal welfare and existing training programmes on animal welfare are generally restricted to the personnel of the Veterinary Services,

In the Region, there is little animal welfare educational material such as web-based courses, text books, pamphlets, etc.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION OF THE OIE FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries not currently having regulations or official guidelines on animal welfare take appropriate steps to develop these, and ensure that they be harmonised under the authority of the Veterinary Services with the established OIE standards and guidelines.
2. The OIE Regional Representation establish a list of regional experts on animal welfare giving priority to production systems, transport and slaughter.
3. Countries, supported by the Regional Representation, promote the exchange of experiences, joint research and cooperation on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare in areas such as intensive production, stray animals, transport, slaughter methods and the depopulation of animals for disease control, in veterinary schools as well as research institutions.
4. Animal welfare issues be promoted at all levels using available means including the training of the veterinary personnel and other stakeholders, such as animal handlers, producers, transporters and those involved with the slaughter of animals for human consumption and animal disease control.

5. Veterinary schools be encouraged to develop undergraduate and graduate courses on animal welfare to improve the knowledge of students and professionals on the subject. Such courses should include knowledge of the OIE standards.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Compensation mechanisms for producers for economic losses
caused by the implementation of sanitary measures**

CONSIDERING THAT

Producers are generally the first to detect animal diseases,

Producers play a significant role in assisting veterinary authorities in notifying animal diseases to the OIE in accordance with Member Countries' obligations,

Early detection of and rapid response to animal diseases are crucial in the control of epizootics the costs of which rise exponentially if detection and response are not timely,

Economic compensation to farmers who lose animals as part of disease control and eradication programmes is critical for the early detection and transparent reporting of and rapid response to animal diseases, economic recovery from epizootics and for enlisting collaboration of farmers in stamping out and other animal disease control measures,

Stamping out of infected and in-contact animals remains the method of choice to eradicate important animal diseases and zoonoses.

Several countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas have neither provision in their legislations to compensate farmers, nor actual compensation mechanisms in place,

The occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in countries of the region that do not have adequate compensation mechanisms for the destruction of affected and in contact poultry would have disastrous consequences to the human and animal populations in the whole region,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries that do not have appropriate legislation to timely compensate producers who lose their animals as part of animal disease control and eradication programmes, adopt such legislation as soon as possible.
2. Member Countries set up a specific national Fund to compensate producers involved in stamping out operations. Contributions for this Fund should be established through a mechanism involving public and private sources but may be supplemented by other national or international external resources.

3. The OIE undertake to study the possibility of establishing a World Fund, including the participation of private insurance companies, to assist developing countries in the provision of compensation in response to a sanitary crisis.
 4. The OIE Central Bureau and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas undertake representations to the Government authorities of Member Countries of the critical need to establish legal and funding frameworks for animal health compensation including implementation of educational and communication programmes to secure the trust and active participation of producers.
 5. Countries of the region that have the necessary experience and resources for compensating farmers provide technical and/or financial assistance to other countries in need of such assistance.
 6. Member Countries give priority to the creation of a special compensatory and economic recovery mechanism in case of occurrence of animal diseases including highly pathogenic avian influenza.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

**17th Conference
of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**
Asmara (Eritrea) 26 February – 1 March 2007

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa

CONSIDERING THAT

Animal diseases continue to be a serious impediment to social and economic progress in most countries in Africa and the situation is likely to worsen if timely appropriate steps are not taken,

There is a need for the establishment of an early detection and rapid response system that is capable of detecting disease outbreaks and containing them before they spread,

An effective epidemio-surveillance system provides information for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating animal health intervention programmes.

Implementation of epidemio-surveillance systems face many constraints and impediments in Africa,

The Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and Pan African Programme for Control of Epizootics (PACE), contributed significantly in laying foundations for effective epidemio-surveillance systems in a number of African countries which benefited largely from the two projects,

The OIE Fourth Strategic Plan (2006 – 2010) emphasises the importance of capacity building including an effective epidemio-surveillance system as an essential tool in disease control,

The data and evidence collected and analysed to draw any conclusions should be reliable enough for the results to be acceptable to both the managers of Monitoring and Surveillance System (MOSS) and the assessors,

Partnership between the public and private sector in permanent relation with Veterinary Statutory Bodies in conducting epidemio-surveillance is more than ever important because of the recent changes in the administrative structure in many developing countries,

The financial and logistical support provided by the regional (e.g AU-IBAR), international organisations (e.g FAO) and donors to African countries for strengthening the networks of their epidemiosurveillance system, upgrading their Veterinary Services and research institutes and improving their capacities is recognised and highly appreciated,

The risk of lack of coordination and harmonisation efforts among Member Countries in animal health with the phasing out of PACE (for Western, Central and Eastern Africa), partly due to inadequate communication from Member Countries,

The lack of coordination in some countries among all stakeholders including the public health services, information and communication sectors, private sector (*including industry*) and livestock owners,

Livestock owners are generally the first sentinels to detect animal diseases and that para-professionals represent key relay agents,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE continue to collaborate with other international and regional organisations to assist African countries in improving capacity building through training.
2. OIE request its Collaborating Centres in Epidemiology to provide training and other forms of technical assistance to Member Countries of the region;
3. Veterinary Services of Member Countries supported by the OIE Regional Commission, appeal to their governments to consider the necessity of supporting epidemiosurveillance system as a essential tool in disease control also capable of demonstrating significant returns on investment. Governments should consider the necessity of ensuring sustainable material and financial resources and of providing appropriate number of skilled personnel for this purpose.
4. Veterinary Services of Member Countries including Veterinary Statutory Bodies improve partnership with livestock owners and other stakeholders to conduct proper epidemiosurveillance. Special attention should be given to training notably to livestock owners in participatory epidemiology, to professionals or para-professionals and to private veterinarians who control their activities. Stakeholders dealing with wildlife should also be involved.
5. Veterinary Services of Member Countries develop ways and means and utilise the available technical knowledge to ensure compliance of epidemiosurveillance systems with OIE international guidelines and recommendations.
6. Compliance of Veterinary services with OIE standards on quality and evaluation using the PVS tool be regarded as an essential objective for efficient epidemio-surveillance systems.
7. Member Countries should focus on increasing regular coordination and harmonisation efforts among themselves (border harmonisation meetings at bilateral and regional level, development of internet connection) and should provide timely feed back on information requested by OIE. The Sub-Regional or regional solidarity among neighbouring countries could provide a solution to the temporary lack of expertise or material in some individual countries that decide to implement a national surveillance programme. The support of the FAO to Regional and Sub-regional networks will be useful in this context.
8. The Veterinary Services to undertake continuous coordination among all stakeholders including the human health services, information and communication services, wildlife services, the private sector and livestock owners.
9. Epidemiosurveillance networks and official diagnostic laboratories be strongly linked and supported by effective quality systems.
10. Regional organisations and donors take into account the necessity of extending epidemiosurveillance networks to the whole African continent while continuing to allocate the necessary resources for their development and sustainability.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of
veterinary medicinal products in Africa**

CONSIDERING

That the uncontrolled movement of veterinary medicinal products poses a major threat to animal and public health, and the environment,

That there is a proliferation of poor quality or counterfeit veterinary medicinal products in the African region,

The major economical implications linked to the quality and safety of veterinary medicinal products for the development of livestock production in Africa,

The importance of regional cooperation in the registration and quality control and usage of veterinary medicinal products, particularly in view of the limited capacities of certain individual countries,

The commitment of the Regional Economic Communities (REC), engaged in processes of economic integration and of pooling of resources,

The existence of international standards regulating the quality assurance, registration and usage of veterinary medicinal products,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION

1. Continue to upgrade their veterinary pharmaceutical legislation (with particular reference to registration and quality control), by drawing up specific texts on veterinary medicinal products and by encompassing it within a regional perspective.
2. Promote networking among laboratories and authorities responsible for the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products within a regional context.
3. Develop institutional, administrative and financial mechanisms for increasing the effectiveness of the process of quality control starting from good manufacturing practices to the sale and usage of those products under the supervision of the authority responsible for veterinary medicinal products.
4. Involve users including breeder associations and veterinarians as well as supplier laboratories recognised by regional bodies in the effort to help regulate the market for veterinary medicinal products.

B. THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

1. Embark on reforms with a view to regionally harmonise regulations on veterinary medicinal products in their respective area and enhance their cooperation in that field.
2. Request the OIE to organise with the support of AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and the regional economic communities concerned, a regional conference on veterinary medicinal products in Africa and their impact on animal and public health, and the environment.

C. THE OIE, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Support the REC in conducting feasibility studies in order to achieve a regional harmonisation of legislation in their respective areas.
2. Help the REC to initiate technical audits of laboratories responsible for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, in order to network the laboratories.
3. Increase the effectiveness of regional veterinary pharmaceutical regulations by providing technical and administrative support to the region and by encouraging the development of human resources
4. Develop guidelines and tools to enable OIE Member Countries to more successfully organise, manage and implement mechanisms for registration and quality assurance, and to effectively enforce their regulations.
5. Help the countries to reinforce their inspection service and quality control mechanism and to develop strategies to combat counterfeiting of veterinary medicinal products.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 75th General Session
in Paris, 21 May 2007**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

Draft Recommendations 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, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 108 Delegates and observers from 36 Member Countries of the Commission and 4 observer countries, and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Observer countries: France, People's Republic of China, Seychelles and the United Kingdom

International or regional organisations: FAO, World Bank, SADC⁴², ILRI⁴³, AU-IBAR, ECOWAS⁴⁴, EISMV⁴⁵, VAA⁴⁶, EAVA⁴⁷, WSPA⁴⁸, CIWF⁴⁹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

⁴² SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴³ ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute

⁴⁴ ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁴⁵ EISMV: Ecole inter-États des sciences et médecine vétérinaires (Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine, Senegal)

⁴⁶ VAA: Veterinary African Association

⁴⁷ EAVA: Euro-Arab Veterinary Association

⁴⁸ WSPA: World Society for Protection of Animals

⁴⁹ CIWF: Compassion in World Farming

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

The report was approved.

4. Recommendations of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Asmara, Eritrea, 26 February – 1 March 2007)

On behalf of the Regional Commission, the President thanked the Government of Eritrea for having hosted the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Asmara.

The Recommendations approved at the Conference were adopted.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included on the agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee (May 2009)

The Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Member Countries) to be included on the agenda of the 77th General Session:

Impact of climate change on animal health and production

6. Organisation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

On behalf of their Government, Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub, Delegate of Chad and the General Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, confirmed their country's invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in N'Djamena in February 2009 (dates to be determined). This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was selected for the 18th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

The impact of brucellosis on the economy and public health

7. Capacity building for the African national Veterinary Services: Recommendations of the Seminar for the OIE Delegates and Regional Organisations involved in animal health, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-16 November 2006

Dr Sidibé presented a report on this first seminar which took place in conjunction with a meeting to prepare the conference in Bamako on avian influenza. He read out the recommendations that had been adopted.

8. Outcome of the 4th International Conference on avian influenza, Bamako, Mali, 6-8 December 2006: Bamako Declaration

Dr Modibo Tiémoko Traoré, Director of AU-IBAR, reported on the main recommendations of the Conference and stressed the need for synergy between the OIE, the FAO and AU-IBAR in order to mobilise the resources needed to finance African countries' action plans.

9. Outcome of the special meeting of OIE Delegates for Africa held at the OIE Headquarters on 19 May 2007

The recommendations of the above meeting were read out by the Vice-President of the Commission, and were accepted by the Commission subject to amendments to be proposed by a designated group for finalisation.

10. Post-PACE programme

Dr René Bessin, Coordinator of the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) presented the final conclusions of the meeting in Asmara and recalled the main recommendations that had been issued. These concerned the strengthening and extension of epidemiological surveillance networks in Africa and the identification of potential sources of funding.

11. Update on activities of GF-TADs and ALive ⁵⁰

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of the Animal Health Service of the FAO, reported on the main activities being conducted in Africa, notably with regard to avian influenza, foot and mouth disease, Rift Valley fever and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. He then summarised the main activities of GF-TADs and Alive mentioning in particular the conclusions of the 2nd meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of GF-TADs and the 8th Executive Committee meeting of Alive held in Djibouti in March 2007. He finally gave a progress report on the setting up of regional animal health centres.

12. PVS evaluations update

Mr Stéphane Berlaud, Project Officer, OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

13. Other matters

• OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Animal Health Centres

Dr Sidibé spoke of the importance of these Centres and the role they can play in improving animal health in Africa. He mentioned the Centres in Bamako and Gaborone which are now operational, and the Centres due to be set up in the future.

• An update on Rift Valley fever

Dr Sidibé provided information on the meeting on Rift Valley fever and the effect of that disease on trade, due to be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 13 to 15 June 2007. The Delegates of Algeria and Mali stressed the importance of the disease for all the countries on the African continent. The Commission requested the OIE to facilitate the participation of Member Countries for that meeting, or to organise another meeting to include the nature of the disease itself in order to strengthen the conclusions of the conference.

• Conference on Rabies in Africa

The Commission expressed the wish that a conference on Rabies in Africa be organised . In case of a favourable response to this request, Mauritania would propose to host the conference.

⁵⁰ Alive: Platform for African Livestock

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Gideon Brückner, Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Brückner finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- **AU-IBAR**

Dr Traoré reported on the activities of his organisation. He spoke of the importance of improving the partnership between the different institutions and indicated the willingness of AU-IBAR to help strengthen these relations.

- **SADC**

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of the SADC, presented the activities of his institution. The Commission asked him to give fresh impetus to the programme on the conservation and preservation of genetic resources.

- **ECOWAS**

Dr Aubin Sawadogo, representative of ECOWAS, read out a statement from Mr Ousseini Salifou, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water, presenting the activities of his institution. He stated that the Agreement between the OIE and ECOWAS had been signed that same day.

- **Codex Alimentarius**

Dr Claude J.S. Mosha, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), presented the activities of his institution and invited the Chief Veterinary Officers of African countries to participate more in meetings of the CAC and that of the Regional Committee for Africa.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
4. Recommendations of the 17th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa held in Asmara, Eritrea, from 26 February to 1 March 2007
5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee (May 2009)
6. Organisation of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
7. Capacity building for the African national Veterinary Services: Recommendations of the Seminar for the OIE Delegates and Regional Organisations involved in animal health, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-16 November 2006
8. Outcome of the 4th International Conference on avian influenza, Bamako, Mali, 6-8 December 2006
9. Outcome of the special meeting of OIE Delegates for Africa, OIE Headquarters, 19 May 2007
10. Post-PACE programme
11. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs programmes
12. PVS evaluations update
13. Other matters:
 - OIE/FAO/IBAR Regional Centres for Animal Health
 - An update on Rift Valley fever
 - Conference of rabies in Africa
 - WAHIS – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: AU-IBAR, , SADC, ECOWAS, Codex Alimentarius Commission

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 Delegates and observers from 26 Member Countries of the Commission, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations.

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

International or regional organisations: IICA⁵¹, PAHO/PANAFTOSA⁵², ICFAW, IFAH, PANVET⁵³, AVMA⁵⁴, WVA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr José Angel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-President of the Commission, Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President-nominee of the Commission, and by Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the international and regional organisations. He presented special thanks to the OIE Scientific Commission for animal diseases for its mission to evaluate the foot and mouth disease situation in MERCOSUR countries particularly in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

1. Confirmation of the election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

After reviewing the decisions of the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis, Dr. Emerio Serrano, OIE Delegate of Cuba, was unanimously confirmed as new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

⁵¹ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁵² PAHO/PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization / Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

⁵³ PANVET: Pan- American Association of Veterinary Sciences

⁵⁴ American Veterinary Medical Association

3. Administrative Commission update

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Administrative Commission, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings. He explained that the Administrative Commission had reviewed the traditional agenda of the General Session and suggested changes to make it more flexible in order to give priority to matters of greatest interest to Member Countries.

As from 2009, the Scientific Commission would have six members, which made it necessary to start nominating candidates. The same would happen with the Aquatic Animals Commission and the Laboratories Commission. Dr Messuti suggested that two members of the Americas form part of each of these Commissions.

He pointed out that more comments were needed from Member Countries on the proposed changes to the Code.

He also emphasised the need for Delegates of the Americas to nominate candidates to receive OIE honorary awards.

In September, the Administrative Commission will review the OIE Basic Texts to reflect the modernisation of the Organisation. He asked for the views of Member Countries on that matter.

Discussions are also under way in the Administrative Commission on other diseases for which Member Countries believe that the OIE should “certify health status”.

Dr Messuti also discussed some aspects of the OIE’s World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

He commented on a new draft Resolution on the status of the People’s Republic of China in the OIE. That draft would be discussed on Friday during the Administrative Session.

The Delegate of Paraguay asked that Specialist Commission documents in Spanish be sent immediately to give more time to countries to make comments and proposals for changes to the Code.

Paraguay also underlined the problems which some developing countries were experiencing with the high costs involved when applying for recognition of disease free status (7,000 euros).

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Code Commission, explained that the Commission’s reports are sent first in English and published on the web. He recalled that Dr Luis Barcos had previously proposed to make an “unofficial” regional translation which countries in the Region could use as a working tool.

Dr Barcos would provide an unofficial regional translation service as part of the Regional Representation’s Action Plan, as well as a mechanism via the Regional Representation’s web page to encourage Member Countries to make comments and proposals on the Code. Some sort of financial support mechanism by Spanish-speaking countries would be examined.

Dr Gastón Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, who is coordinating the OIE Spanish Language Steering Committee, explained that there were two main constraints on the rapid translation of all scientific reports issued by the OIE, namely the budget and the scientific validity of the translation. He said that the OIE will give priority to a project to create a multilingual terminology base, starting with a translation into Spanish. The terminology base would be implemented through an Agreement between the OIE and Spain and in collaboration with other Latin American countries.

4. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

Dr Brian Evans (Canada), member of the OIE Administrative Commission, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

5. Preparation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008

Dr Eimerio Serrano confirmed his country's invitation to host the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission in Havana, Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details.

6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation and also presented the plan of activities for 2008.

He discussed the establishment of the new Sub-Regional Office in Panama, together with the annual budget of both the Regional Office in Buenos Aires and the Sub-regional Office in Panama. He also announced that a veterinarian provided by Canada would assist the Regional Office for a two-year period, as from June 2007.

He emphasised the close coordination which the Regional Office maintains with the Executive Board of the Regional Commission for the Americas.

Amongst other activities, he also highlighted the efforts to train new Delegates and the senior staff. He mentioned the cost/benefit study of Veterinary Services, conducted in line with the OIE Central Bureau's plan for Veterinary Services to have instruments to enable them to request the necessary financial support from their national governments.

Dr Barcos indicated that the Regional Representation was establishing a list of regional experts in the various fields, and asked for the cooperation of Member Countries to nominate candidates.

The representative of Chile suggested that the Work Plan include cooperation with associations of private veterinary professionals and the standardisation of an accreditation system..

Dr Barcos reported on a meeting held recently with the President of PANVET in which joint activities were planned.

The Delegate of the Dominican Republic pointed out that it was important not to neglect diseases historically endemic to the Region such as tuberculosis and brucellosis that posed a risk to human health. The Delegate of Argentina affirmed and supported the Dominican Republic's remarks and underlined the need to maintain activities on those diseases.

Jamaica emphasised the importance of not only the establishment of international standards by the OIE but also of the training to veterinarians in the Americas on suitable mechanisms and programmes for the practical implementation of those standards in the field.

Dr Peter McKenzie from Canada announced a meeting to be held in Vancouver in June 2007 on aquatic animal health in the Americas, as part of Regional Representation activities.

7. Website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Dr Barcos presented the contents of the new website:

- The interinstitutional agenda of the different organisations. Commenting on this aspect, Dr Barcos said that the various regional organisations needed to work together to prevent duplication. He added that the GF-TADs programme provided the most appropriate forum of coordination and that all organisations in the Region should play an active part to avoid duplication and overlaps.
- The publication of Member Countries' self-declarations of freedom from different diseases.

8. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)

The Recommendations approved at the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis were presented.

Dr Jamil Gomes da Souza stressed the need to harmonise animal welfare actions in line with OIE standards.

He also discussed the importance of the issue of compensation mechanisms at national level and, wherever possible, at regional level.

The recommendations were approved.

9. Animal welfare: outcome of the seminar held in Montevideo

Dr Carlos Correa Mesutti presented a report on the animal welfare seminar held in Montevideo, with European Union and OIE support, which discussed Latin America's perspective on animal welfare in relation to production systems in the Region. More than 350 people attended the seminar.

10 Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2009

Dr Barcos reported on the new mechanism adopted for selecting the technical items of General Sessions.

Dr Jamil Gomes da Souza submitted for consideration the items put forward by the Executive Board of the Regional Commission for the Americas.

Following discussions and suggestions, the Commission proposed the technical item "Compensation Mechanisms".

11 Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 19th OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Biotechnology and its application to Veterinary Science

12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region

Dr Cristina Ramirez from the OIE Animal Health Information Department presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Ramirez finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

The Delegate of Ecuador praised the OIE's WAHIS system and commended the support being given by Dr. Ramírez to countries in the Region

The Representative of the Dominican Republic requested that the next WAHIS workshop be conducted in Spanish to enable better comprehension by Member Countries of the Region.

13. PVS evaluations update

Dr Gastón Funes, Deputy Head of the OIE Regional Activities, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried out and the experience gathered so far in the region.

14. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• PAHO-PANAFTOSA

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives and structure, its principal actions and the mechanisms used, and the alliances and partnerships with international, regional and sub-regional organisations.

Dr Belloto highlighted the Brazilian Government's support to PANAFTOSA.

Dr Belloto also reported that the main priority work areas of PANAFTOSA were foot and mouth disease, zoonoses and food safety. He briefly discussed the rabies and foot and mouth disease situation in the Americas.

• IICA

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA's new Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities which IICA is carrying out in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level and highlighted the training activities.

He emphasised IICA's activities to build the capacity of national Veterinary Services. He stated that IICA's current objective on the application of the PVS was to monitor and support any capacity-building programmes that may arise as a result of OIE evaluations.

15. Other issues

- **OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories**

Dr Serrano reported that Cuba would nominate its Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología (Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Centre of Cuba) for approval as an OIE Collaborating Centre.

Dr Barcos explained the procedure for the approval of OIE Collaborating Centres and of OIE Reference Laboratories.

Cuba's proposal was submitted for consideration and approved by the Commission.

Argentina informed that the official laboratory of SENASA (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria) has been proposed for acceptance as an OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease. Paraguay and Peru supported the proposal.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Administrative Commission update
4. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
5. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008
6. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas (activities and work programme)
7. Website of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
8. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas held in Florianopolis, Brazil, from 28 November to 2 December 2006
9. Animal welfare: outcome of the seminar held in Montevideo
10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
11. Technical item proposed by the Commission for inclusion in the Agenda of the 19th OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Cuba from 18 to 22 November 2008
12. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
13. PVS evaluations update
14. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: PAHO-PANAFTOSA, IICA.
15. Other issues:
 - OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 62 participants including Delegates and observers from 22 countries member of the Commission and 4 observer countries/territoires, and representatives from 3 international or regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam

Observer countries or territories: Canada, France, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) and People's Republic of China

International or regional organisations: FAO, WHO, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Taipei China), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka), Secretary General of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The President of the Regional Commission presented his report on the activities of the Commission. The report which was distributed to participants, highlighted the importance of the Asia Pacific and Economic community (APEC⁵⁵) which is showing increasing interest in animal and public health matters. Dr Murray also asked Delegates to provide advice to the Regional Commission Bureau on how its activities could be improved and enhanced. His report was accepted.

4. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, made a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation as well as its work programme for the year 2007-2008.

The issue of animal welfare was raised and Dr Fujita replied that the OIE Representation would welcome advice from Delegates. The President added that an OIE-Australia Workshop on the subject would be organised by the end of the year.

The President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Japan for supporting the regional activities.

5. Activities of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Unit in Bangkok, Thailand

In the absence of Dr Shiro. Yoshimura, the Senior Deputy Regional Representative, Dr Fujita gave a summary of the activities of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Unit in Bangkok, Thailand mentioning the activities carried out under each of the four components of the Programme namely, Regional and national control strategies, early warning systems, strengthening of diagnostic capabilities and training of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. He also announced that the project period has been extended by one year until March 2008.

The report was accepted and the President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Thailand for hosting the Unit in Bangkok.

6. Report on the activities of the Regional Coordination Unit of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2006-2007

Dr Ronello C. Abila, Coordinator of the SEAFMD Campaign, reported on the foot and mouth disease (FMD) control programme including the 2020 Document on FMD control. He highlighted the efforts being made in the progressive zoning approach and the engagement with other international donor bodies for better complementarity of approaches. He also underlined the increasing importance of industry and the involvement of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the programme.

The Chairman noted the extensive interest in the SEAFMD programme and the possible adoption of the SEAFMD model which is applicable to other transboundary animal diseases, in other parts of the world. He concluded by pointing out that further funding would be necessary for 2008 and efforts will be made to approach donor bodies to support the activities of the Regional Coordination Unit. He added that a key purpose of the 2020 document could be used to attract funding and also to engage more with countries such as India, Bangladesh and PR China.

⁵⁵ APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

7. 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007

Dr Murray presented the outcome of the 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting as well as those adopted during a special meeting on HPAI which followed immediately after.

8. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2009

The Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Member Countries) for the 77th General Session:

Risk of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases as a result of climatic and environmental changes

9. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in 2007

Dr Derek Belton, member of the New Zealand delegation, made a DVD presentation on Queenstown, New Zealand where the 25th Regional Commission Conference will be held from 26 to 30 November 2007. The conference will be preceded by a special meeting on HPAI organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. He reported on the arrangements being made for the Conference. Further information could be obtained from the OIE Web site with which a special link has been established, or directly from the Organising Committee in New Zealand.

The following technical items were adopted for the 25th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- With a questionnaire: Emerging and re-emerging diseases in the region with special emphasis on porcine epidemic diarrhoea. (to be presented by a scientist from the Philippines)
- Without questionnaire: Animal Production Food Safety in Asia (to be presented by a scientist from Thailand).

10. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

Ms Chaweewan Leowijuk, OIE Delegate of Thailand, was unanimously elected as the new Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Hirofumi Kugita (Japan).

11. PVS evaluations update

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

12. Other matters

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Antonio Petrini, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Petrini finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

- **GF-TADS update**

Dr Fujita presented the activities of the GF-TADS Programme in the region and announced that the second Regional Steering Committee for Asia would be held in Bangkok on 18 and 19 July 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand stressing particularly on the importance of that second regional meeting.

- **An update on HPAI in the Republic of Korea**

Dr Y. Seok Joo, a member of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, provided an update on HPAI outbreaks in his country. He indicated that the source of the infection for domestic poultry in 2006 has been traced back to wild birds. He also pointed out that pigs have been tested in 90 farms for avian influenza virus with negative results.

- **A statement of the Delegate of Fiji**

The Delegate of Fiji that has just joined the OIE as a Member Country provided information about the animal health activities in Fiji and requested technical assistance from the OIE in a number of areas.

- **A Statement of the Delegate of Taipei China**

The Delegate of Taipei China made a statement outlining the role of his country in OIE activities and expressed the wish that the Resolution that would be proposed to the International Committee in the course of the week would not affect the dignity and sovereignty of his country.

13. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of the Animal Health Services of the FAO, presented the activities of FAO with a focus on HPAI. He indicated that the situation has considerably improved compared to what was observed 2-3 years ago. The early detection and response system has improved and the number of outbreaks has diminished. However, he pointed out that the virus was still circulating in the region and may still infect countries that are currently free from the disease. He expressed concern on the situation in Indonesia and Bangladesh where there are numerous foci of infection. He assured that the FAO, OIE and other partners will continue their assistance to those countries.

Dr Domenech mentioned that in addition to the activities related to avian influenza, the FAO was also involved in the control of FMD, classical swine fever, conservation of animal biodiversity and the interactions between livestock and the environment.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Mr Ken Cokanasiga, Representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), updated the meeting on the key programmes underway in the SPC. The meeting noted the complexity of animal health management given the geographical distribution of countries in the region.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
4. Report of the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
5. Activities of the HPAI Unit in Bangkok, Thailand
6. Report on the Regional Coordination Unit of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) in 2006-2007
7. 13th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and meeting on HPAI held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 12 to 16 March 2007
8. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to Member Countries, to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
9. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in 2007: date, venue and technical items (one with a questionnaire and one without a questionnaire)
10. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
11. PVS evaluations update
12. Other matters
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - GF-TADs update
 - An update on HPAI in the Republic of Korea
 - A statement of the Delegate of Fiji
 - A statement of the Delegate of Taipei China
13. Presentations of International or Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 133 Delegates and observers from 43 countries member of the Commission, 2 observer countries, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations:

Member Countries of the Commission: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

Observer countries: People's Republic of China, Mongolia

International or regional organisations: EU, FAO-EUFMD⁵⁶, EC, FEI, FESASS⁵⁷, FVE⁵⁸, IDF IFAH

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland) and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations including the World Bank and the European Commission.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously accepted and the annexes related to the agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

⁵⁶ EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

⁵⁷ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

⁵⁸ FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

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

Dr Patrick. J. Rogan, Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2006. The emphasis was on the significant number of meetings and seminars held in several Member Countries and in which government ministers and elected parliamentarians participated.

Specific thanks and appreciation were conveyed to the Delegate of France for the excellent organisation and wonderful hospitality of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe.

The Meeting accepted the report.

4. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Lyon, France, 25-29 September 2006)

The Recommendations approved at the 22nd Conference in Lyon were presented and adopted.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2009

The following technical item was selected: “Emerging vectoral disease risk, including the impact of climate change and consideration of prevention strategies”.

6. Date, venue and first technical item of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in 2008

On behalf of the Government of Lithuania, Dr Lukauskas confirmed his country’s invitation to host the next Conference of the Commission in Vilnius, in September 2008. This was unanimously approved by the participants.

The following first technical item (with a questionnaire to Member Countries) was confirmed for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

Practical application of OIE standards and guidelines on compartmentalisation

7. Inauguration of the OIE office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a web site for the Regional Representation

Dr Caroline Planté, Project Officer, presented the objectives and activities of the OIE Office in Brussels, Belgium, has been recently created to work in very close partnership with the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe.

The development of the website is intended as an important information source for Member Countries. The recruitment of a Ukrainian veterinarian will facilitate the use of both English and Russian in the Web site.

8. PVS evaluations update

Ms Catherine Hayet from the OIE Regional Activities Department presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. She also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

Dr Véronique Bellemain, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre on training of official veterinarians, spoke on the field experience of evaluators which helped to contribute to a better understanding of the issues faced by individual Member Countries participating in the PVS programme.

The Delegate of Ukraine stressed that the aim of the evaluation should be to help countries and insisted that evaluators having a good knowledge of the local language in use in the countries being evaluated.

Discussions followed on the criteria used for the selection, training and choice of experts and evaluators. These are generally people with significant experience in veterinary administration.

The President pointed out that PVS was important for Eastern European countries to achieve OIE standards. It is therefore important as part of the process to know which countries are progressing. In this context it is necessary to persuade Governments that National Veterinary Services must be autonomous and free from political pressures.

9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• European Commission

Ms Paola Testori Coggi, Acting Deputy Director General, Directorate General of Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), European Commission, made a presentation of the activities of the Commission outlining particularly those related to animal welfare, food safety, the extension of FMD control programme to the East and rabies control.

10. Other matters

• Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: ‘Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia’, OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007

Dr Christianne Bruschke, Project Officer, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, spoke about the rabies conference taking place at the OIE Headquarters, from 27 to 30 May 2007, emphasising that rabies is still a very important disease. She stressed the necessity of following up on the conclusions of the meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, and increased cooperation between veterinarians and medical personnel.

• World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region

Ms Sarah Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Kahn emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE and pointed out that the ‘bugs’ currently existing in the system would soon be eliminated.

- **The emergence of bluetongue in northern Europe**

Dr Vincenzo Caporale, Director of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare, presented an update on the bluetongue situation in northern Europe. He reported that a species of *Culicoides* never reported before appears to be the main vector involved in the transmission of the disease and that the only significant change that needs to be made to the Code concerns the northern limit of the disease: 53°N latitude.

- **GF-TADs**

A proposal that Dr Bernard van Goethem of DG SANCO, European Commission, be nominated chairman of the Regional GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe was unanimously accepted. The President also congratulated Dr van Goethem on his recent promotion.

The President stated that he had invited the Delegate of Kazakhstan to speak at the meeting to alert neighbouring countries on the FMD situation in his country.

The Delegate of Kazakhstan spoke on the recurrence of FMD in his country and also made reference to a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in 2005. Regarding FMD, the Delegate of Kazakhstan confirmed that the laboratory work carried out in both the Russian Federation and the World Reference Laboratory in the United Kingdom had identified the serotype as Pan-Asian isolate, type O.

The reoccurrence of the disease had resulted in the implementation of new legal measures for the control and eradication of FMD, including a new compensation regime for farmers and a new vaccination programme. The Delegate of Kazakhstan acknowledged that there was a need in his country for increased resources, particularly for the control of FMD. In conclusion, the Delegate emphasised that it was essential to take very stringent measures to deal with the disease and that there was a need for a standardisation of the control measures adopted by neighbouring countries to prevent further spread. Finally he thanked the OIE for the assistance provided and also other countries which have contributed to the control activities.

Dr Nikolai Vlasov, a member of the delegation of Russia, gave a brief account of the FMD control measures introduced in Russia to combat the outbreaks of disease in Kazakhstan in 2007. He also mentioned that in some countries transboundary animal diseases were not accorded the same importance as was evident in the approach adopted by Kazakhstan. He also emphasised the need to seek early assistance and indicated that Russia had dispatched a number of teams of experts to assist in the implementation of vaccination programmes and other control measures.

The Delegate of the Netherlands, in his role as the Chairman of the EUFMD Commission, sought information on whether there would be a follow-up to the assistance already provided to Kazakhstan and if any request for such assistance had been received.

Dr Keith Sumption, of the EUFMD Commission, spoke on the very good reporting of FMD by the authorities of Kazakhstan. He went on to emphasise the importance of this pan-Asian isolate throughout the Middle East and the fact that as the disease had occurred in Kazakhstan it was evident that it was on the move. While vaccine has an important role to play in the control of disease it must be very carefully used and there are particular biosecurity measures that must be implemented.

The Delegate of Israel spoke on the need for both the OIE and the European Union to be involved in the provision of further assistance in the disease control programmes. He also spoke about the necessity for proper and early reporting of outbreaks of disease and also the role played by trade in live animals in the dissemination of the disease.

The meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe
4. Recommendations of the 22nd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Lyon, France, from 25 to 29 September 2006
5. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to Member Countries, to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
6. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, to be held in 2008
7. Inauguration of the OIE Office in Brussels, Belgium, and of a website for the Regional Representation
8. PVS evaluations update
9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: European Commission
10. Other matters:
 - ‘Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia’, Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference, 27-30 May 2007
 - World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - The emergence of bluetongue in northern Europe
 - GF-TADs

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 21 May 2007 at the Palais Brongniart, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 34 Delegates and observers from 14 countries member of the Commission and 3 observer countries and 2 international organisations.

Member countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observer countries: People's Republic of China, France and the National Palestine Authority

International/Regional Organisations: FAO, CIRAD⁵⁹

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman A. Nabi Ebrahim (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait), Vice-President.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international and regional organisations.

The meeting was preceded by a short ceremony during which Dr Bernard Vallat Director General of the OIE and Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO signed the official Agreement on the creation of the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) for the Middle East, which will be based in Beirut, Lebanon. The Agreement was already signed by the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon.

Dr Vallat stressed the importance of the Centre with regard to the management and control of infectious animal diseases.

Dr Domenech also spoke on the importance of the Centre and announced that Dr Hassan Aidaros (Egypt) has already been recruited as Coordinator and the latter would assume duty on 01 June 2007.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, summarised the objectives of the centre highlighting the priority areas in which the Centre would be more involved.

Dr Aidaros added that the main activity of the RAHC would be to provide assistance to countries particularly on the management of avian influenza crises.

⁵⁹ CIRAD: Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda given in the Appendix was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items circulated.

2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries

The President of the Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Member Countries to promptly settle their arrears if any.

3. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (activities and work programme)

Dr Ghazi Yehia presented the activities and the proposed programme of work for the period 2007-2008.

Dr Yehia mentioned that some important documents such as the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* were already translated into Arabic and that translation of other major documents is under way. All documents are published on line on the website of the Regional Representation.

The regional website now has a special heading on avian influenza reserved for Member Countries.

Dr Yehia mentioned the projects for 2007-2008 and highlighted the necessity for countries in the region to be declared free from rinderpest in accordance with the OIE Pathway.

The Delegate of Jordan suggested that activities related to sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization be organised in the region.

The report and the work plan of the Representation were adopted.

4. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Impact of communication in diseases management

5. Organisation of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007

The Delegate of Syria confirmed that his country is willing to host the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Damascus from 29 October to 01 November 2007.

The technical items will be:

- The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services.
- The Geographic Information System (GIS) used for animal disease control.

6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission

Dr Bashir Taha, OIE Delegate of Sudan was elected Vice-President of the Regional Commission in replacement of Dr Mustapha Hassan(Sudan).

7. PVS evaluations update

Dr Dewan Sibartie, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, presented the aims and objectives of the PVS tool developed by the OIE in collaboration with the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the evaluation of Veterinary Services of developing and in transition countries. He also provided an update on the evaluations carried and the experience gathered so far in the region.

8. Other matters

- **OIE/MZCP⁶⁰/Greece Educational Centre for Veterinarians on Food Safety**

The OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East will host a coordination unit for the WHO/MZCP Regional Educational Centre for training physicians and veterinarians on food safety and zoonoses issues. This educational centre will be supported by Greece. Additional facilities have already been offered by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon in the same premises to promote those activities.

Dr Yehia pointed out that joints workshops are organised on a regular basis in collaboration with MZCP, the last one concerning the Crimean Congo Fever having taken place in Istanbul, Turkey, in November 2006.

- **Rift Valley fever (workshop in Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 June 2007)**

Considering the present situation of Rift Valley fever (RVF) in the Horn of Africa, OIE will organise a specific workshop on this issue in collaboration with FAO. The objectives of this workshop will be to present an update of the disease, to make recommendations in terms of animal trade for Middle Eastern countries, notably of animal quarantine stations and to establish a climate model to predict potential RVF virus activity.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, mentioned that the Early Warning System is in place. The problem is more on the best use of such system and the rapid notification of events.

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region**

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the stage of its implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (6 monthly and annual reports) for 2005 and 2006 were also presented. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

- **GF-TADs update**

Dr Yehia mentioned that one of the major recommendations made during the 3rd Roundtable Meeting on FMD control in the Middle East and North Africa, held in Damascus, Syria, on 6 and 7 November 2006 is to implement a regional project within the OIE/FAO global framework of the progressive control of transboundary animal disease programme (GF-TADs) that would be coordinated by the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) to provide expertise and assistance in major animal disease emergencies.

A draft project was distributed to participants for review and comments. The project will be presented for adoption during the 4th FMD Round Table, which will be held in Amman, Jordan from 3 to 5 September 2007.

⁶⁰ MZCP: Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme

The Delegate of Syria expressed the wish that a special meeting on the FMD situation in the region be organised as soon as possible. Dr Yehia replied that the next Round Table will provide an opportunity to discuss the matter and propose implementation of a regional project. European Union (EU) could be a potential donor for this project in accordance with its strategy.

- **Update on Twinning arrangements for laboratories**

Dr Yehia described the possibility for laboratories from the region to request for twinning assistance with OIE Reference Laboratories.

9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- **Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)**

The Commission welcomed the signing of this Memorandum during the GF-TADs meeting in Beirut in April 2006, which will reinforce regional activities, particularly the projects on FMD, Brucellosis and RVF.

The meeting ended at 16:30 p.m

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 21 May 2007

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Outstanding contributions of Member Countries
3. Report of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (activities and work programme)
4. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 77th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2009
5. Organisation of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East to be held in Damascus, Syria, to be held in 2007
6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission
7. PVS evaluations update
8. Other matters:
 - OIE/MZCP/Greece Educational Centre for Veterinarians on Food Safety
 - Rift Valley fever (workshop in Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 June 2007)
 - WAHIS – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - GF-TADs update
 - Update on Twinning arrangements for laboratories
9. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)



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