

Special Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Paris, France, 26 July 2007

Recommendation on foot and mouth disease

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks caused by serotype “O”, strain “new Pan-Asia” have occurred for the first time in several regions in Kazakhstan and the disease caused by that serotype is likely to spread in the region if appropriate steps are not taken,
2. As it is a problem of regional dimension there is a need for neighbouring countries to develop and implement appropriate surveillance and early warning programmes for an early detection of and rapid response against the disease. This can only be accomplished through sound of Veterinary Services and governance,
3. FMD has a significant impact on the regional trade of animals and animal products,
4. There is an urgent need for updated contingency plans and resources including appropriate strategic stock of vaccines to be mobilised in Kazakhstan and other countries at risk in the region,

The Special Meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe Recommends that:

1. The OIE with the support of its Reference Laboratories on FMD, the European Commission (EC), and the European Commission for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD) provide continuous assistance to Kazakhstan to carry out further investigations to identify possible routes of entry of that FMD serotype in that country, and to propose an appropriate vaccination strategy and other measures to control and eradicate the disease.
2. The EC, Russian Federation and other potential donors consider funding an emergency programme to provide a strategic stock of appropriate FMD vaccines to be used in Kazakhstan and at the borders of neighbouring countries as a preventive measure against further outbreaks.
3. The OIE continue its efforts in European countries to promote good governance of VS, through the application of the PVS tool in order to pave the way for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services to enable these countries to effectively develop early detection and rapid response mechanisms.

4. All countries in the region intensify their surveillance programmes for FMD in accordance with the guidelines contained in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
5. Governments of European countries at the highest political level be made fully aware of the necessity and importance of reinforcements of the Veterinary Services and be urged to provide appropriate resources to their Veterinary Services particularly to effect efficient veterinary border controls and also to build mechanisms to provide assistance to farmers including appropriate compensations for stamping out and farm rehabilitation.
6. OIE Member Countries ensure compliance with their obligations on animal disease reporting by promptly reporting all outbreaks of FMD and changes of their epidemiological situation, including new strains to the OIE and EUFMD for incorporation into the OIE World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID).
7. Establish periodical coordination meetings under the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee to review the vaccination programme and other control measures in the area.
8. A contingency regional plan for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases would be prepared by the Eastern European countries under the guidance of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee.