Resolutions
adopted by the XXXIVth General Conference
of the Committee of the Office International
des Epizooties
Paris, 23-28 May 1966

I
ZOO-SANITARY NORMALISATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

The O.I.E. Committee considers that the 3 volumes which form the Draft International Zoo-sanitary Regulation presented by the Direction of the O.I.E. on Point I of the Agenda of the XXXIVth General Conference constitute an excellent basis for the harmonisation of the zoo-sanitary regulations for the international movement of animals and products of animal origin.

Taking into consideration the opinion already expressed on that subject by the IIIrd Conference of the Permanent Commission of the O.I.E. for Europe held at Warsaw on 7-11 September 1965, the O.I.E. Committee accepts in particular the principle of the establishment of international zoo-sanitary certificates, draft models of which have been presented by the Permanent Commission of the O.I.E. for the Study of Zoo-sanitary Regulations on the Importation and Exportation of animals and animal products.

The Committee, however, considers that it is necessary to make some amendments to the text of this Draft International Zoo-sanitary Regulation, in order to take into account observations which have already been expressed and those which could be made by Permanent Delegates of the Member-Countries of the O.I.E. before the 31st December 1966.

Taking into account these observations, the text so amended will be presented for discussion at the XXXVth General Conference, in May 1967, and will then be sent for examination and comments to the Member-Countries of the O.I.E. and to the interested International Organizations.
The final text of the International Zoo-sanitary Regulation will be considered as a reference document to which the responsible Authorities of the interested countries may refer.

II

GENERAL STUDY:

a) ON THE PRINCIPLES ACCORDING TO WHICH VETERINARY SERVICES COULD BE ORGANISED FOR THE EFFICIENT CONTROL OF EPIZOOTICS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE;

b) ON THE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF EPIZOOTICS FROM NEW OUTBREAKS AND TO ERADICATE THOSE OUTBREAKS;

c) ON THE EVALUATION OF LOSSES CAUSED BY EPIZOOTICS AND THE VARIOUS WAYS OF GIVING COMPENSATION DURING THE CAMPAIGNS OF PROPHYLAXIS IN THE FIELD.

The Committee of the O.I.E., having studied the interesting Reports presented on this point, considers as very important, with a view to reduce to a minimum the losses caused to the economy of O.I.E. Member-Countries by animal diseases:

a) that Governments, in order to strengthen the control of epizootic diseases, should provide adequate financial means to facilitate the functioning of Veterinary Services in so far as the permanent protection of animal health is concerned;

b) that Governments should provide to their Veterinary Services the necessary support for the enforcement of sanitary legislation, including quarantine measures, the education and training of veterinary personnel for Veterinary Services and the Research work in the laboratory and in the field;

c) that Governments should give consideration to the provision of financial compensation to owners of animals which are destroyed for the purpose of controlling or eradicating important diseases.

The Director of the O.I.E. is requested to send these Recommendations to Government Authorities of Member-Countries of the O.I.E., through the Permanent Delegates, and to International Organisations, directing their kind attention to their great zoo-sanitary, zoo-economic and public health importance.
The O.I.E. Committee recommends that:

a) the epizootiological aspects of Bluetongue as described by P. G. Howell in his paper presented at this Meeting, should be taken into consideration in the application of zoo-sanitary measures concerning importations and exportations of ruminants and their products;

b) the animals to be considered as possible carriers of the virus from infected countries are sheep, goats, cattle, zebus, buffaloes and wild ruminants.

Further, it is emphasised:

c) that animal products such as meat, skins, hides, fur, wool, hair, hooves, horns and bones do not serve as a source of transmission of the virus;

d) that preserved blood and serum, as well as semen, may serve as carriers of the virus;

e) that the insect vector Culicoides (spp.) could act as a means of transmitting the disease, especially by air transport.

It follows from the different reports presented that the various pathogenic agents which are able to cause infections at the site of the mucosal surfaces in cattle show considerable variations in their dissemination and virulence.

Because of the variation of the importance of the pathogenic agents in the different geographical regions, it is necessary to carry out further research, especially on epizootiology and diagnosis.

The use of the plural in the term "mucosal diseases" must be avoided, as the expression includes a significant number of
infections with different etiology and also because the term may be confused with that indicating a disease entity known now as Mucosal Disease.

Research work on Mucosal Disease is of special importance because of a certain similarity between this disease and Rinderpest.

Although the causal virus is widespread, the number of outbreaks of Mucosal Disease reported are few. Because of this the question whether eradication is possible by measures confined to sporadic outbreaks remains open. Certain prophylactic measures (isolation, vaccination or injection of serum) should be studied.