CONTENTS

List of abbreviations x
Introduction 3  1 - 8

Sunday 23 May 2010
Opening Session 3  9 - 12
Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards 4  13 - 16

Monday 24 May 2010
FIRST PLENARY SESSION 5  17
• Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable 5  18 - 19
• Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 79th and 80th General Sessions 5  20
• Nomination of the Credentials Committee 5  21 - 22
• Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2009 5  23 - 40
• Composition of Working Groups 7  41 - 42
• Planned Working Programme for 2011 7  43 - 45

TECHNICAL ITEM: The Private Sector’s point of view on the use of public and private standards 8  46 - 47
Discussion on Technical Item 8  48 - 64

Tuesday 25 May 2010
FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
• Election of the Director General 12  65 - 75

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE 14  76 - 77
WTO 14  78 - 86
World Bank 15  87 - 99
FAO 18  100 - 105
WHO 19  106 - 113
Codex Alimentarius Commission 20  114 - 119
WVA 21  120 - 128
WSPA 22  129 - 133
FEI 22  134 - 144
IEC 24  145 - 151
Economic aspects of the Veterinary Services
Mandate and Activities 24 152 - 177

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

- Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases 28 178 - 206
  Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
  Name of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia
  Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD) 39 207 - 210
  Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
  Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members 39 211 - 219
  Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
  Recognition of the Rinderpest Disease Status of Members 40 220
  Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
  Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
  Disease Status of Members 40 221
  Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
  Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk
  Status of Members 40 222 - 224

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases 40 225 - 255

WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2010

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Intervention by the Delegate of Haiti 49 256

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
  - Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety 49 257 - 273
    Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19
    Animal Production Food Safety 53 274
    Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
    Animal Welfare 56 292

- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd) 56 293 - 315

78 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2010
FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission 72 316 - 358

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Adoption of two draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals 82 359 - 360

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

- Biological Standards Commission 83 361 - 386

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals 90 387

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest 90 388 - 390

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd) 90 391 - 405


Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code 123 453

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 124 454 - 455

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare (Technical Item) 124 456
SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions

- Regional Commission for Africa 124 457 - 458
- Regional Commission for the Americas 125 459 - 460
- Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania 125 461 - 463
- Regional Commission for Europe 125 464 - 465
- Regional Commission for the Middle East 125 466 - 468

Dates of the 79th General Session (May 2011) 125 469

Technical Items for the 79th General Session (May 2011) 125 470

Technical Items for the 80th General Session (May 2012) 126 471 - 472

Distribution of animal health status certificates 126 473 – 474

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

- Reports of the Auditors and the External Auditor and adoption of the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 3 128 490 - 492
- Acknowledgements to the Governments of Members and Intergovernmental Organisations that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 4 128 493 - 496
- Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 8 129 497 - 498
- 2010 Budget and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 5 129 499 - 501
- Proposed 2011 Contributions Scale and 2011 Budget Estimates and Adoption of Draft Resolutions Nos 6 and 7 130 502 - 507
- Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2011 130 508 - 509
THIRD ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

- Activities of the Council 131 515 - 517
- Revision of the Basic Texts 131 518 - 526
- Adoption of the Fifth Strategic Plan and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 11 132 527 - 541
- Election of a President and a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Africa 133 542
- Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas 133 543
- Election of a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East 133 544
- International support for Haiti 134 545 - 546

EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

- Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report 134 547 - 549
- Closing Ceremony 134 550 - 551

RESOLUTIONS


No. 2 Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2009 138

No. 3 Approval of the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2009) 139

No. 4 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 140

No. 5 2010 Budget modification 141

No. 6 OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 85th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2011) 143

No. 7 Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2011 144

No. 8 Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor 145

No. 9 Work programme for 2011 146

No. 10 Appointment of the Director General 147

No. 11 Fifth Strategic Plan 148

No. 12 Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries that helped the OIE in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony 149
Page

No. 14 Name of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD) 150
No. 15 Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members 151
No. 16 Recognition of the Rinderpest Status of Members 154
No. 17 Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members 157
No. 18 Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Members 158
No. 19 Animal Production Food Safety 160
No. 20 Animal Welfare 161
No. 21 Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code 163
No. 22 Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 164
No. 23 Adoption of two draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals 168
No. 24 Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals 169
No. 25 Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest 170
No. 26 Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare 172

RECOMMENDATIONS

10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East
Doha, Qatar, 25-29 October 2009

No. 1: Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic 177
No. 2: An approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis 179

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
Shanghai, People’s Republic of China 16-20 November 2009

No. 1: Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 183
No. 2: The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China 187

78 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2010
REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HELD DURING THE GENERAL SESSION

- Regional Commission for Africa 191
- Regional Commission for the Americas 203
- Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania 213
- Regional Commission for Europa 223
- Regional Commission for the Middle East 231
**List of abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALA</td>
<td>Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOAD</td>
<td>Arab Organization for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-IBAR</td>
<td>African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources</td>
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<td>CAC</td>
<td>Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
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<td>CAN</td>
<td>Andean Community</td>
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<td>CaribVET</td>
<td>Caribbean Animal Health Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEBEVIRHA</td>
<td>Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFT</td>
<td>Complement fixation test</td>
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<td>CIDA</td>
<td>Canadian International Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMC-AH</td>
<td>Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health</td>
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<td>CVP</td>
<td>Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELISA</td>
<td>enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Council Secretariat</td>
<td>European Union Council Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUFMD</td>
<td>European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FESASS</td>
<td>European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPA</td>
<td>Fluorescence polarisation assay</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross domestic product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFSI</td>
<td>Global Food Safety Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPAI</td>
<td>Highly pathogenic avian influenza</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPNAI</td>
<td>Highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAEA</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICFAW</td>
<td>International Council for Farm Animal Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>International Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>International Dairy Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>International Egg Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>IETS</td>
<td>International Embryo Transfer Society</td>
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<td>IFAH</td>
<td>International Federation for Animal Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFAP</td>
<td>International Federation of Agricultural Producers</td>
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<tr>
<td>IICA</td>
<td>Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMS</td>
<td>International Meat Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
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</table>
IPPC : International Plant Protection Convention
LPAI : Low pathogenicity avian influenza
NAI : Notifiable avian influenza
OFFLU : OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza
OIRSA : Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
        (International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health)
PAAT : Programme against African Trypanosomiasis
PAHO : Pan American Health Organization
PANAFTOSA : Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
PANVAC : Pan African Vaccine Control
PATTEC : Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
PCR : Polymerase chain reaction
PVS : Performance of Veterinary Services
RBT : Rose bengal plate agglutination test
SADC : Southern African Development Community
SCP : Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPS Agreement : Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary
        Measures
SSSAFE : Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
TBT Agreement : Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
USDA : United States Department of Agriculture
WAEMU : West-African Economic and Monetary Union
WB : World Bank
WCS : Wildlife Conservation Society
WHO : World Health Organization
WSPA : World Society for the Protection of Animals
WTO : World Trade Organization
WVA : World Veterinary Association
Final Report
of the Sessions
Introduction

1. The 78th General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates\(^1\) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held at the OIE Headquarters\(^2\), 12 rue de Prony, Paris, France, from 23 to 28 May 2010, under the chairmanship of Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay), President of the Assembly. Dr Brian Evans (Canada) chaired the Technical Item and Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro (Portugal) chaired the lecture session during the second plenary session.

2. Delegations from 157 Member Countries participated in the General Session.

3. Observers from four non-member countries or territories and representatives of 50 international or regional organisations, institutions and federations also attended the Session.

4. The Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, participated in the sessions in a consultative capacity and served as Secretary General.

5. Mr Mike Robach (SSAFE\(^3\)), Rapporteur for the Technical Item, and Dr Frank Alleweldt (Germany), speaker, participated in the General Session.

6. The Presidents of the OIE Specialist Commissions and representatives of the Working Groups and of some ad hoc Groups also participated in the plenary sessions.

7. Dr Amadou Samba Sidibé, Dr Norman G. Willis, Dr Romano Marabelli, Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang and Dr Barry O’Neil, Honorary Presidents of the OIE, participated in the General Session.

8. HRH Princess Haya Bint El Hussein of Jordan and 14 Members of Government of Member Countries participated in the Opening Session.

Opening Session

9. President Correa Messuti welcomed the participants and thanked the following for honouring the OIE with their presence at the opening ceremony: HRH Princess Haya Bint El Hussein (President of the Fédération Equestre Internationale), Dr Rachid Benaissa (Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria), Dr Miroslav Naydenov (Minister of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria), Mr Abdoulkader Mohamed Kamil (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and the Sea in charge of water resources of Djibouti), Mr Pascal Viné, (representing the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of France), Mr Malhkaz Akishabaia (Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Georgia), Mr Said Al Massri (Minister of Agriculture of Jordan), Ms Saulye Janimkhan (Deputy Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia), Mr Nathu Prasad Chaudhary (Secretary of State to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Nepal), Mr Malick Sadelher (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Niger), Mr Enzo Cardozo Jiménez (Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay), Mr Bernie Fondevilla (Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Philippines), Mrs Anabela Adónis (Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Portugal), Mrs Oumou Khairy Gueye Seck (Minister of Livestock of Senegal), Mr Abukar Abdi Ossman (Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range of Somalia), Mr Valentino Soarez Varela (Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor Leste) and Mr Steven Kalsakau (Minister of Agriculture of Vanuatu).

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1 Hereafter “the Assembly”
2 All the meetings during the first 5 days were held at the Maison de la Chimie (Paris)
3 SSAFE: Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere
10. Dr Correa Messuti highlighted the OIE’s evolution over a history spanning almost 90 years, as well as the Organisation’s valuable contribution to the international community with its major advances in animal and human health, food safety, animal welfare, animal production and the liberalisation and smooth flow of international trade.

Dr Correa Messuti said that the OIE must now help to tackle global food security problems. He added that he was confident that the OIE’s universal vocation and openness, together with its *modus operandi*, based on joint and coordinated work with its Members, democratic and transparent practices and sound scientific and technical principles, would enable it to achieve those ambitious objectives.

The President affirmed that the OIE would continue to focus its efforts on ensuring the excellence of national Veterinary Services, evaluated by means of the PVS tool, guided by the ‘One Health’ approach and on the understanding that action must be taken not only in animal health emergencies but also in ‘peace time’.

Dr Correa Messuti commended the important work carried out by the OIE since the previous General Session, especially by the Council, the Specialist Commissions and the Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, as well as the efforts of the Director General and his staff. He went on to describe three successful OIE global conferences held to address the issues of traceability, foot and mouth disease and veterinary education. He emphasised the need to join forces to combat foot and mouth disease worldwide, coordinating efforts with other competent regional and international organisations.

11. The President paid homage to Dr Louis Blajan, former Director General of the OIE (from 1980 to 1990), who died in February 2010.

12. Following the President’s address, HRH Princess Haya Bint El Hussein took the floor. The President then handed the floor to Dr Benaissa, Dr Naydenov, Mr Kamil, Mr Viné, Mr Akishabaia, Mr Al Massri, Ms Janimkhan, Mr Chaudhary, Mr Sadelher, Mr Cardozo Jiménez, Mr Fondevilla, Mrs Adónis, Mrs Seck, Mr Ossman, Mr Soarez Varela and Mr Kalsakau.

### Presentation of OIE Honorary Awards

13. Dr Correa Messuti 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 Council to receive the awards: Dr Emerio Serrano (Cuba) for the Gold Medal, and Dr Howard Batho (United Kingdom), Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand) and Dr Mike Woodford (United Kingdom) for the Meritorious Service Award.

14. Dr Correa Messuti commended Dr Serrano and recalled the major accomplishments of his career and his outstanding services to the OIE and the veterinary world, and presented him with the Gold Medal. He then delivered a speech in praise of Dr Batho, Dr Bayvel and Dr Woodford and presented them with the Meritorious Service Award. The recipients thanked the President and the Assembly.

15. The 2010 World Veterinary Day Prize was awarded to the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Lahore (Pakistan).

16. Following the presentation, Dr Correa Messuti declared open the 78th General Session of the Assembly of Delegates to the OIE.
17. 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.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

18. The President asked whether the participants had any comments to make concerning the agenda. He emphasised that the election for the post of Director General would take place on Tuesday morning during an administrative session for Delegates and accredited Delegates only.

19. In the absence of any comments, the Assembly adopted the agenda and the timetable for the General Session.

Nomination of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda for the 79th and 80th General Sessions

20. The Assembly appointed the Sub-Commission responsible for preparing the agenda for the 79th and 80th General Sessions. This Sub-Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Brian Evans (Canada) and Dr Tenzin Dhendup (Bhutan), included the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions.

Nomination of the Credentials Committee

21. The Assembly appointed Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Florencia Cipriano (Mozambique) 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.

22. In accordance with the decisions of the Council, the Credentials Committee communicated to the Chairman the list of Delegates who, owing to their country’s situation in respect to the statutory contributions to the OIE, were ineligible to take part in the elections and 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 2009

(Doc. 78 SG/1)

23. Dr Vallat presented the main points of the report.

24. Work on preparing the new Strategic Plan 2011–2015 began in 2008 with a phase in which Delegates were consulted. The draft text was finalised at an extraordinary meeting of the Council in October 2009 and the regular meeting in February 2010 and was submitted to the Delegates for approval.

25. Work was undertaken to modernise the texts governing the OIE. After a preliminary discussion at the 77th General Session, the draft text was finalised and was presented for comments.

26. Three Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions were held in 2009 (Africa; the Middle East; Asia, the Far East and Oceania).

27. The extension of the OIE Headquarters premises materialised in March 2009 with the acquisition of the front section of the building adjoining the Headquarters. Further to the subscription launched in application of Resolution No. XI of 30 May 2008, Dr Vallat thanked the countries that had already made voluntary contributions to the OIE (France,
Italy, the Sultanate of Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom) and those that had paid a contribution in 2010 (People’s Republic of China, Canada and the Latin-American Poultry Association [ALA]) or had officially announced their intention to respond favourably to the said subscription (Luxembourg). He stated that several other countries had made unofficial announcements of intent.

28. By the end of 2009 the OIE had 175 Members and discussions were currently continuing with several countries interested in membership. Notification of the membership of the Seychelles had been received the previous week. Dr Vallat also informed the Assembly that a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation, for North Africa, had been established in Tunis (Tunisia).

29. Three global scientific conferences were successfully held in 2009, on traceability (Argentina), foot and mouth disease (Paraguay) and veterinary education (France).


31. To date, nearly 100 developing and in-transition countries had undergone an initial ‘diagnosis’ of their Veterinary Services’ compliance with OIE quality standards, using the PVS4 Tool.

32. PVS support could be coupled, if Members so wished, with support for modernising national veterinary legislation, and ‘treatment’ (gap analysis and analysis of subsequent investments), as well as monitoring of implementation.

33. The World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (the World Fund) had also helped to co-finance regional capacity-building activities, with priority being given to the national Veterinary Services, Delegates and national focal points. Several informative seminars for new Delegates and training workshops for focal points were organised in each region.

34. The OIE had helped to strengthen national veterinary scientific communities in developing countries through the laboratory twinning programme. Support for the OFFLU5 network continued.

35. The World Fund had also been used to carry out economic studies on the cost of animal disease prevention systems, which were published at the end of 2009 and the beginning of 2010. A study on the tools for prioritisation of animal diseases had also been carried out.

36. The OIE, in conjunction with the WTO6, had continued its work on the impact of private standards on the safety of international trade in animals and animal products.

37. Communication activities had been intensified: animal health communications targeting the general public were developed and distributed through various channels and regional seminars were organised.

38. The OIE had also pursued its activities with the international organisations with which it has cooperation and partnership agreements.

39. The OIE and FAO7 were working together to declare the world free of rinderpest in 2011. The Director asked the last countries in the process of evaluation to submit their dossiers.

40. The Assembly noted the report of the Director General.

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4 PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services
5 OFFLU: OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza
6 WTO: World Trade Organization
7 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Composition of the Working Groups

41. The Director General announced the formation of three OIE Working Groups:

1. Working Group on Wildlife Diseases
   - Dr William B. Karesh (United States of America) (Chairman)
   - Dr Marc Artois (France)
   - Dr Roy Bengis (South Africa)
   - Dr John Fisher (United States of America)
   - Dr Ted Leighton (Canada)
   - Dr Torsten Mörner (Sweden)
   - Dr Yasuhiro Yoshikawa (Japan)

2. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
   - Prof. Stuart Slorach (Sweden) (Chairman)
   - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidares (Egypt)
   - Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay)
   - Mr Michael Scannell (European Commission)
   - Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO)
   - Dr Andrew McKenzie (New Zealand)
   - Dr Selma Doyran (CAC8)
   - Mr Alan Randell (Australia)
   - Dr Jorgen Schlundt (WHO9)
   - Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland)

3. Working Group on Animal Welfare
   - Dr David Bayvel (New Zealand) (Chairman)
   - Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidares (Egypt)
   - Dr David Fraser (Canada)
   - Dr Andrea Gavinielli (European Commission)
   - Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
   - Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (India)
   - Dr David Wilkins (United Kingdom)
   - Prof. Neville Gregory (IMS10)
   - An Expert proposed by IDF11 (observer)
   - An Expert proposed by IFAP12 (observer)

42. The Assembly approved the composition of the Working Groups.

        Planned Working Programme for 2011
          (Doc. 78 SG/6 – Appendix I)

43. The Director General presented the Planned Working Programme for 2011, which had already been discussed and approved in its entirety by the members of the Council.

44. The Planned Working Programme for 2011 submitted to the Delegates for approval was presented at Appendix I of document 78 SG/6.

45. The Assembly adopted the Planned Working Programme for 2011.

8 CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission
9 WHO: World Health Organization
10 IMS: International Meat Secretariat
11 IDF: International Dairy Federation
12 IFAP: International Federation of Agricultural Producers
TECHNICAL ITEM

The Private Sector’s point of view on the use of public and private standards
(Doc. 78 SG/9)

46. Dr Brian Evans, Chairman of the Session, introduced Mr Michael C. Robach, the Rapporteur for this Technical Item.

47. Standards were critically important to businesses involved in various aspects of food supply chains around the world. In a broad sense, standards were involved in every aspect of food production and were often referenced in business transactions between various private sector entities operating within a food supply-chain. Public food-system-related standards promulgated by the CAC, IPPC\textsuperscript{13} and the OIE (the ‘three sisters’) were officially recognised under the SPS Agreement\textsuperscript{14} of the WTO. WTO Members were encouraged to implement these official standards for the purpose of ensuring safe trade. Animal welfare could be within the scope of the TBT Agreement\textsuperscript{15} of the WTO, but not of the SPS Agreement. Although there was no explicit recognition by the WTO of the OIE’s international standards for animal welfare, the OIE was recognised as the sole organisation developing global animal welfare standards for international trade. In the past few years, OIE Members had raised concerns about the increasing importance of private standards to the international trade in animal products and the potential for conflict between official standards and those established by private standard-setting organisations. Collective efforts were needed on the part of food system stakeholders, governments and intergovernmental organisations to ensure food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health, as these aspects of food production were critical to consumer confidence, affordability and food security. Respectful dialogue amongst the public, private and academic stakeholders was necessary for continuous improvement within the global systems of food collection that serve to nourish the public. The global private standard-setting bodies for the animal production sector, such as the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and GlobalGAP, as well as global industry organisations, such as the IPCC\textsuperscript{16}, the IEC\textsuperscript{17}, the IMS\textsuperscript{18}, IDF\textsuperscript{19} and IFAP\textsuperscript{20}, were well placed for dialogue with the OIE and to foster and facilitate collaborative undertakings.

Discussion on the Technical Item

48. Dr Evans thanked Mr Robach and congratulated him on his excellent presentation.

49. The Delegate of Italy thanked Mr Robach for his presentation. Two positive aspects needed to be emphasised. First, private producers saw food safety and health standards as representing an opportunity rather than a drawback. A few years ago health standards were seen as an obstacle. Secondly, there was now an opportunity for developing countries because the pressure on producers from the private sector would help to accelerate the development of certain sectors in developing countries. With compartmentalisation, there were now additional pressures for development. There was, however, a possible conflict between public and private standards and therefore a value scale had to be drawn up. In European countries, the major distributors of food took the place of agricultural producers: distributors devised their own standards. This could represent a danger because the big

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{13} IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention
  \item \textsuperscript{14} SPS Agreement: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
  \item \textsuperscript{15} TBT Agreement: Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
  \item \textsuperscript{16} IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
  \item \textsuperscript{17} IEC: International Egg Commission
  \item \textsuperscript{18} IMS: International Meat Secretariat
  \item \textsuperscript{19} IDF: International Dairy Federation
  \item \textsuperscript{20} IFAP: International Federation of Agricultural Producers
\end{itemize}
distributors might lay down standards and deal directly with consumers. On the other hand, the big distributors were claiming to guarantee food quality for consumers. He asked how Mr Robach would propose defending the reputation of the producers who were actually producing the food products.

50. The Delegate of Senegal thanked Mr Robach for his presentation. He asked what the motivation was for creating private standards. Were the public standards insufficient? If so, the two types of standards should be harmonised because both could not be used at the same time.

51. The Delegate of the United Kingdom spoke on behalf of the 27 Members of the European Union (EU). He thanked the speaker and the OIE for its good work on private standards. The EU wished first to highlight some confusion about the use of the term ‘private standards’ in regard to food safety, animal health and animal welfare. Also, there could be confusion between different types of private standards. It could be preferable to refer to private standards as ‘private requirements’ – to help to distinguish them from official standards. In regard to the SPS Committee, the terminology used was ‘private voluntary standard’. However, the SPS Committee had not yet finalised a definition of ‘private standards’. The EU considered that the SPS Agreement did not cover private standards and therefore supported the approach proposed by Mr Robach to build collaboration between the public and the private sector with the objective of providing better guarantees to consumers.

52. The Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) thanked the speaker and asked him to suggest how developing and exporting countries should respond to the challenge arising from private standards. The Delegate also suggested that the OIE continue its work on private standards and initiate a case study looking at both sanitary and animal welfare requirements of the private sector. It was necessary to collect information and carry out comparisons and analytical assessments of the differences between public and private standards. The OIE could then provide advice to Members to help them to deal with the challenges of private standards.

53. The Delegate of South Africa thanked Mr Robach for his presentation, which he considered to represent a most progressive approach. He commented that the process of standard setting was a ‘moving target’ and made reference to the ongoing progress and therefore inevitable gaps between official and private standards. The Delegate asked Mr Robach what additional advice he could provide to prevent further divergence.

54. The Delegate of Ireland spoke on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU. He thanked Mr Robach and commented about particular areas of potential conflict in relation to private standards, including in international trade. The Delegate expressed concerns about the potential for consumers to be misled because, as there were many different private standards, this could give consumers the impression that official standards did not provide safe food. The Delegate added that private standards were a feature of market economies. They could help producers, especially in developing countries, and small/medium-sized producers, to move towards adoption of official standards. It was important that private standards support official standards. It was necessary to strengthen the dialogue to encourage private standards to use OIE standards as references. Countries should be encouraged to adopt science-based national standards. It was important to avoid lowering the standards for health and animal welfare. Finally, private standards should not become new barriers to international trade.

55. The Delegate of Nigeria spoke on behalf of the 52 African countries. He re-emphasised the importance of the Resolution on Private Standards passed at the 76th General Session. The Delegate raised the concern that private standards could become non-tariff barriers to
trade and urged all Members to apply the OIE standards to facilitate trade. Private standards should respect the official standards. On this basis, the Delegate stated that the African countries could support private requirements. The Delegate requested that a representative of African countries participate in the group that would draft the Resolution.

56. The Delegate of Sudan agreed with the comments made by the Delegate of Nigeria. In the case of a conflict between private and public standards, the Delegate recommended that official standard-setting organisations should arbitrate the differences.

57. The Delegate of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 52 African countries, supported the intervention made by Nigeria.

58. The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated Mr Robach on his presentation. The Delegate commented that the OIE had no power to prevent private companies from developing requirements. In order to prevent potential conflict the EU recommended that the OIE, Codex and IPPC work more closely together and that the OIE work to fill gaps in standards, and help developing countries to meet international standards. The OIE should continue to work to promote its official standards at all levels, and OIE Members should do more to support the implementation of the standards. The OIE should contribute to the development of risk analysis guidelines for animal welfare as well as for animal health. The EU was willing to participate in the group that would draft the Resolution.

59. The Representative of the WTO reminded the Assembly that the WTO was a multilateral international organisation. The WTO SPS Agreement called on Members to use the official standards of the ‘three sisters’ (i.e. OIE, Codex and the IPPC). The SPS Committee’s ad hoc Group tasked with discussing private standards was addressing several specific areas of the SPS Agreement that were relevant to the private standards issue and was currently developing a document with recommendations.

60. The Delegate of Argentina congratulated Mr Robach on his presentation. He stated that clear communication was essential for consumers – they were not getting the message about food safety and quality very clearly and tended to think that more safeguards were needed. He stated that private standards were a reality. Governments should work with nongovernmental organisations and consumers to ensure that messages about food quality and safety were clear.

61. The Delegate of Uruguay thanked Mr Robach for his clear presentation of a complex subject. He stated that this was a sensitive issue for exporting countries. The differences between countries, regions and production systems contributed to the complexity of the subject. The Delegate agreed with the Delegate of Argentina to the effect that the consumer was not necessarily well informed and that some messages might not be well understood. Private standards could have a negative effect, and their effects in different production regions and systems had to be taken into account.

62. The Delegate of Colombia thanked Mr Robach and also commented that the issue of private standards was sensitive. Producers had an important role to play – they had to assume most of the costs of complying with consumer protection. There was a problem with the transparency of private standards that needed to be addressed to help producers prepare for and meet private standards. Some private standards might even imply changes in production systems. For this reason, flexibility and time were needed to prepare for implementation of private standards. In this regard a transitional period for implementation by developing countries should be considered.
In response to the comments of Delegates, Mr Robach made the following comments.

In regard to the remarks of the Delegate of Italy concerning the role of the distributor/retailer and the relationship with the customer, Mr Robach stated that private standards were originally developed to help differentiate products in the marketplace. He stated that SSAFE became involved in the issue to help restore balance and transparency to the market situation. He considered that the retailers in GFSI had understood the importance of recognising official standards, especially in relation to food safety. From a production and a processing standpoint, Mr Robach considered that the balance had been restored and that linkages with the official standard-setting organisations now existed to enable harmonisation with official standards. Mr Robach commented that some of the major agro-industry players had accepted the need for appropriate recognition of official standards.

In response to the Delegate of Senegal, Mr Robach advised that official standards sometimes had trouble ‘keeping up’ with the evolving concerns of consumers. Private standards could be more responsive to changing needs and could be modified more quickly in regard to consumer concerns. An example was the development of private requirements for allergens in food, an issue not currently covered by Codex.

In response to the Delegate of the United Kingdom, Mr Robach agreed that a definition of private standards was needed. SSAFE was working hard to obtain alignment between private requirements and the standards of the ‘three sisters’ (i.e. OIE, Codex and the IPPC). There was also a need for governments to take steps to harmonise their national legislation in accordance with international standards.

Mr Robach thanked the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) for his question. He commented that China was working hard to manage the implications of private standards for the food trade. There was currently a strong focus on raising awareness, education and training. Mr Robach commented that this was the best way to make progress in dealing with private standards.

Mr Robach agreed with the Delegate of South Africa that standards could change rapidly. He again stated the commitment of SSAFE to work in close collaboration with official standard-setting bodies. He identified a need for dialogue and an appropriate mechanism for building closer collaboration.

In response to the comments of African countries, Mr Robach agreed that private standards should not be used as non-tariff trade barriers. Private standards could be useful in helping to translate public standards into practice. Also, countries should be encouraged to base their programmes on official requirements. He commented favourably on the work of GFSI, which was developing a programme to provide for harmonisation of private requirements with Codex standards.

In response to the comments of the Delegate of Denmark, Mr Robach agreed that capacity building was extremely important. The global private standard-setting organisations and the official standard-setting organisations should work collaboratively to harmonise and to fill gaps. Risk analysis was an extremely important tool.

Mr Robach thanked the representative of the WTO for his comments and for the ongoing work of the SPS Committee responding to the concerns of WTO Members about private standards.

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21 GFSI: Global Food Safety Initiative
Mr Robach agreed with the Delegates of Argentina, Uruguay and Colombia that the distinction between food safety and food quality needed to be made clearer. He stated that it was important to be clear about the food safety guarantees that are being offered. There was a need to educate consumers about their responsibility when handling raw products, such as meat, as the absence of pathogens from raw products could not be guaranteed. Communication with and education of consumers should be a priority. The international standard-setting organisations and the private sector should continue working towards this objective and this work should be supported by all countries.

64. Dr Evans once again congratulated Mr Robach on his presentation. The Chairman then invited the Delegates of Argentina, China (People’s Rep. of), Ireland, Nigeria, the President of the Assembly and the Representative of WTO to join the Rapporteur to formulate a draft Resolution for presentation for adoption by the Assembly.

FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

Election of the Director General

65. The President reminded the Assembly that Dr Bernard Vallat had been re-elected Director General in May 2005 for a five-year term of office with effect from 1 January 2006 and stated that Dr Vallat had informed the Members within the stipulated time limit that he would be seeking a new term of office. His candidature had been officially proposed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had been approved by the Council. No other candidatures had been submitted.

66. The Credentials Committee noted that 143 Members were participating in the 78th General Session and were eligible to participate in the deliberations of the Assembly.

67. Mr Matthieu Gaudemet, Legal Counsel, explained the election procedure: election by secret ballot, solely in the presence of the official Delegates, with three rounds if necessary. To be elected, a candidate must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the first round, an absolute majority in the second round or a simple majority in the third round.

68. After verification of the number of participants, the President stated that 143 Delegates were present and that, since this number exceeded the quorum, voting could take place.

69. The Delegates of many countries thanked Dr Vallat for all his efforts during his term of office to make the OIE an efficient, widely recognised and respected organisation. Speakers included Dr Nikola Belev (President of the Regional Commission for Europe) on behalf of the European Countries, Dr Mark O. Trotman (Barbados) on behalf of Caricom (Caribbean Community), Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad), Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People's Republic of China), Dr Miguel Angel Azañón Robles (Guatemala), Dr Peter Maina Ithondeka (Kenya), Dr Kiyoon Chang (Republic of Korea), Dr Abdel Kader Diarra (Mali), Dr Joseph Nyager (Nigeria), Dr Oscar Miguel Domínguez Falcón (Peru), Dr Nicolai Vlasov (Russia), Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda), Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda) and Dr Ivan Yuriyovych Bisiuk (Ukraine). Despite many other requests to speak from most of the Members present, the President decided to proceed with voting.

70. Dr Rachid Bouguedour and Dr Florência A. Massango Cipriano were designated as scrutineers.

71. Dr Vallat received 136 votes out of 143 eligible voters in the first round (6 spoiled ballot papers and 1 blank ballot paper). Dr Vallat was therefore elected in the first round.
72. Dr Correa Messuti declared that Dr Vallat was appointed Director General of the OIE for a period of five years from 1 January 2011.

73. At the end of voting, the President invited Dr Vallat to enter the room, informed him of his re-election and offered his congratulations.

74. Dr Vallat thanked the members of the Assembly for their renewed show of confidence in him. He requested the support of the Member Countries and their Delegates, the Council, the Regional Commissions, the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, the Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, experts and all the staff of the Headquarters and the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations for this new term of office, during which he would endeavour to consolidate the reforms already undertaken and implement the Fifth Strategic Plan.

75. He made the following speech:

*I am extremely moved by your support and promise that I will continue to work hard to ensure that the OIE is a strong, useful and respected organisation working for the shared benefit of all the countries of the world, regardless of their culture, religion or level of economic development.*

*We have amply demonstrated our ability to develop together a substantial body of standards, which facilitate the coexistence of 176 Members in our globalised world. I am certain that we can do even better by continuing to improve the standards, because the world is changing very fast, and pathogens and diseases force us to adapt continuously. But we must also work together to ensure that the standards are applied more effectively by everyone, in our common interest.*

*Our standards are about more than diseases. The work we have accomplished so far to improve animal health governance demonstrates the OIE’s global role in stimulating the excellence of Veterinary Services, because none of our goals will be reached unless the Veterinary Services have the legislation, the bodies and the financial resources they need to work effectively.*

*We shall also have our work cut out in the years ahead to convince governments and the international community of animal health donors to devote the necessary financial resources so that effective Veterinary Services operate in every country. All disease-free countries should understand that it is in their interest to help infected countries to eradicate disease. That is what is known as a win-win approach.*

*We must also continue to work together to strengthen alliances with other organisations interested in our goals, be they international or regional, on the condition that they clearly acknowledge our status as the world reference in the field of animal health and welfare.*

*All these goals are clearly expressed in the Strategic Plan, which you will discuss this week. This is a new challenge that awaits us, but I have no doubt that we will be able to rise to it together.*

*You can count on my commitment and that of all the OIE staff, whom I thank warmly for their motivation and professionalism.*

*I would like to thank you sincerely for placing your confidence in me.*
SECOND PLENARY SESSION

Presentations by International Organisations having a Cooperation Agreement with the OIE

76. The President explained that presentations at a Plenary Session were only made by intercontinental international organisations. These could be made every two years, except for FAO, WHO, the World Bank, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (presentation made by the WHO representative this year), WTO, and the WVA\textsuperscript{22}, which could make their presentations every year. Regional organisations make their presentations within the framework of the Regional Commissions.

77. The President stated that the order of presentations would be intergovernmental organisations followed by professional intercontinental organisations.

World Trade Organization

78. Dr Robson De M. Fernandes, Economic Affairs Officer at the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the WTO, provided a short summary on background information and reported on the activities of 2009.

79. The WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) held three regular meetings in 2009: in February, June, and October. The first meeting of 2010 took place on 17–18 March. Two additional meetings were scheduled for 29–30 June and 20–21 October 2010.

80. In 2009, 13 new Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) were raised by WTO Members in the SPS Committee against SPS measures maintained by other WTO Members. In addition, 12 STCs which had been raised in previous years were discussed again. Four STCs were reported as having been either resolved or partially resolved. Altogether, 290 STCs had been raised in the 15 years of the SPS Committee between 1995 and the end of 2009. Of these 290 STCs, 40% were related to animal health and zoonoses, comprising: 36% on transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE); 24% on foot and mouth disease (FMD); 9% on avian influenza (AI); and the remaining 31% on other animal health concerns (OAH). Further information regarding the STCs raised in the SPS Committee could be found in the WTO document G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.10 and on the SPS Information Management System (http://spsims.wto.org).

81. A total of 1018 notifications of new or proposed SPS measures were submitted by WTO Members in 2009. Of these, 268 notifications identified animal health as the objective of the measure being taken, while 528 notifications identified the protection of humans from zoonoses or plant pests; 122 notifications identified an OIE standard as relevant, citing either the application of the OIE standard or a deviation from it. Further information regarding the SPS notifications to the WTO is available on the SPS Information Management System (http://spsims.wto.org).

82. In March 2010, the SPS Committee completed the Third Review of the Operation and Implementation of the SPS Agreement and agreed on future work by the SPS Committee, addressing, inter alia: monitoring the use of international standards; regionalisation; equivalence; and cooperation with Codex, OIE and IPPC (G/SPS/53).

83. A special workshop was held in October 2009 to examine the relationship of the SPS Committee with the three international standard-setting organisations (OIE, IPPC and Codex). The workshop identified ways to enhance the relationship and clarified the respective roles of each of these organisations. The report of this workshop can be found in the WTO document G/SPS/R/57.

\textsuperscript{22} WVA: World Veterinary Association
84. The SPS Committee had been discussing the issue of SPS-related private standards and their effects on international trade since June 2005. In October 2008, the Committee decided to undertake a three-step process encompassing: (i) a questionnaire on SPS-related private standards (G/SPS/W/232); (ii) a compilation summarising the responses to the questionnaire (G/SPS/GEN/932/Rev.1); and (iii) the preparation of a document identifying possible actions by the SPS Committee and/or Members. An ad hoc working group was assisting the SPC Committee chairman on this issue. The document on possible actions was under discussion in the ad hoc working group.

85. In 2009, five panels addressing claims involving the SPS Agreement were established in the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism: Canada and Mexico’s complaints against the United States on certain Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) requirements for some products, including beef and pork (WT/DS384 and WT/DS386); the United States’ complaint against the European Union on certain measures affecting poultry meat and poultry meat products (WT/DS389); Canada’s complaint against Korea on measures affecting the importation of bovine meat and meat products from Canada due to BSE (WT/DS391); and China’s complaint against the United States on certain measures affecting imports of poultry from China (WT/DS392). The developments of these disputes could be followed on http://www.wto.org/disputes.

86. The WTO Secretariat and the OIE continued to cooperate in providing technical assistance to developing countries, both through the OIE’s active participation in WTO-organised training seminars and through projects related to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The OIE participated in WTO regional training events held in Fiji, Lesotho, Cameroon, Ghana, Laos and Uzbekistan. The WTO SPS courses and workshops for 2010 could be found in G/SPS/GEN/997 or at http://www.wto.org/sps. A separate report had been submitted on relevant STDF work.

World Bank

87. Dr Stéphane Forman, representing the World Bank, conveyed messages of support and greetings from World Bank Headquarters and congratulated the Director General on his re-election.

88. Dr Forman signalled the commitment of the World Bank to improving animal health globally and to supporting the work of the OIE in this regard. The apologies of Dr François Le Gall, who was not present at the Plenary Session, were conveyed to the President, the Director General, CVOs, partners and participants.

89. Dr Forman highlighted the main activities undertaken during the past year, in partnership with the OIE and other International Organisations involved in animal health. He stated that close collaboration between the World Bank and the OIE was now systematic, and that tangible results had been achieved.

90. At the global level, in the context of emerging and endemic animal diseases, including the current HPAI23 and H1N1 crises, the World Bank had been one of the first donors to contribute to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund (OIE World Fund) through a 3-year Development Grant Facility (DGF) of USD 3 million. Although this DGF recently came to an end, the World Bank expressed its satisfaction that many donors had since joined this effort, and that the participation of the World Bank seems to have been influential in this regard. The Advisory Committee of this Fund was still chaired by the World Bank and Dr François Le Gall, who serves in this capacity, would be in Paris next December to attend the ordinary Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the OIE World Fund.

23 HPAI: highly pathogenic avian influenza
91. Dr Forman stated that the World Bank was impressed with the progress made in the area of improving early detection and response systems for emerging and re-emerging diseases, and, in this regard, the work towards the introduction and use of the “One Health” approach was particularly encouraging. For example some vibrant developments emerged from the Learning Event which the World Bank and partners held recently in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to derive lessons learned from the Global Program on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, which the World Bank supports. The outcomes were reported to the 7th International Ministerial Conference on Animal and Pandemic Influenza: the Way Forward (IMCAPI 2010), held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in April 2010. At that Learning Event it came to light that much more seems to be happening than was thought to be the case, with respect to implementing the “One Health” approach, and that it was necessary to build on these successes. However, if one looked at the classical process indicators of the emergency animal health projects, such as implementation performance and disbursement rates, the record was mixed. This perception of sub-optimal performance of animal health projects might negatively affect future support. Dr Forman stated that the CVOs could help to address this perception by continuing their efforts to: (i) communicate to national decision-makers and international partners the successes achieved in improving animal health services at the operational level; and (ii) increase attention to current investments so as to improve performance and leverage additional donor support.

92. Dr Forman highlighted the strong collaboration between the International Technical Organisations, including the OIE, and the World Bank, which was also reflected by the joint analytical efforts and the preparation of Guidelines, which had been developed for the benefit of the countries and their Veterinary Services. For instance, thanks to the excellent working relationship and cooperation between the OIE, FAO and the World Bank, a team of experts from the three organisations was set up in response to recent influenza threats, which, with some financial help from the World Bank, developed and produced two important biosecurity documents, one for the poultry sector and another for the pig sector. These documents were available for use by countries. Implementation of the proposed biosecurity measures would contribute significantly to reducing the risks posed by zoonotic diseases with pandemic potential.

93. Dr Forman informed the participants that the OIE, through its Director General, recently requested Dr Laurent Msellati, Veterinarian and Operations Adviser in the East Asia Pacific Region for the World Bank, to coordinate the 2012 OIE Scientific and Technical Review on “Good Governance of Veterinary Services and how to finance its efficient delivery”. This task illustrated the mutual trust which existed between the two Organisations. Dr Forman commented that the Livestock Working Group of the World Bank would fully support Dr Msellati in delivering a document, which the World Bank hopes would benefit OIE Members.

94. The Livestock Working Group within the World Bank was also keen to support the work of the OIE through its global conferences. The World Bank participated in the Global Conference on FMD in Asunción, Paraguay, in June 2009, the Animal Welfare conference in Egypt and the Veterinary Education conference in Paris in October 2009. Following the FMD conference in Paraguay, the donors’ joint paper entitled “Perspectives for moving towards Global Control of FMD: an opportunity for donors”, coordinated by the World Bank and with important contributions from representatives from the EU, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, New Zealand and the United States, was published in the OIE Scientific and Technical Review, highlighting the strong commitment of the donors to OIE and FAO-led initiatives. Dr Forman mentioned that the World Bank would also be present at the forthcoming conference on veterinary legislation in Tunis, Tunisia, in December 2010.
95. Dr Forman stated that, at the regional level in Africa, the Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Growth in Africa (ALive) secretariat was successfully transferred to AU-IBAR\(^24\) in March 2009. It was now based in Nairobi, Kenya, which was becoming an important hub for livestock in Africa, along with AU-IBAR, the OIE and FAO, which had recently established sub-regional offices there. Dr Forman indicated that the World Bank would remain an important partner of the ALive Platform and would continue to support the partnership in areas of comparative advantage. For instance, and together with the OIE, FAO, WHO and AU-IBAR, the World Bank led the finalisation of the ALive Avian and Human Influenza Integrated National Action Programmes (or INAP) completion report. This document listed important lessons learnt from the INAP exercise and served as an example of how the “One Health” approach could be put into operation.

96. Dr Forman stated that in Europe and Central Asia, the OIE, together with World Bank-financed projects, had been undertaking some exemplary efforts to transform the PVS and PVS Gap Analysis into strategic action plans that were guiding CVOs and Governments to upgrade Veterinary Services. This approach was particularly relevant to addressing the One Health agenda and mitigating livestock-based food and nutritional security risks in many countries. The World Bank had seen the important role that livestock plays in mitigating the recent food security and financial crisis at the household and regional level.

97. At the National level, Dr Forman mentioned that the World Bank-funded projects within the framework of the Global Programme for Avian and Human Influenza (GPAI) encompassed 72 projects approved in 60 countries and totalled approximately USD 1 billion. Several of these projects were now coming to an end, but they had created a new demand from clients for livestock initiatives, food safety projects and activities related to the One Health approach and control of zoonotic diseases or pandemic risks. Dr Forman stated that this was the case in China, Vietnam, Nigeria, Zambia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. In addition, an increasing number of broader agricultural and rural development projects were now also integrating livestock activities (Mali, Burkina Faso, Kenya, etc.), including animal health and veterinary components. In all cases, the OIE-PVS Tool was now widely recognised by the World Bank as the key instrument for evaluating a country’s Veterinary Services. However, according to the World Bank, from a donor perspective, the subsequent PVS Gap Analysis and evolving strategic plans were even more useful tools for defining public investments required in animal health.

98. Dr Forman congratulated the OIE and its Members on the progress made since the launch of the OIE PVS Tool in Vietnam in 2006, with almost 100 PVS missions carried out and more than 20 subsequent PVS Gap Analysis missions undertaken. Dr Forman encouraged CVOs to take full advantage of these very important analytical and pre-operational tools by ensuring their use for the development of national strategies for poverty alleviation, food security and economic growth, including the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PRSP). He stated that for too long the livestock sector, and particularly the Veterinary Services, had been neglected on the development agenda by both national governments and donors. Dr Forman stressed that it was our responsibility to ensure that this would not continue to happen, and this was why close collaboration at both national and international levels was imperative for success. Dr Forman concluded his presentation by stating that the World Bank was proud to be a member of this global partnership – and as they say “acting locally but thinking globally”.

99. The World Bank representative thanked the Assembly and wished the Delegates very fruitful deliberations at the 78th General Session.

\(^{24}\) AU-IBAR: African Union – Interiafrican Bureau for Livestock Resources
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

100. Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief of the Animal Health Service of FAO, presented a global overview of the last 5 years of collaboration between the OIE and FAO.

101. The Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) was agreed on between FAO and OIE in 2004 and had enhanced FAO and OIE synergies towards improved global animal health. It was supported through jointly developed tools and mechanisms such as the GLEWS, OFFLU and the CMC-AH\textsuperscript{25} and regional strategies to address priority issues and diseases. Through the initiative and its specific support to the regional Animal Health Centres, FAO strongly promoted the empowerment and leadership of regional and sub-regional specialised organisations.

102. The GF-TADs had proven efficient in coordinating responses to new emergencies (progressive control of H5N1 HPAI; surveillance and monitoring of Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 2009 virus) and in the design and implementation of longer-term control/eradication approaches to priority diseases (rinderpest, brucellosis, FMD and peste des petits ruminants, based on the jointly agreed Progressive Control Pathway approach developed by FAO). There had been a close working relationship between FAO and OIE in the final chapter of the eradication of rinderpest and in the resolution of issues surrounding the sequestration of rinderpest viruses and vaccines. The declaration of global rinderpest eradication was therefore about to be made, and will coincide with the World Veterinary Year 2011, in which both the OIE and FAO would be important institutional partners.

103. FAO and the OIE were also jointly advancing the One Health agenda, and an FAO-OIE One Health strategy, based on the multi-agency Strategic Framework 'One World One Health', presented in Sharm-El-Sheikh (Egypt) in 2008, was currently under its final development. This strategy would be strongly supported by the recently endorsed FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Concept Note on sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. It promoted a strong basis for long-term strategic collaboration among the three international technical organisations to implement the One Health agenda. FAO lobbied strongly for the One Health approach during the recent Interministerial Conference for Animal and Pandemic Influenza in Hanoi (Vietnam). While zoonoses and ‘high impact’ animal diseases were now on the global agenda, FAO would continue to combat HPAI, especially in endemic settings through approaches that included the development of new vaccines, genetically resistant poultry, wildlife and production/market surveillance and strong public-private partnerships.

104. While FAO strongly assisted all areas of the OIE's Fourth Strategic Plan and the overall reinforcement of veterinary governance at country level (FAO was contributing in kind to the OIE PVS and PVS Gap Analysis exercises), FAO, however, in line with its mandate, also was intervening in the broader context of poverty alleviation and food security. FAO was endeavouring to assist all stakeholders in placing animal and human health concerns in a broader development perspective linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and therefore was promoting greater emphasis on preventive measures and sustainability through comprehensive natural resource management, land use, farming practices, food supply and marketing continuum, to protect animal health and the consumer.

105. As a development agency, FAO also strongly complemented OIE's normative and technical work through the implementation of a sizeable animal health field portfolio (currently approximately 150 active projects in the field of animal health, not counting other joint areas of intervention such as animal welfare, food safety, biodiversity and preservation of

\textsuperscript{25} CMC-AH: Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health
animal genetic resources) operating worldwide. This made FAO also an important partner in the ‘treatment’ step of the OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services. The GF-TADs global and regional governance bodies – as well as ALive and the PAAT\textsuperscript{26}/PATTEC\textsuperscript{27} initiatives – were ideal structures/platforms to channel country needs and operated as steering committees for important development programmes in the field of animal health, such as the European Commission Regional Cooperation Program on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases programme in Asia (HPED), the EC Veterinary Governance in Africa, which was under development, and possible forthcoming Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF) projects. FAO and the OIE, together with WHO, were responsible for ensuring the global coherence of the animal health development agenda for zoonoses and ‘high impact’ animal diseases.

**World Health Organization**

106. Dr Jørgen Schlundt, Director of the Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases at WHO, presented the activities of his organisation during the past year and in recent months.

107. Dr Schlundt first presented WHO’s vision of systems covering the human–animal interface and interdependencies between ecosystems, micro-organisms, people and animals, while reiterating the key principles to be followed.

108. The WHO representative then provided background information on longstanding FAO/OIE/WHO partnerships, the One World One Health consultation document (October 2008), the Tripartite Concept Note – Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal–human–ecosystems interfaces: FAO/OIE/WHO collaboration (April 2010) and the WHO Zoonoses Strategy.

109. The more recent events were also highlighted: the 2010 International Ministerial Conference on Animal and Pandemic Influenza: The Way Forward (IMCAPI Hanoi, 19–21 April 2010); the Second FAO/OIE/WHO Joint Scientific Consultation on Influenza and Other Emerging Zoonotic Diseases at the Human–Animal Interface, held in Verona (Italy) from 27 to 29 April 2010, and the Stone Mountain meeting held in Georgia (United States of America) from 4 to 6 May 2010.

110. The WHO representative emphasised the remarkable new resolution for advancing food safety initiatives passed during the 63rd (2010) World Health Assembly of WHO member countries: to develop the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) and strengthen its emergency function; to provide technical assistance and report on the global burden of foodborne and zoonotic diseases; to provide capacity to improve cross-sectoral collaboration and action along the whole food-production chain, including the assessment, management and communication of foodborne and zoonotic risks; to develop guidance on the public health aspects arising from zoonotic diseases that originate at the human–animal interface, in particular prevention, detection and response; to support the joint expert bodies of FAO and WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and INFOSAN; to support the development of international food standards that protect health; and to establish collaboration of laboratory partners in support of surveillance of foodborne disease, identification of food contamination and emergency response.

\textsuperscript{26} PAAT: Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis

\textsuperscript{27} PATTEC: Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
111. Dr Schlundt stressed the importance of linking monitoring and surveillance data relating to animals, food and patients as this would enable science-based action, as already carried out in certain regions of the world.

112. An important amendment to the Agreement between the OIE and WHO was also approved during the 63rd (2010) World Health Assembly of WHO member countries. Article 4 of this agreement was amended with the following text (sub-paragraph 4.7): “Joint development of international standards relating to relevant aspects in animal production which impact on food safety, in collaboration with other appropriate international agencies”.

113. Dr Schlundt concluded his presentation by explaining that from a legal perspective joint development does not equal joint standards; for instance, one could have Salmonella standards developed jointly by Codex and OIE, but resulting in separate, coordinated standards.

**Codex Alimentarius Commission**

114. As representatives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) could not be present at the meeting, Dr Jørgen Schlundt (WHO), also gave, on their behalf, a brief presentation focusing on the cooperative relationship between Codex and the OIE and on the Codex activities of interest.

115. Dr Schlundt indicated that Codex membership now stood at 183 (Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia joined recently). The main highlights of the 32nd CAC (July 2009) meeting were as follows: the meeting was attended by 126 Members and 33 observers; 28 texts were adopted (e.g. guidelines for regulatory programmes associated with use of veterinary drugs; generic model export certificate; maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs); approved new work (e.g. Guidelines for control of viruses in food; maximum levels for melamine in food and feed); agreement to continue discussion on future work on animal feeding at its next session; and support for the continued cooperation of Codex with international organisations and the OIE.

116. The ongoing Codex work relevant to the OIE was highlighted. The 3rd Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR; Korea, 18-22 October 2009) forwarded the Proposed draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance to the 33rd CAC for adoption at Step 5 of the Codex procedure (moving on to finalise at 4th TFAMR 2–16 October 2010). The 41st Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH; United States of America, 16–20 November 2009) discussed Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp. in Chicken Meat. The discussion will continue at the 42nd CCFH (Uganda, 29 November – 3 December 2010).

117. Concerning Codex collaboration with the OIE, the following items were mentioned: collaboration between Codex and other relevant international organisations, which was one of the four goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; Codex Secretariat’s participation in the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group and ad hoc Groups (e.g. salmonellosis in poultry); OIE participation in the work of Codex committees, task forces and working groups (e.g. CCFH and TFAMR, see above); use of cross-referencing Codex and OIE in each others texts (e.g. OIE and Codex texts on salmonellosis); and ongoing discussion on joint Codex/OIE standards.

118. As regards the upcoming 33rd Session of the CAC, the following information was provided: it would be held in Geneva (Switzerland), on 5–9 July 2010; several texts would be
submitted for adoption (e.g. Code of hygienic practice for pathogenic Vibrio spp. in seafood); the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013 would be examined and decisions regarding new work on animal feeding should be made.

119. While reiterating the general principle of risk analysis as published in the CAC Procedural Manual, the speaker also mentioned the current general issues for Codex: participation of developing countries in the debates; enhanced communication; speed of standard development; finding a consensus among a heterogeneous membership; receiving rapid scientific advice; and implementation of Codex standards.

World Veterinary Association

120. Dr Tjeerd Jorna, President of the WVA, reported on that organisation’s activities.

121. The WVA represented the veterinary profession, in all its diversity at the global level. WVA aimed to support the global veterinary profession to deliver its responsibilities to animals and society.

122. WVA was taking an interest in all aspects of veterinary medicine, animal health, animal welfare and public health, production animals, companion animals, wildlife transmissible and non-transmissible diseases, zoonotic and non-zoonotic issues, food safety, food security and public and private aspects.

123. The veterinary profession, assembled in the WVA, was seeking to assure and promote animal health, public health and animal welfare at the global level. It aimed to help its members, “being veterinarians in all different disciplines, throughout the world”, to meet their responsibilities in the best possible way, through constantly optimising the conditions required for fulfilling their tasks.

124. Some examples of such conditions were: (i) proper education; (ii) an adequate legislative framework, (iii) effective statutory bodies, (iv) good veterinary infrastructure, (v) sufficient resources and (vi) public–private cooperation. WVA had developed and would continue to revise and update its policy and positions in these areas.

125. The issues currently being dealt with by the WVA included One Health (i): strengthened communication with people working in the medical profession and within the veterinary field; moreover, enhanced collaboration between public and private partners would improve the final result.

126. Veterinary education (ii): schools and curricula should be assessed on the result of their activities: delivering professionals capable of dealing with the legitimate expectations of our societies. Efforts should be made to attract an adequate number of students with the right interests in order to cover all parts of the profession. Dr Jorna further stressed the high number of veterinary students focussing exclusively on pets and horses and the lack of interest in food safety and production animals, while advocating the need for government influence in these areas.

127. The availability and use of veterinary medicinal products, “prevention is better than cure” (iii): risk management should be based on risk assessment and pharmacotherapy was not a replacement for good animal husbandry.

128. WVA was very pleased with the effective collaboration with OIE and other international organisations. In conclusion, Dr Jorna stated that while the goals of the OIE and WVA might not always be completely the same, there was much common ground for synergies.
129. Dr Mike Baker, Director General of the WSPA\textsuperscript{28} conveyed messages of support to the OIE and congratulated the Director General on his re-election.

130. Dr Baker’s presentation included a number of photographs, one of which related to the slaughtering of pigs in Egypt in late 2009. The Government of Egypt declared that the cull was a precautionary measure against ‘swine flu’ at that time. The OIE, however, stated that ‘swine flu’ could not be used as an excuse for the slaughter. Dr Baker stated that training of personnel and collaboration between the OIE and WSPA could prevent such situations from arising in the future.

131. Dr Baker informed the participants about the type of disaster relief work that WSPA was engaged in, a recent example being the earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010. In Haiti, the WSPA was involved in building a coalition of NGOs and had recently put in place a mobile veterinary clinic which had treated over 40 000 animals to date. In addition WSPA was involved in rebuilding the damaged animal health infrastructures and in developing risk reduction plans for the future.

132. Dr Baker highlighted the need for increased recognition of animal welfare in the United Nations. He also referred to the importance of OIE international standards, which provided Member countries with common, baseline standards.

133. Dr Baker concluded his presentation by stating that animal welfare played an important role in the role today and by reiterating some important priorities of WSPA:

\begin{itemize}
\item disaster management;
\item a more humane and respectful approach to animals, a “positive animal welfare” for greater food security and less impact on the environment – a practical approach to human / animal relationship;
\item work relating to the humane control of stray dog populations of dogs and rabies control;
\item and, lastly, the goal of WSPA was to improve animal welfare throughout the world practically and constructively.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Fédération Equestre Internationale}

134. Dr Graeme Cooke, Veterinary Director of the FEI, reported on the activities of his organisation.

135. FEI was an international body governing equestrian sport, founded in 1921. FEI had 137 affiliated National Federations in the world. Each year, approximately 3000 international competitions were organised under FEI rules. FEI was the sole controlling authority for all international events in the following disciplines: jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, endurance, reining, para-equestrian and vaulting.

136. The number of equestrian events had increased considerably in the last few years. Dr Cooke mentioned that in the period between 2000 and 2010 these events had increased in number as follows: jumping, from 387 to 1200; dressage, from 85 to 300; eventing, from 167 to 500; and endurance, from 82 to 700. The consequence was a greater level of horse movements around the world.

\textsuperscript{28} WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals
137. For example, upcoming events included: (i) the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010; (ii) the World Equestrian Games in the United States of America in 2010, a 16-day first class event with eight world championships, with 900 to 1000 horses expected; (iii) the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou in 2010; (iv) the Pan-American Games in Guadalajara in 2011, (v) the Olympic Games in London in 2012; and (vi) the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

138. A recent FEI survey revealed that 30% of nations considered their greatest issue to be international movement of horses, especially in South America, Eastern Europe and Asia. The problems most frequently cited were: (i) delays at border crossings; (ii) the required sanitary measures; (iii) risks associated with movements; and (iv) confusion due to the lack of consistency in import requirements.

139. Dr Cooke mentioned the increasing economic relevance of the equine sector, which involved 60 million horses around the world, including 8 million in China, 5.3 million in the United States of America and more than 6 million in Europe. For instance, the Hong Kong Jockey Club was paying USD 1.64 billion in tax annually (8.2% of the total tax revenue paid to the government of Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China [People's Rep. of]). Another example was Australia where the equine sector provided 77 000 full-time jobs. In the United Kingdom, the sector generated GBP 3.4 billion, the country's second biggest sport economy. For Europe, a figure of EUR 30 billion was stated.

140. The current challenges that FEI was facing were (i) globalisation and the increasing volume of movement; (ii) the new geo-economic changes; (iii) the risk- and science-based approach needed; (iv) expanding numbers of events; (v) biotechnology changes, (vi) climate change concerns, and; (vii) emerging diseases.

141. The FEI representative referred to the conclusions of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (in 2009), one of these being the need to develop a mechanism for the official recognition of disease-free status with regard to African horse sickness (AHS). The transparency that this would give OIE Members would facilitate self declaration of freedom from other equine disease. The FEI representative considered effective Veterinary Services to be essential for increasing confidence in such claims of disease freedom. He also mentioned the importance of meeting the standards for compartmentalisation and zoning (an example of the successful use of these concepts was the equine disease free zone established in Guangzhou, China [People's Rep. of]).

142. Dr Cooke stated that the FEI encouraged the use of the model passport for the international movement of competition horses (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 5.12.), and encouraged members to monitor and survey equine health, through the PVS evaluation programme and related schemes.

143. Dr Cooke went on to highlight the requirements for sanitary measures for international competition horses, the need for consistency of import requirements that are proportionate to the risk, the importance of applying OIE standards so as to ensure clarity and transparency, the creation of Equine Disease Free Zones (EDFZ) and the review of testing in the OIE Manual in light of new technology and developments (e.g. PCR29).

144. Dr Cooke stressed the importance of a consistent approach and consistent standards and the need for common guidelines to achieve international harmonisation as regards terminology, periods of vaccination/quarantine/isolation, testing, pre-departure/post-departure (export/import) measures.

29 PCR: polymerase chain reaction
International Egg Commission

145. Mr Tim Lambert, Chairman of the IEC\textsuperscript{30} Animal Welfare Working Group, briefly reported on the activities of his organisation and on its networks and main partners.

146. Mr Lambert focused his intervention around three key considerations and proposals for discussion or further work.

147. Firstly, the speaker advocated that when drafting guidelines and standards, cost-benefit analyses should be completed in order to measure the impact of the proposed measures on farmers or on those who may have to pay the corresponding additional costs.

148. Secondly, Mr Lambert emphasised that human diseases using names of animals were devastating for the industry. When human diseases occurred and were referred to as “swine influenza” or “bird flu”, this had a devastating impact on consumers of animal products and on tourism. The speaker encouraged the international organisations to continue their efforts to try to ensure that diseases were appropriately named.

149. Thirdly, on animal welfare issues, Mr Lambert extended his thanks to Dr David Bayvel, Chairman of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, for the excellent work carried out by this working group, while highlighting that it was essential for intergovernmental organisations to adopt standards based on science. The speaker also introduced Dr Vincent Guyonnet, IEC Scientific Advisor.

150. The speaker considered that the OIE was uniquely positioned to rise above emotions and to adopt functional and practical standards. He also indicated that the IEC represented members of the egg production and processing industries in over 60 countries, including all kinds of production systems and was not biased towards any production system in particular. Free-range farming, family and community backyard productions were an important component of self-sufficiency as well as production systems separating manure and birds. In the context of the One Health concept and having in mind the growth of the human population, intensification of production was recognised as necessary to feed the world’s population.

151. The IEC representative encouraged the OIE to continue its work on science-based guidelines and standards while minimising their impact on farmers and on tourism. He indicated that the key subjects of avian influenza, salmonella and animal welfare were critical to the relationship between the OIE and IEC.

**Economic Aspects of the Veterinary Services Mandate and Activities**

152. This session was chaired by the Vice-President of the World Assembly of Delegates, Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro (Portugal). Dr Frank Alleweldt, Managing Director of Civic Consulting, presented the results of four economic studies commissioned by the OIE\textsuperscript{31}.

153. The first of the studies conducted for the OIE analysed costs of prevention versus containment of outbreaks of animal diseases in developing and in-transition countries that were OIE Members, focusing on transboundary animal diseases (TADs). It concluded that

\textsuperscript{30} IEC: International Egg Commission

\textsuperscript{31} Three of the four studies were conducted by Civic Consulting. One of the studies was conducted by Agra CEAS Consulting, as part of a consortium led by Civic Consulting.
before even considering the indirect impacts, the benefits of improved prevention by far outweighed the potential outbreak costs and losses of TADs. The potential impacts of TADs called for a global approach in the fight against animal diseases. The Veterinary Services had a crucial role to play as the providers of a global public good.

154. The second OIE study presented by Dr Alleweldt focused on a feasibility study for a Global Emergency Response Fund for Animal Epizootics and Zoonoses. This would be a mechanism to provide developing and in-transition countries with funding to cover the costs of controlling animal diseases, including compensation costs. The purpose of such a fund would also be to create incentives for prevention at all levels. Based on best practices of developed and developing countries, each participating country would set up a Country Compensation Mechanism to develop contingency plans and provide incentive-oriented compensation. There would be higher compensation rates for producers meeting predefined higher biosecurity standards and a community-based compensation approach for backyard producers. He emphasised that to make it work, interagency collaboration was needed, best practices in compensation had to be applied and, last but not least, the international community had to respect its commitments.

155. Private insurance to cover epizootic disease losses, the topic of the third study, was also sometimes seen as a possibility to replace or complement government compensation for culled livestock. However, livestock insurance premium income was typically 1% or less of crop insurance premium income in government-supported schemes. Overall, the insurance sector in emerging markets remained limited; however, growth rates of premium income had been stronger in these markets. Rural markets remained unattractive to insurers due to significant difficulties for insurance companies to penetrate into rural areas, but there was a strong desire by governments and insurers to improve access to insurance for farmers. Penetration for livestock insurance products was very low for various reasons. The few insurers specialised in agriculture would generally require significant capacity building to become involved in epizootic disease insurance. Reinsurance for agriculture was dominated by a few of the major reinsurance companies operating internationally. These reinsurers had found it difficult to meet the demands of insurers in developing countries.

156. Certain preconditions had to be met to make livestock insurance work, such as at least one insurance company in the country willing and able to take a commercial interest in establishing and distributing an epizootic disease product; the possibility of setting up a pool of insurers that would follow a government plan; an insurable client base of commercial livestock farmers; an effective national epizootic disease strategy and operational infrastructure of Veterinary Services complying with OIE standards on quality; an agreed government compensation system for direct losses (backed by access to adequate national or international funding); linkage to a government compensation programme for declaring outbreaks and defining quarantine zones; and definitions of covered diseases, including diagnostic capacity.

157. Other necessary preconditions would be a geographically zoned client and livestock database, distribution channel(s) to reach farmers, technical assistance, access to reinsurance and financial structuring, an adequate legal and regulatory framework and access to data and modelling of covered diseases to permit estimation of maximum probable losses, appropriate financial limits, and the setting of premiums.
158. Some challenges faced in supporting the development of livestock insurance included the need for a well-planned government disease prevention and control programme. The capacity of Veterinary Services was crucial, and this underlined the importance of the OIE PVS Tool and efforts to strengthen veterinary governance.

159. Dr Alleweldt concluded that no “universal” scheme to support the development of market-based insurance products for epizootic livestock diseases could be foreseen that would be suitable for application in all countries because of the wide diversity among countries in the pre-conditions existing for an epizootic product. There was also limited experience of epizootic scheme design and of best practices to act as examples for international transfer of know-how. However, there were synergies between the needs of the insurance market and strengthening the capacity of Veterinary Services. The operation of a market-based product would need to be integrally linked to a government compensation system for livestock diseases. Private livestock insurance could not replace such a system. All in all, market-based insurance could be part of the solution for covering epizootic disease losses, if livestock and insurance sectors were ready, if a public compensation system was in place, and if the Veterinary Services had sufficient resources and worked effectively.

160. Finally, Dr Alleweldt presented the results of a study concerning the ‘peacetime’ costs of a National Prevention System (NPS). This was relevant, because decision makers in many countries lacked essential information: the budget was often not unified, government accounting rules did not provide necessary information on inputs such as staff, investments etc, and there was a lack of indicators for effective operations of Veterinary Services and required resources. That was why for this study a tailor-made methodological approach for the assessment of Veterinary Services expenditures had been elaborated. The study was only made possible through unrestricted access to budget data and a lot of help from national Veterinary Services. Dr Alleweldt thanked the OIE Members that had participated in the study for their support (Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Morocco, Romania, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, and Vietnam).

161. NPS costs included public sector expenditures, including services of accredited private veterinarians, and excluded veterinary research/education, animal production and welfare and other food safety inspections. In order to make a cross-country comparison, the expenditure data for the basis year 2007 were converted into international dollars using the implied Purchasing Power Parities conversion rate. Expenditure for the NPS in case-study countries ranged from 10 million international dollars to 167 million international dollars.

162. Variations in expenditures were clearly associated with GDP and differences in livestock population. The Veterinary Livestock Unit (VLU) was therefore the most appropriate measure of the scale of veterinary service requirements.

163. In terms of allocation of NPS expenditures, spending patterns varied among countries, but this provided little explanation for differences in overall NPS expenditures. Considerable differences in spending that depend on factors other than per capita income were related to fees of private veterinarians, vaccines and compensation to livestock holders.

164. There were large social, economic, geographical and livestock population differences among countries and it was doubtful whether uniform benchmark values for total NPS expenditures per VLU were likely to be applicable to all countries around the globe. The total public expenditure for the NPS, when related to VLU, was a key expenditure (or input) indicator. A ‘gold standard’ or quality benchmark figures were needed for comparison of NPS expenditures between countries. Assessments would be more effective if focused on key elements rather than on the total NPS expenditure at the national level. Comparisons between countries were more accurate if focused on countries of the same (per capita) income group and region.

32 GDP: gross domestic product
165. To assess the effectiveness possible at a systemic level, a number of preconditions needed to be met: better national and international base data on livestock/VLU data and veterinary personnel data; OIE database with (regional) benchmark expenditure data concerning key elements of the NPS; and effect indicators in order to compare input (NPS expenditures) with effects (e.g. degree of compliance with OIE Standards on Veterinary Services). In future refinements of the OIE-PVS Tool, a more quantitative approach could therefore be introduced.

166. Dr Alleweldt highlighted the fact that a quantitative indicator for the animal health situation in a country was currently not available. The total number of animal disease outbreaks reported to the OIE was a crude indicator for the overall animal health situation. A debate needed to be launched on whether there were better systemic indicators that reflect the animal health situation in a given country (e.g. number of reported suspicions [or confirmed outbreaks] of selected indicator diseases per million VLU). A key question for establishing effectiveness of the NPS remained: how do we objectively and quantitatively measure progress in the animal health situation? Measuring outcomes of animal health investments remained a challenge.

167. The Delegate of the People’s Republic of China congratulated the speaker for his excellent presentation and for the valuable conclusions provided. He suggested that the OIE should further conduct economic studies on animal health and encourage more developing countries to engage in this process and to cooperate on research regarding economic aspects. While indicating that the People’s Republic of China had limited exposure to insurance schemes, he stressed the difficulties in promoting insurance products and confirmed the need for more studies on this issue.

168. The Delegate of South Africa also congratulated the speaker and, as regards insurance mechanisms for animal health disasters, he confirmed the reluctance of some national treasuries to cover such disasters or even disease control activities. He enquired whether any, and if so how many, Members were engaged in such mechanisms.

169. The Delegate of Rwanda supported the intervention of the Delegate of South Africa and asked what Delegates could do to make livestock insurance attractive.

170. The speaker confirmed to the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) that both Brazil and China – to name a few large countries – were missing from the study presented as they were considered too large and that it would not have been valid to draw general conclusions from the data collected and apply them to the whole country. The speaker stated that it would be interesting to look at such information gathered at provincial levels. He further clarified that one should distinguish between private insurance mechanisms and cost sharing mechanisms. He indicated that the European Union had cost-sharing mechanisms in place to which both governments and farmers contributed. Such mechanisms were used to compensate farmers for the loss of their animals in the case of an epizootic. This type of mechanism should be clearly distinguished from purely private livestock insurance mechanisms, which could only flourish with the improvement of the governance of Veterinary Services or when Veterinary Services in place worked effectively. The speaker further emphasised that private systems should not cover the compensation costs of cost-sharing mechanisms.

171. The Delegate of Uganda, representing a country that participated in the study on the cost of prevention systems, indicated that he had major difficulties in delivering a public compensation policy on avian influenza as stakeholders considered that crop diseases were equally eligible.

172. The Delegate of Russia reminded the Assembly that he represented a very large country with many neighbouring countries and therefore confronted with many epizootics. He confirmed that he would see insurance mechanisms as a secondary measure after compensation from governments. He stated that he was doubtful that private insurers would be able to work with small farms (backyard flocks) as the cost of premiums would be
too high, particularly in developing countries, where a lot of investment may reap little benefits. He stressed the importance of investing in infrastructures as the best possible route while indicating that insurers would consider backyard farming unacceptable from an epidemiological point of view. He wondered if it would be counterproductive for backyard farmers to invest in insurance.

173. The Delegate of Sudan highlighted the need to also take into consideration the social impacts of animal diseases. He indicated that these data were missing from the study, while recognising that they were difficult to quantify. He further stressed that animal diseases had a social impact not only on farmers but also on tourism and the relevant national economy as a whole. He suggested the need to consider compensating those affected, other than farmers, when national disasters occurred.

174. Dr Pinheiro, both as Chairman of the session and as Delegate of Portugal, indicated that the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) had various different insurance mechanisms and different compensation policies for farmers and that an EU emergency fund existed.

175. The Director General of the OIE thanked the nine Members that had participated in the study on the cost of prevention systems. He pointed out that whether or not a country had already undergone a PVS Evaluation had been an important criterion when selecting the countries to participate in economic studies. PVS Evaluations facilitated the comparison of conformity to OIE standards and other criteria used for the study. The Director General confirmed that the OIE would continue to stress that if no compensation funds were available for livestock producers in cases of epizootics, prevention and control of animal disease would be very difficult. The essential objective was to set up compensation funds. However, many governments would be tempted to withdraw from this and evoke alternative mechanisms through insurance mechanisms.

176. The Director General pointed out that the study on insurance mechanisms had provided two main results: (i) insurers were not willing to provide financial cover for epizootics; and (ii) if insurers were ready to move forward, they would certainly take into consideration the quality of Veterinary Services to set the level of the insurance premium. Therefore the lesson learnt was that if governments wanted to withdraw from supporting compensation in the face of epizootics, then they must strengthen their Veterinary Services as this would lead to lower costs of insurance contracts provided that Veterinary Services complied with international standards.

177. The Director General confirmed that these studies remained a priority for the OIE as they were useful for convincing donors on the profitability of investments in animal health systems and helped the OIE and its Members to demonstrate that these investments were economically sound. The OIE would continue to further complement these studies. The Director General concluded by saying that the speaker had highlighted a very important weakness – the lack of simple animal health indicators (similar to indicators used in public health such as life expectancy at birth) to measure the effect of Veterinary Service activities on animal health. He indicated that the OIE would carry out further work in this important area.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

178. Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission), reviewed the Commission's activities, including the outcomes of routine Commission meetings held in June 2009 (Bureau meeting only) (Doc. 78 SG/12/CS3 A), September 2009 (Doc. 78 SG/12/CS3 B) and March 2010 (Doc. 78 SG/12/CS3 C). He outlined
the salient recommendations and observations. Firstly, those made by the various ad hoc Groups operating under the auspices of the Commission: the ad hoc Groups for the Evaluation of Member Status for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Rinderpest, and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code); the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology; the ad hoc Group on Bovine Brucellosis; the ad hoc Group on Swine Vesicular Disease; the ad hoc Group on Rabies; the ad hoc Group on Diseases of Honey Bees; the ad hoc Group on the Official Disease Status Recognition for Equine Diseases – African Horse Sickness; the ad hoc Group on the Handbook for Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance; secondly, those included in the reports of the three other ad hoc Groups referred for comment to the Commission; and thirdly, those made by the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. A total of 15 meetings of ad hoc Groups were convened during the year under the auspices of the Commission. Dr Brückner, on behalf of the Commission, expressed his appreciation of the support provided by Dr Vallat and the staff at the OIE Headquarters. He expressed a special word of thanks and recognition to the other members of the Commission and the members of the ad hoc Groups and Working Group for Wildlife Diseases for their essential roles.

179. Review of the annual work programme

At its meetings in June 2009, September 2009 and March 2010, the Commission reviewed the programme of scheduled meetings for both it and its ad hoc Groups for the period 2009–2010 in support of the new working programme and priorities of the Commission. The Commission incorporated issues raised by the International Committee during the 77th General Session relative to its work programme and priorities. These included the better understanding of the interaction between climate and environmental changes and animal diseases/production; further discussion and the development of explanatory text for the Terrestrial Code on the application of the concepts of a protection zone, containment zone and compartmentalisation; the development of a draft policy for the OIE on the recognition of the livestock–wildlife interface in the development of OIE standards; the development of a Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance, which will include wildlife surveillance and concepts of epidemiological modelling; the evaluation of selected equine diseases for official country status recognition procedures; review of the chapters in the Terrestrial Code on diseases of honey bees, and the hosting of OIE global conferences on FMD, rabies and wildlife.

Review of activities for 2009/2010

180. Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

a) The development of explanatory text for inclusion in chapter 4.3. of the Terrestrial Code on the application of a protection zone

Following the adoption of the definition of a protection zone during the 77th General Session, the Commission requested the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology to draft explanatory text on the application and implementation of a protection zone to provide a general guideline to OIE Members. The explanatory text that was reviewed by the Commission will be circulated with the report of the Code Commission for Member comments. The Commission also requested the Director General to send a letter to all Members that have been allocated zonal freedom for FMD, to indicate the location of protection zones within their countries and to provide information on the application and management of these zones to prevent the introduction of FMD virus.

b) Application of a containment zone

The Commission considered the process that was followed by a Member to establish a containment zone to contain an outbreak of FMD. The Commission reiterated its view that to enable a country to gain full trade advantage with the establishment of a containment zone, the latter should be established rapidly and implemented without
delay. The text in Article 8.5.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* was amended accordingly to reflect this need. A request was received from the CVP\(^{33}\) to review the requirements in Chapter 8.5. (FMD) of the *Terrestrial Code* relating to a containment zone. The Commission noted that there were possible inconsistencies between the text in Chapters 4.3. and 8.5. and subsequently proposed changes to the text in Articles 4.3.3. and 8.5.7., which will be forwarded to the Code Commission for consideration and further processing.

**c) OIE/FAO programme for a global FMD control strategy**

In support of the recommendations adopted during the OIE/FAO Global Conference on FMD: The Way Towards Global Control, held in Asunción, Paraguay in June 2009, the Commission tasked the *ad hoc* Group on FMD to draft a proposed approach for a global control strategy. The draft plan of the *ad hoc* Group provided an excellent basis for further discussion, but still needed to be refined to ensure a sound scientific rationale for the development of a global strategic plan (which will include concepts reflected in the proposal for a “Progressive Control Pathway for FMD” developed by the FAO). Further refinement of the document and the possible development of text for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on FMD to provide a legal basis for future strategies, will be addressed as a priority for consideration by the Commission at its next meeting.

**d) Expert missions to Members to assess the maintenance of disease status**

The Commission reiterated the need to conduct expert missions to Members, not only to verify compliance with the conditions defined in the *Terrestrial Code* for a particular disease status, but also to assist in the application of the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* where Members might have encountered difficulties. It was noted that the Director General would be requested to arrange a mission in 2011 to follow-up on the Agreement on the regional control of FMD between the OIE and the CVP; a similar arrangement had previously been made for the MERCOSUR region. It was suggested that an expert mission to the Andean region of South America could be considered as well as expert missions to other regions of the OIE to assess the maintenance of disease status.

Dr Brückner acknowledged with appreciation the annual report of the OIE/FAO FMD reference laboratory network reflecting the evolution and current FMD situation worldwide.

**181. Swine vesicular disease**

Following extensive comments that were received from Members on the draft chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* that was circulated for comment, the Commission decided to refer the entire chapter back to the *ad hoc* Group for review. The Commission noted the remarks and recommendations of the Group on the possibility of removing swine vesicular disease (SVD) from the list of OIE-listed diseases owing to lack of proof of international spread and the fact that new tests and technologies were now available to distinguish SVD from FMD – one of the apparent main reasons why the disease was originally included in the OIE list. The Commission did not support the recommendation to delist SVD at this stage, but agreed that the situation should be monitored and re-evaluated at a later stage.

\(^{33}\) CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone countries
182. **Official disease status recognition for equine diseases – African horse sickness**

Following a request by the FEI to the Director General that the OIE give consideration to the official recognition of the disease status of Members in relation to OIE-listed equine diseases, the Commission requested the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group for this purpose. African horse sickness (AHS) and glanders were identified as the two priority diseases, starting with AHS. During the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, in November 2009, this issue was also discussed in detail and a Resolution was adopted requesting the Director General to proceed with this process.

The Commission acknowledged that a different approach and considerations were needed for evaluating official disease status of equidae and a vector-born disease compared with the approach taken for livestock diseases, such as FMD or BSE. The proposal by the *ad hoc* Group that provision be made for the recognition of historical freedom from AHS, and for self-declaration of freedom, including seasonal freedom from disease, was supported by the Commission. The recognition of the official disease status for glanders, which also relates to the availability of a reliable diagnostic test, will again be considered after the revised chapter for AHS is submitted for adoption by the Assembly. The Commission endorsed the proposed changes to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on AHS as well as the two country questionnaires on AHS drafted by the *ad hoc* Group to assist Members when applying for official disease status recognition similar to the process applied for FMD, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), rinderpest and BSE. Of notable importance is the inclusion of the concept of a *containment zone* for AHS, which could be instrumental in reducing the financial impact should the disease occur in countries with a free status for AHS. The revised chapter and questionnaires will be forwarded to the Code Commission for circulation to Members for comment.

183. **Diseases of honey bees**

The revision of the current chapters on diseases of honey bees in the *Terrestrial Code* had been delayed for some time before they could receive attention. The excellent work of the *ad hoc* Group was supported by the Commission as well as the recommendations made on changes and amendments to Chapter 4.14. Hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries, of the *Terrestrial Code*. These will be forwarded to the Code Commission for further consideration. Changes necessary in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (*Terrestrial Manual*) will be forwarded to the Biological Standards Commission for consideration. The Commission agreed that an OIE publication for Veterinary Services containing guidelines on honey bees could be very useful to Members and should be considered for publication by the OIE. The Commission agreed with the experts of the *ad hoc* Group on the importance of diseases of honey bees and the irresponsible use of pesticides as these have a detrimental impact on global food security.

184. **Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever**

Although the need to convene an *ad hoc* Group was identified some time ago, restrictions in the availability of suitable experts had prevented the OIE from proceeding with this matter. The Commission acknowledged the valid reasons identified by the *ad hoc* Group for not considering, at this stage, the development of a chapter on CCHF and other related haemorrhagic fevers in the *Terrestrial Code*; however, the Biological Standards Commission should take note of the need for inclusion of diagnostic tests on Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and other related haemorrhagic fevers in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission recommended that a similar approach should be followed for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), i.e. not to proceed with the development of a chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* but that information on the control and diagnosis of the disease be compiled and published on the OIE website and in the *Bulletin*.
185. Draft policy paper on the wildlife–livestock interface as it relates to the setting of standards by the OIE

The Commission identified, as a priority issue in its working programme, the development of a draft policy for the OIE on the wildlife–livestock interface as it relates to the setting of standards, and the application of concepts such as zoning and compartmentalisation. Both the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases and the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology were tasked with drafting such a policy for consideration by the Commission. The main issues identified for consideration were:

- To develop and propose a definition of wildlife for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code;
- To assess the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches in the Terrestrial Code to the recognition of disease status for those diseases where wildlife play an epidemiological role;
- To assess trade facilitation issues, such as zoning and compartmentalisation, in the Terrestrial Code in relation to the wildlife/domestic animal interface and how this should/could be amalgamated or harmonised;
- To assess current disease-specific surveillance guidelines, in terms of cost, need, implementation and impact, for those diseases where wildlife is implicated;
- To review trade issues related to wildlife – trade in wildlife per se and commodities of wildlife species origin;
- To review the policy for reporting disease occurrences in wildlife taking into consideration trade concerns;
- To consider the need to alter the focus on wildlife diseases from a species approach to a pathogen approach and how this would impact on the current policy for developing international standards;
- To analyse the implication of the role of wildlife on the development of OIE standards within the One World, One Health concept and recommend the approach the OIE should consider.

The Commission reviewed the draft policies proposed by both Groups, and was particularly interested in the following points: the proposed approaches for assessing the disease status of Members for OIE-listed diseases having a wildlife component, the application of zoning and compartmentalisation to such diseases, approaches to surveillance, and the advantages of a pathogen approach for these diseases. The proposals of both Groups would now be combined by the Commission into one document for inputs by the Code Commission before a final policy for further guidance would be formulated.

186. Work of ad hoc Groups still in progress

The President of the Commission informed Delegates of tasks assigned to ad hoc Groups that would be completed during the year for consideration at the 79th General Session in 2011:

**Brucellosis:** the Terrestrial Code chapter was revised *in toto* by an ad hoc Group, but it needs further refinement; the possibility to include small ruminants should be considered along with a chapter on brucellosis in camelidae.

**Rabies:** the much outdated Terrestrial Code chapter was revised with a change of emphasis to classical (dog) rabies (lyssavirus genotype 1). Further refinement to the proposal will be concluded this year and circulated for Member comment.
**Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance:** good progress has been made with this much-needed handbook, which will be a practical guide for veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals. The guideline will also incorporate wildlife surveillance and principles of epidemiological monitoring.

**Official disease status recognition for classical swine fever (CSF):** following a request from a number of Members, the Commission requested the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group to review the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter to provide for the possible official recognition of country status for CSF.

**Climate and environmental changes as they relate to animal diseases and animal production:** following the recommendations of Resolution No. 31 adopted at the 77th General Session, the Director General requested the Commission to convene an *ad hoc* Group to address the relation between climate and environmental changes and emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and production. The recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, which had its first meeting on 27 and 28 April 2010, would be considered by the Commission during its next meeting.

187. **Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

The Commission noted with appreciation the progress achieved on the project to replace the wildlife questionnaire circulated for completion by Members with the *WAHIS-Wild* reporting system. The Group provided valuable inputs on the text for a draft policy document for the OIE on the wildlife–livestock interface and proposed a draft protocol for surveillance of avian influenza in wild birds to complement the “OFFLU Strategy Document for Surveillance and Monitoring Influenzas in Animals”.

The Commission acknowledged the ongoing work by the Working Group on the annual updating of recommendations on the most suitable diagnostic procedures for OIE-listed diseases in wildlife.

The involvement of members of the Working Group in the training of OIE focal points for wildlife was noted with appreciation as well as the continuous support of the Collaborating Centre on Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management (Canada) and the involvement of the Collaborating Centre on the Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management (South Africa).

Note was taken of the engagement of the Working Group in the development of a programme for the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife “Animal Health and Biodiversity – Preparing for the Future”, due to take place in Paris from 23 to 25 February 2011.

188. **Evaluation of Members for official recognition of disease status**

**a) Evaluation of Member status with respect to foot and mouth disease**

During the past year, nine applications for the recognition of FMD free country and zonal status, with or without vaccination, were considered by the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Member Status with respect to FMD. Following the successful control of outbreaks of FMD in Swaziland and Colombia, the Scientific Commission, during its meeting on 2 March 2010, applied the mandate updated in Resolution No. XXII of the 76th General Session and restored the previously free status of Swaziland as a country free without vaccination and a zone in Colombia as free with vaccination.

Based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations for adoption by the Assembly:

**San Marino:** recommended as an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised, based on historical grounds.
Lesotho: recommended as an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised, following additional data from the country.

Botsuana (Zone 4a): recommended as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.

Philippines (Zones 1 and 3): the ad hoc Group requested the Commission to consider these zones as FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised. The movement of vaccinated animals from zone 2 to zones 1 and 3 was banned on 18 March 2009 and thus zones 1 and 3 would be eligible for FMD free status without vaccination on 18 March 2010, in accordance with the requirements of the Terrestrial Code. The Commission recommended the granting of FMD free status without vaccination for zones 1 and 3, provided that the country confirmed by the end of March 2010 that the situation had not changed since the submission of the report to the OIE.

Turkey (Thrace region): following the meeting of the ad hoc Group in December 2009, the OIE received an official letter from Turkey on a Ministerial decision governing the transfer of ruminants from Anatolia to Thrace. These control measures were implemented after the submission of the original request to the OIE and evaluation by the ad hoc Group. The Commission reiterated the need for proof of compliance with Articles 8.5.9 and 8.5.12 of the Terrestrial Code and the need to provide information on detection and follow-up of suspected cases as an indicator of vigilance. The Commission agreed to consider recommending the requested status for the Thrace region, provided the Delegate of Turkey submits to the OIE before 31 March 2010 details on the implementation and supervision of the Ministerial declaration and follow-up on suspect cases. In addition, it was decided that an expert mission would visit Turkey before the General Session in May to verify before the final recommendation the proper implementation and supervision of the Ministerial declaration. The mission reported a favourable response.

Applications from two other Members were discussed and the Commission endorsed the opinion of the ad hoc Group not to grant the requested free status.

These recommendations were submitted for approval by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 15.

b) Evaluation of Member status with respect to rinderpest

The Commission took note, with appreciation, of the efforts by the OIE to expedite the conclusion of the process of recognition of the disease free status of the remaining countries or territories, so that a global declaration can be made. The Commission also supported the division of these countries into two categories to enable more focused attention on those countries from which more detailed information would be required to enable an evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the Terrestrial Code.

Note was also taken of the outcome of the meeting of the FAO/OIE Joint Committee on the Global Eradication of Rinderpest that took place at the FAO in Rome in December 2009 and the decisions taken on the actions needed in the period after rinderpest eradication to ensure maintenance of global rinderpest free status.

The Commission welcomed the involvement of the ad hoc Group in the development of rinderpest virus sequestration guidelines, thereby assisting the Biological Standards Commission in its task, and supported the request of the ad hoc Group that this process would be addressed separately from the process for official status recognition for the disease.

The Commission acknowledged and supported the proposal for a review of the current Terrestrial Code chapter to reflect the actions that need to be taken in the post-rinderpest-eradication period.
The Commission supported the opinion of the ad hoc Group on the assessment of the transparency displayed by the Iranian Veterinary Authorities in verifying their free status following an investigation by the FAO on information provided by the OIE.

The recommendations of the ad hoc Group for the allocation of rinderpest disease freedom to the following countries or territories were supported by the Commission: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Dominica, Faroe Islands (Denmark), Georgia, Israel, Kuwait, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Qatar, Russian Federation, Somalia, Syria, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna (France), Yemen.

The Commission supported the request of the Delegate of the United Kingdom for the allocation of rinderpest free status to non-contiguous territories listed by the Delegate in his letter of 25 January 2010 to the Director General. The member of the Commission from Argentina abstained from this discussion.

These recommendations were submitted for approval by the Assembly in Draft Resolution No. 16.

c) Evaluation of Member status for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

Resolution No. 17 was submitted for adoption and confirmation of the status quo of the list adopted during the 77th General Session. An application currently under assessment would be reviewed by the Commission at its forthcoming meetings.

d) Evaluation of Member status with respect to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

The Commission discussed and adopted the report and recommendations of the ad hoc Group on the BSE risk status of the nine Member dossiers received.

The Commission recommended that the Assembly adopt the BSE risk status recognition of the following Members:

- India: Negligible risk status
- Republic of Korea: Controlled risk status
- Panama: Controlled risk status
- Peru: Negligible risk status

Three countries requested a review of their controlled BSE risk status to obtain a negligible risk status. The requests were evaluated in detail. The Commission supported the recommendation of the ad hoc Group that the applicant countries did not yet meet the requirements of the Terrestrial Code to qualify for a change in risk status.

Two other countries were evaluated and it was concluded that they did not yet meet the requirements of the Terrestrial Code for either a controlled or negligible risk status for BSE.

The Commission requested that the ad hoc Group during its next meeting consider finalising comments to the Commission on the application of the BSurvE model for BSE surveillance. Comments received from Members on the country questionnaire for evaluating BSE risk status should also be considered by the ad hoc Group at its next meeting.

These recommendations were submitted to Members for comment and then to the Assembly for approval in Draft Resolution No. 18.
189. **Future work programme of the Scientific Commission**

The Commission identified the following issues that need to be attended to and/or finalised during the coming year:

- Finalisation of the update of the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapters on rabies and bee diseases.
- Finalisation of the updated *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis for bovines, small ruminants, porcines, and possibly for camelidae.
- Review and update of the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter on peste des petits ruminants (PPR) following the southward spread of the disease within Africa and its suspected spread in Central Asia.
- Review and finalisation of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on CSF to provide for official recognition of status.
- Finalisation of an OIE policy on the wildlife–livestock interface and its relationship to standard setting for the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Development of guidelines for general disease control strategies.
- Identification of an OIE approach to the impact of climate change on animal health and production.
- Review and update of the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapters related to antimicrobial resistance.

190. After the presentation of the report, the President of the Assembly opened discussions on the questions raised and added some words of clarification on the issue of protection zone, recalling that the definition of protection zone in the *Terrestrial Code* had been approved in 2009. The President of the Code Commission explained that since then no changes had been made, but the concept was currently being incorporated in several places in the *Terrestrial Code* and that there was need for more explanatory text. For example, the Code Commission was developing the elements of the FMD chapter on animal movements from an infected zone to the protection zone when there was no abattoir. The President of the Scientific Commission emphasised that the protection zone was applicable to all diseases, that the definition was clear but more guidance was needed, and that additional text was under development.

191. The Delegate of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, stressed the need for explanatory text on the concept of protection zone and expressed the view that the concept should be applied in a harmonised manner.

192. The Delegate of Uruguay commended the Scientific Commission for its excellent work and expressed concern on the current global situation with regard to FMD, which was deteriorating in some regions, even for countries formerly recognised for their FMD free status. He welcomed the criteria-based approach cited by Dr Brückner to lead countries to a better FMD status, while mentioning that it was necessary to have a guiding plan for the world. OIE had the experience and a role for developing such a plan, taking into account some existing regional plans such as the hemispheric plan. Consideration should also be given to particularities of sub-regions and ecosystems (e.g. Southern Cone, Amazon region).

193. The Delegate of Ethiopia appreciated the efforts of the Scientific Commission and the work it had done. He said that there was concern among developing countries that the unknown disease of camels had not yet been addressed and recommended that a group of experts should investigate camel diseases, as camels were very important livestock in some regions. Solutions would also need to be found for pastoral systems.
194. The Delegate of Colombia thanked the President of the Scientific Commission and expressed some concerns on extending the list of diseases included in the procedure of official disease status recognition. The certification process was costly for both the producers and the Veterinary Services. He stated that some importing Members were not respecting the official disease status certificate in terms of international trade and requested support from the OIE to address the situation.

195. The Delegate of Kenya supported the request from Ethiopia on camel diseases as there was not enough scientific information available and no disease control model to follow. He expected to see a proactive attitude from the OIE in addressing camel diseases as a priority.

196. The Delegate of Sudan, on behalf of the 52 Members of Africa, thanked the President of the Scientific Commission for the excellent work. He welcomed the efforts of the OIE to provide Members with more specific guidelines, in particular on the protection zone and the guide on terrestrial animal health surveillance being drafted.

197. The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Scientific Commission for its work in the past year. He particularly welcomed the initiative to elaborate on the concept of protection zone and the new strategy for global FMD control. The EU would offer its expertise and help, if needed. He further noted with appreciation that the future policy on the wildlife-livestock interface, as well as the future guide on terrestrial animal health surveillance, would be helpful for the EU Member States.

198. The Delegate of the People’s Republic of China expressed his appreciation that China was now included as a member of SEAFMD to join in the fight against such a globally important disease as FMD. He wondered why no new Members were added to the list of Members having CBPP free status and whether the recognition process was considered overly complicated or a CBPP free status was not particularly useful. He expressed his wish that the OIE continue to work on CBPP free status.

199. The Delegate of Malawi supported Ghana’s intervention on the need for explanatory text regarding the concept of protection zone.

200. The Delegate of South Africa congratulated the President of the Scientific Commission. The Member was very interested in the ongoing work in the adaptation of the African horse sickness (AHS) chapter to the procedures of official disease status recognition. He enquired whether the South African experience of having an AHS free zone was considered by the expert group. He suggested that the concepts of zoning and seasonal freedom would still apply and indicated that other challenges, such as climate change, could possibly influence the seasonal occurrence of AHS.

201. The Delegate of Namibia, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, expressed appreciation for the initiative to consider national FMD control plans within the framework of a global strategy. This would assist African countries to focus better on the control of FMD.

202. The Delegate of Lesotho thanked the Scientific Commission and supported Namibia’s comments in the name of the 52 African Members.

203. The President of the Scientific Commission thanked those Delegates who intervened in support of the work of the Scientific Commission and addressed the specific questions from the Delegates. In response to the remark by the Delegate of Uruguay, he referred to the recommendations adopted at the Global Conference on FMD, held in Asunción, Paraguay,
in June 2009, which stated that existing examples of regional FMD control programmes (e.g. SEAFMD, hemispheric plan) would be given due attention in the development of the global control strategy.

Concerning the attention to camelidae and their diseases, he referred to the existing *ad hoc* Group on Camelidae (all camelidae) whose work would be presented by the President of the Biological Standards Commission. Additionally, an article on camelidae had been published in the OIE *Bulletin*. He invited the countries concerned to obtain camelidae experts’ names from the Scientific and Technical Department if needed, as camelidae were an important part of the livestock economy of many countries.

In response to Colombia’s concern, Dr Brückner re-iterated that the procedure of official disease status evaluation was operating under resource constraints, but could be improved and accelerated. Experts involved in the procedure were obliged to evaluate objectively the documentation submitted by an applicant country against the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. He further thanked Kenya and Austria for their support for the strategy for global FMD control. Addressing the comment of the People’s Republic of China he mentioned the OIE’s plans to send an expert mission to the People’s Republic of China to make progress with the pending CBPP application, and he invited the Delegate to contact the Scientific and Technical Department to discuss arrangements for the proposed mission. Dr Brückner reassured the Delegate of South Africa that the experience gained in the maintenance of an AHS free zone in South Africa was being given due consideration in the work on the AHS chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*.

204. The Director General of the OIE added a comment for Colombia, emphasising the benefits for countries seeking recognition of official disease status. It was generally observed that export volumes increased after recognition of the specific disease status of a country. However, a small number of importing Members did not respect other Members’ OIE official disease status recognition certificates. In these cases the OIE was available to help countries with a mediation process, before referring the dispute to the WTO. Further, after years of observation since the introduction of the official disease status recognition procedure, he had never received information questioning the procedure being an unnecessary investment for the Members that had successfully applied for it.

205. Dr Vallat elaborated on the OIE activities concerning camelidae diseases and reported that the OIE had convened the best world experts, who were already working on a list of priority diseases and related aspects such as diagnostic tests and vaccines recommended for use in camelidae, which were prerequisites. This document was published on the OIE website. Work on each *Terrestrial Code* chapter would start with the recognition of diagnostic tests.

The Director General further explained the OIE’s work on the broader framework of the strategy for global control of FMD. He referred to the recommendations of the Paraguay conference on global FMD control and the strong alliance with FAO in this process, which led to agreement to form a joint working group on global FMD control. He stressed that the respective mandates of the sister organisations were complementary, namely that FAO cooperation efforts were more legitimate at the national level and the OIE’s commitment at the global level allowed it to establish standards, as explained by the President of the Scientific Commission. Should the modified FMD chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* texts be adopted next year, the OIE pathway would include an additional step, prior to official FMD free status recognition. This intermediate step of giving endorsement to a national FMD control plan (‘pre-recognition’) would represent a strong incentive to Members and help them to convince their Governments or donors to allocate appropriate resources to their Veterinary Services.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 14
Name of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD)

207. The President of the Assembly submitted Draft Resolution No. 14 for adoption.

208. The Delegate of Singapore commented on Resolution No. 14 indicating that Singapore was pleased to participate in the SEAFMD as a new Member. He stressed the point that Brunei and Singapore had not sent a request, rather they had been invited to join the SEAFMD as members of ASEAN. Therefore the last preambular sentence should be changed as below.

– Request by the People’s Republic of China to become Member of the Sub-Commission,
– Value of the full participation of the ASEAN member countries in the Sub-Commission and the willingness of Brunei and Singapore to join the Sub-Commission.


210. The requested changes were taken into account and the Resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 14 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 15
Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

211. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 15 for adoption.

212. The Delegate of Colombia sought clarification as to whether the reference to its FMD free zone practising vaccination, as submitted in January 2009, corresponded to the containment zone of Colombia.

213. The President of the Scientific Commission clarified that the containment zone did not appear on the official FMD free status list as the containment zone of Colombia concerned the reinstatement of a formerly recognised free zone (“fast-track” procedure).

214. The Delegate of Rwanda enquired about the appropriate use of ‘Members’ versus ‘Countries’ in the English version.

215. The Delegate of South Africa raised the question of whether Botswana was presented as having submitted two zones in the presentation of Dr Bruckner, as it seemed that only one zone was on the list.

216. The President of the Scientific Commission clarified that Botswana had submitted two different zones for recognition, but only one zone was evaluated with a successful outcome.

217. In response to Colombia, the Director General further clarified that as the reinstatement of a containment zone was evaluated by the Scientific Commission using the fast track procedure, it would therefore not appear on the list of the Resolution. In reply to Rwanda, the Director General reminded the Assembly that the term ‘Member’ was now used following Resolution No. 20 adopted in 2008.

218. The Delegate of Botswana explained that there had been an outbreak in the zone that had been recognised as a free zone without vaccination, which was reinstated by the document submitted in January 2009, and the new zone in the dossier of November 2009 would be adopted in this General Session.
219. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 15 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 16
Recognition of the Rinderpest Disease Status of Members

220. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 16 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 16 at the end of this report.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 17
Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Disease Status of Members

221. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 17 for adoption. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 17 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 18
Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

222. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 18 for adoption.

223. The Delegate of the Republic of Korea stated that he appreciated the work done by the ad hoc Group on BSE risk status evaluation of Members and by the Scientific Commission to assist in the recognition of BSE risk status. Although the Republic of Korea was not totally satisfied with the classification it had been given, the Delegate was confident that his country would do its best to achieve classification in the near future as a Member with a negligible BSE risk.

224. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 18 at the end of this report.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

225. The Chairman of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases (WGWD), Dr William Karesh, presented an overview of the activities of the Working Group since the last General Session and the outcomes of the annual meeting of the WGWD (1-4 February 2010, OIE headquarters, Paris) as follows.

226. The Terms of Reference proposed by the WGWD in its 2008–09 report had been reviewed by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and returned to the WGWD with revisions. The WGWD accepted these revised Terms of Reference, which appear at Appendix III of the Report of the meeting of the Working Group.

227. The Working Group was informed by Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, of the development of the wildlife components of the WAHIS and WAHIS-Wild systems for reporting disease occurrences in wild animals. The regular WAHIS system now permitted reporting of OIE-listed diseases occurring in wild animal species in the semi-annual reports submitted by Members. The WAHIS-Wild system would be activated in 2010. With this system, OIE focal points for wildlife in each country would be provided with the information already reported on the occurrences of OIE-listed diseases in wild animal species in their countries, and would be able to verify or amend the reports, and add reports for wildlife diseases not on the OIE list. For information on OIE-listed diseases in wild animals, the on-line report would then be passed to the Delegate for
verification and final submission to the OIE. The Working Group would review all information in the WAHIS-Wild system on an annual basis to detect trends or other significant developments, and would work with the OIE Animal Health Information Department to evaluate how best to use the information on a long-term basis.

228. The Working Group identified several wildlife disease issues as being of particular interest or concern.

Following its introduction in 2007 into Armenia, African swine fever had persisted in the Caucasian region for 3 years. Currently only Russia continued to report African swine fever outbreaks, mostly in domestic pig operations. However, cases and outbreaks were sporadically recorded in wild boar (Sus scrofa), suggesting that the infection could spill-over or be maintained in wildlife.

Two focal outbreaks of anthrax were reported in wildlife in the Kruger National Park and in the Northern Cape Province in South Africa. A recent anthrax outbreak in both wildlife and livestock was reported from Mashonaland West in Zimbabwe. An additional outbreak was reported in buffalo (Syncerus caffer) in Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus continued to be reported periodically among dead wild birds in Eurasia. An exception was the March 2009 detection of the virus in an apparently healthy hunter-killed mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) in Germany. Surveillance for the virus in wild waterfowl and the environment continued to be conducted in several countries. The virus had not been detected among wild birds in the Americas, but avian influenza viruses of low pathogenicity were found regularly, as expected.

In early 2010, chronic wasting disease (CWD) of cervids was confirmed for the first time in wild white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) in Virginia, United States of America (USA). The animal was killed by a hunter within a mile of the state border with West Virginia, where CWD had been found in wild deer since 2005. In other areas of the USA where CWD has been observed in wild animals since the 1980s, the prevalence had continued to increase and is up to 40% in some mule deer (Odocoileus columbianus) despite management efforts. A recent report in the literature indicated that predation by mountain lions (Felis concolor) was four times more likely in infected deer, and the authors concluded that CWD could account for a significant decrease that has been observed in the study populations over the past 20 years. CWD continued to be diagnosed in free-ranging and captive cervids in Canada and the USA. The WGWD continued to be concerned about the potential risk of introduction of this disease to other parts of the world via the transport of infected animals.

An outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic disease occurred in Kasai Occidental in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Nine deaths were reported among 13 people infected. Investigators were not able to identify a source of these human cases. In unrelated studies, epidemiological investigations involving sampling of more than 2000 bats captured in the DRC and Gabon provided strong evidence that Egyptian fruit bats (Rousettus aegyptiacus) were reservoirs of both Ebola and Marburg viruses. In addition, it had been suggested that other fruit bats that were often shot or captured for use as food were the source of some outbreaks of Ebola in DRC and Gabon, though live virus had yet to be isolated from these bat species. Ebola virus field research found one species of fruit bat to be seropositive in the Philippines.

For the second consecutive year, a pansteatitis mortality cluster involving a significant number of crocodiles (Crocodylus niloticus) was observed during the winter months in the Olifants River in the Kruger National Park in South Africa.
A significant outbreak of rabies in domestic dogs was reported in Mpumalanga Province adjacent to the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Significant numbers of confirmed infected dogs were destroyed inside the Park and adjoining private nature reserves.

Rabies was re-introduced in a previously rabies-free country of the European Union, Italy, in October 2008. Since then, rabies had been confirmed in a total of 119 animals (105 foxes, five badgers, three roe deer, three dogs, one beech marten, one cat and one donkey) in the regions of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto. Fox oral vaccination campaigns had been implemented to bring the outbreak under control.

An epidemiologically unusual outbreak of Rift Valley fever (RVF) occurred in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa during the dry season. This outbreak appeared to have been associated with crop irrigation of agricultural land bordering the Orange River.

Since February 2006, a new disease syndrome called white nose syndrome (WNS) had been recognised among cave-dwelling insectivorous bats during winter hibernation in north-eastern USA. Affected bats were thin, could be seen flying outside in daylight during the period of hibernation, and were found dead both in caves and in the open countryside. White fungal growth on the muzzle of affected bats was a striking finding in many of these affected bats and was the basis of the name given to this syndrome. Through the winter of 2008–09, WNS was observed in bats at more than 65 sites in nine states, with mortality rates greater than 95% in affected caves. The white fungus, a new psychrophilic species called Geomyces destructans, was found on the muzzles, ears and wings of most affected bats and was believed to play an important role in WNS through the lesions it caused at these sites. However, it should be noted that G. destructans had been cultured in France from the muzzle of a bat with no apparent clinical disease. Also interesting was the observation of a few dead bats in Canada with visually similar fungal growth on their muzzles; however, as of March 2010, investigators had been unable to diagnose G. destructans in these animals. WNS was of great concern to biologists, cavers and others for several reasons: the high mortality rates at affected sites; the rapid spread of the disease in a short period of time, which was believed to be caused by bat movements as well as inadvertent human contamination of new sites via movement from affected to unaffected caves; and the involvement of all six cave dwelling bat species in the north-eastern USA, including one nationally threatened species. The Working Group recommended that WNS be added to the list of wildlife diseases to be reported to the OIE.

**Additional diseases of concern:** The Working Group noted that the following diseases or situations reported around the world in 2009 warrant continued attention:

Large blooms of certain marine algae could be a cause of wildlife mortality (harmful algal blooms or HABs). Most often this was through production of powerful neurotoxins that were ingested during feeding. However, in autumn 2009, intense coastal blooms of the dinoflagellate *Akashiwo sanguinea* caused considerable mortality in marine birds on the west coast of North America by a very different mechanism. This organism produced a chemical surfactant that eliminates the water-repellent capacity of bird feathers. Water then penetrated through the feathers and birds died from hypothermia and drowning. This was a newly recognised form of wildlife mortality associated with HABs and was first documented in 2007.
In 2009, the WGWD began work on a draft policy on the implications of the livestock–wildlife interface and concluded this work at its February 2010 meeting. A representative of the Scientific Commission and a representative of the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology participated in the discussions at the WGWD meeting. The WGWD reviewed the report on this topic produced by the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology, and applauded its work and conclusions. The WGWD found that the OIE approach of addressing issues related to wildlife on a disease-by-disease, risk-based analysis is appropriate. The complete report addressing the Terms of Reference for this task, as posed by the Scientific Commission, can be found at Appendix IV of the Report of the meeting of the Working Group. The key points of the report were described below.

The Working Group revisited the issue of the definition of wildlife and recognised that ‘wildlife’ was defined in many different ways in jurisdictions around the world. After discussion, the WGWD recommended that for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code four categories of animals be defined as they originally were in the report of the meeting of the WGWD held in 1999 and more recently revised by the OIE ad hoc Group on Epidemiology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals live under human supervision or control</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Domestic animals (a)</td>
<td>Captive wild animals (c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Feral domestic animals (b)</td>
<td>Wild animals (d)</td>
</tr>
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a) **Domestic animals**: animals with a phenotype selected by humans and that live under supervision or control by humans.

b) **Feral domestic animals**: previously domestic animals that now live without supervision, control by or dependence on humans.

c) **Captive wild animals**: animals that have a phenotype not significantly affected by human selection but that are captive or otherwise live under supervision or control by humans.

d) **Wild animals**: animals that have a phenotype unaffected by human selection and live independent of direct human supervision or control.

The WGWD recognised that it most frequently uses the term “wildlife” to include c) captive wild animals and d) wild animals. Feral domestic animals were sometimes considered to be “wildlife” by management authorities; epidemiologically, this group of animals could play a role similar to that of wildlife, or an alien invasive species.

The WGWD also noted that the above definitions should be considered for use with reptiles and amphibians.

For the purposes of country or zone freedom, the Terrestrial Code currently considered different approaches for diseases that have a wildlife component. The WDWG continues to support the approach whereby diseases that may involve or affect captive wild animals and wild animals were considered on a chapter-by-chapter basis, or a specific disease approach based on best available science. The WDWG was available to review chapters at the request of the Scientific Commission. In 2009, the WGWD reviewed the chapters of both the Terrestrial Code and Terrestrial Manual for: bovine tuberculosis, avian influenza, Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease, African swine fever, and classical swine fever.
Currently, the *Terrestrial Code* did not require specific surveillance for all diseases where captive wild animals or wild animals were involved, and there was variation in recommendations for surveillance. Guidelines focused on the goal of ensuring safe trade in domestic animals and their products could be significantly different from guidelines that have as part of their goal the protection of wild animals from diseases. Depending on the goal of the surveillance, the cost of wildlife surveillance that might generate information useful for disease control efforts for domestic animals might be relatively low compared with the costs of not conducting that surveillance, and the surveillance itself might also contribute to determining and improving the effectiveness of biosecurity methods to stop disease transmission in both directions – wild to domestic and domestic to wild.

232. Vaccination of wild animals to prevent disease transmission to domestic animals or humans was not widely applicable for most diseases, but where it is, wild animal surveillance was an important component of the control, monitoring and evaluation strategy. In the rare cases where vaccination was used for wild animals and more commonly in captive wild animals, surveillance of some form was obviously needed for monitoring effectiveness. Testing of vaccination and surveillance techniques in captive wild animals provided unique opportunities to contribute to future disease control efforts, examples of which include rabies and canine distemper.

233. As the economic or societal value of wild animals increases, the benefits of surveillance of wildlife might exceed costs. The epidemiology of many infectious diseases in various wild animal species in many countries was poorly understood. Surveillance of wild species could contribute to this understanding, which was needed but was not always necessary to meet conditions for trade. Information systems for diseases of wild animals, such as OIE’s WAHIS-Wild, would also contribute significantly to this body of knowledge over time.

234. As diagnostic test methods improved, *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* chapters should be updated to reflect new knowledge on diagnostic capabilities for wild animals. Traditional validation of diagnostic tests for most species would be rare for certain types of testing and science-based decisions could be made about others. In many cases, work with captive wild animals might contribute to further understanding in this area.

235. The WDWG agreed that the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* should be organised by pathogen and not by host species. As noted by the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology, this was valid both for domestic and wild animals for the purposes of reporting to the OIE (see OIE list of notifiable diseases).

236. The basic tenet of the One World, One Health approach, as described in 2005, maintained that human health, domestic animal health, and wild animal health are inextricably linked, and that experts working in these fields could achieve more by working together than they could working independently. The OIE had the opportunity to demonstrate this in a tangible and “real-world” manner by highlighting the importance of protecting the health of wild animals in its standards, and by taking the initiative to create connections between the fields of animal health and wildlife conservation and management.

The WGWD could assist in facilitating collaboration between the OIE and wildlife affiliated organisations such as the Wildlife Health Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Environmental Programme, the Wildlife Disease Association, and international NGOs such as the Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Wildlife Fund, Wetlands International, Birdlife International. The OIE
Global Conference on Wildlife, scheduled for February 2011, could serve as an important tool to help build relationships with the OIE and explore areas of mutual interest, such as policy development, best practices, cross-training.

237. As the interest in the value of wild animals increased, the WGWD anticipated a growing need for OIE guidance and standards for trade, best practices, etc. This could increasingly include Terrestrial Code chapters for diseases that affect mainly wildlife and that might not be significant for domestic animals.

238. The WGWD received a request from the OIE OFFLU Coordinator to develop an OFFLU module or protocol for surveillance for AI in wild birds in the same format used in the modules for surveillance of H1N1 in domestic pigs and poultry. This task was discussed and completed during the meeting of the WGWD and is provided in Appendix V of the Report of the Working Group.

239. The annual reports from the OIE Collaborating Centres for 1) Training in Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management (South Africa) and 2) Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Management (Canada) were reviewed by the WGWD. Dr Roy Bengis explained the development and orientation of the new Collaborating Centre in South Africa. This Collaborating Centre was just beginning to operate. Its first activity was the presentation of a workshop for OIE national wildlife focal points in March 2010, in which the Canadian Collaborating Centre also will participate. The Canadian Collaborating Centre reported on a range of international activities undertaken to help build capacity for wildlife health management in OIE Members.

240. Participants from the OIE Headquarters and from the Collaborating Centres that organised the first two workshops for OIE national focal points for wildlife reported on the meetings held in Panama (for the Americas Region) and in France (principally for countries of Eastern Europe). The purpose of these workshops was to prepare focal points to assist the OIE Delegate to report to the OIE on occurrences of diseases in wild animals. At each workshop, OIE participants presented information concerning the structure and function of the OIE, including the system for reporting diseases in wild animals. The basic wildlife curriculum for these workshops had been prepared by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (the OIE Collaborating Centre, Saskatoon, Canada) and had been adapted and used for both workshops. This curriculum included lectures on a range of relevant topics, and small group sessions focused on wildlife disease surveillance. These workshops were well received by the participants. The Working Group expressed full support for these training workshops and for new offers in other OIE regions.

The WGWD recommended that:

– The OIE work with the Canadian Collaborating Centre to make the Course Manual developed for these training workshops available on the OIE website in the three official languages for use by wildlife focal points and others as a reference.

– The OIE Regional Offices and the Collaborating Centres on wildlife take coordinated steps to maintain and keep active the networks among OIE wildlife focal points created by these workshops.

– The OIE Animal Health Information Department undertake an analysis of the results of wildlife disease reporting to assess the effect these workshops may have on this reporting activity.

241. Dr William Karesh provided an overview of the Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) Program recently created and funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The OIE was a major participant in the EPT initiative, with a particular focus on improving laboratory capacity and laboratory networks with the intent of improving the global capacity to predict and prevent emerging diseases with pandemic potential. A large focus of the programme was on diseases associated with wildlife. Areas of work for the overall programme included: pathogen detection, risk modelling, risk reduction, wildlife surveillance capacity building, information sharing and management, and advanced training in human and veterinary public health. A specialised officer from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department also participated in the discussion with the WGWD.

242. In response to a request from the Scientific and Technical Department, the Working Group discussed the merits of developing a new Terrestrial Code chapter on epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD). The Working Group recommended that because of the great similarities between EHD and bluetongue and their aetiological agents, EHD-specific information and guidance should be added to the bluetongue chapters in the Terrestrial Code and Terrestrial Manual. The chapters in the Terrestrial Code and Terrestrial Manual would then require new titles to indicate that both bluetongue and EHD were considered. The WGWD was available to assist in future updates of the bluetongue chapter, or if a separate chapter were preferred, to assist in drafting a chapter on EHD.

243. The project of editing a “Guide on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance”, including aspects on surveillance in wildlife, was discussed. The Scientific Commission and the ad hoc Group had decided to integrate wildlife-specific aspects of surveillance into the Guide wherever appropriate, and not to treat wildlife issues in a separate chapter. The WGWD supported the decision of the ad hoc Group to integrate wildlife components throughout the Guide. In addition, the WGWD proposed to review a draft of the Guide at the appropriate time in order to comment on the inclusion of wildlife-specific issues.

244. The Scientific and Technical Department reported to the WGWD on the deliberations of the ad hoc Group on Diseases of Honey Bees. Domestic bee populations had declined importantly in Europe and North America, while their status was not clearly documented in some other regions. Domestic bees had many pathogens that were not on the OIE list of diseases. None of these pathogens yet met the criteria for being added to the OIE list. There was potential for transmission of pathogens between domestic and wild bee populations.

245. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Karesh for his clear and informative presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

246. The Delegate of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, complimented the work of the WGWD, specifically on the draft policy on the implications of the livestock–wildlife interface and the issues related to trade.

247. The Delegate of Russia thanked Dr Karesh for his presentation and the members of the WGWD for their excellent work. He requested the OIE to support Members’ needs for legislative authority within the Veterinary Services for control of diseases in wildlife, as wildlife might serve as vectors for diseases affecting livestock. He also noted that WAHIS-Wild was working well, but some technical difficulties still existed. He noted that in some countries the Veterinary Services might not have access to the full information on wildlife, and therefore the reporting on wildlife diseases might not be complete. His final point was...
that sometimes disease control efforts might interact with animal welfare concerns, and requested OIE’s support on this matter. As an example, in Russia, the control of African swine fever could have used depopulation of wild boars in a restricted area, but wildlife protection concerns prevented this action.

248. The Delegate of Zambia congratulated Dr Karesh and the work of the WGWD. He supported the position of Kenya regarding the ongoing work on the draft policy on the implications of the livestock–wildlife interface.

249. The President of the Biological Standards Commission congratulated Dr Karesh on his excellent presentation. He inquired whether the difficulties in testing and interpreting the results of chemical residues and pesticides in wildlife were similar to those that were encountered in the testing of infectious diseases in wildlife.

250. The Delegate of the Philippines stated that, to date, there was no evidence linking wildlife, in particular bats, to the transmission of Reston-Ebola virus in the Philippines.

251. The Delegate of Canada commended the work of the WGWD, particularly in helping OIE Members to frame these complex issues. He acknowledged the comments from the Delegate of Russia that WAHIS-Wild was still developing with some technical problems remaining. He proposed that the OIE consider providing training material to Members’ focal points for wildlife and including training on the WAHIS-Wild notification system in the wildlife training programme. He also asked Dr Karesh how the WGWD could help Members to better understand the inter-relationships between ecosystem health, biodiversity, and wildlife.

252. The Delegate of South Africa joined the other Members in congratulating Dr Karesh for his presentation. He expressed concern about possible misinterpretation of data on wildlife disease available through the OIE notification system. He requested that the OIE take an active role with partners, such as PROMED, to ensure accurate interpretation of data.

253. Dr Karesh thanked the Delegates for their support and responded to specific comments made as follows:

Addressing the comment from the Delegate of Russia on how the OIE could help to leverage legislative authority in a country to give Veterinary Services the power, ability, and financing to implement disease control in wildlife, he proposed that this could be achieved by including the subject in the OIE PVS Pathway and by enabling Members, through capacity building, to develop wildlife expertise in the national Veterinary Services. In addition, he recognised that the Veterinary Services were not the legal wildlife authorities in some countries. This was one of the reasons why the OIE had asked Delegates to nominate focal points on wildlife to ensure the collection of data and reporting through WAHIS-Wild. Dr Karesh stressed that good communication with animal welfare communities regarding potential disease control solutions was a critical element for ensuring that the Veterinary Services could achieve their goals.

In response to the question from the President of the Biological Standards Commission, Dr Karesh replied that in his opinion functioning tests were available for chemical residues. He pointed out that the test results and their meaning for wildlife health would nevertheless be difficult to interpret. A comprehensive understanding of the causal relationship between levels of residues and their effect on wildlife health might need 10-15 years of studies.
Dr Karesh agreed with the Delegate of the Philippines that the identification of antibodies to Reston-Ebola virus in bats indicated neither infection in bats nor their potential role as reservoirs.

In his reply to the Delegate of Canada, Dr Karesh agreed that the process of wildlife disease reporting was a complex issue and was still developing and that reporting would improve with time and focal point training. He thanked Canada for their years of contributions to helping to better understand wildlife diseases. He agreed that ecosystems were still poorly understood, particularly as to what defined a healthy ecosystem and how to define resilience. The OIE had been playing a strong role in fostering collaboration between animal and human health, and could provide leadership by encouraging partners in the environmental health field to provide their scientific expertise and contribute to the objectives of “One World, One Health”.

In reply to the Delegate of South Africa, Dr Karesh recognised that wildlife disease reporting did increase the burden of work on the part of national authorities, but added significant value to the information gathered through surveillance. Taking a leadership role in providing the appropriate information and an objective analysis of publicly available data would be the best way of reducing the risk of misinterpretation of these data.

254. The Director General of the OIE provided clarification on some points related to OIE policies. He reminded Delegates that the OIE was implementing resolutions adopted at previous General Sessions. It was OIE standing policy that only the Delegate of a Member could officially send notification to the OIE and that only the Delegate had the authority to nominate national focal points, whose function was to assist the Delegate to fulfil his duties. Wildlife focal points were expected to act as a bridge between the Delegate and other administrations responsible for wildlife. In any case, the focal point should always act under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Another national focal point, responsible for the reporting of diseases in general, could also play an important role for wildlife through notification and use of WAHIS. The OIE was committed to providing specific capacity building for these focal points, including through ongoing regional workshops. The Director General called on Delegates who had not yet designated a focal point for wildlife to do so, reminding them that Delegates could serve as the focal point if they so desired.

In regard to the comment from the Delegate of Russia regarding the management of wildlife posing a danger to domestic animals, the Director General replied that the OIE, if requested, could provide active political support for national decisions concerning control policies when local destruction of non-endangered species, such as wild boar, was needed.

Finally, the Director General invited Delegates and the designated wildlife focal points to actively participate in the OIE Global Conference on Wildlife, Animal Health and Biodiversity – Preparing for the Future, which will take place in Paris (France) at the Maison de la Chimie, from 23 to 25 February 2011. This would be one of the first global conferences addressing health and biodiversity. He hoped that the OIE would be able to identify sufficient funds, with the support of its partner the WCS, to financially support the attendance of as many Delegates and focal points as possible. He confirmed that the organisation of this Conference would comply with OIE rules.

255. The President of the Assembly thanked Dr Karesh and proposed the adoption of the report of the WGWD. The report, as presented by Dr Karesh, was adopted unanimously.

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35 WCS: Wildlife Conservation Society
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

Intervention by the Delegate of Haiti

256. In the aftermath of the earthquake of 12 January 2010, the Council invited the Delegate of Haiti to present the animal health situation in his country and the repercussions of the earthquake for its Veterinary Services. Whilst highlighting the efforts made in recent years, Dr Millien stressed the need to continue to support the action of the Haitian Minister of Agriculture to strengthen the Veterinary Services. He presented an overview of the international emergency plan set up after the earthquake for agricultural and livestock production, as well as the priority programmes for controlling several animal diseases. In conclusion, Dr Millien gave his warmest thanks for the show of solidarity during recent months to support the rebuilding of Haiti on solid foundations.

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

257. Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

Dr 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 (hereafter “the Working Group”) was established in 2002, following a request from the World Assembly to strengthen the Organisation’s activities in the animal production food safety field 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 Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the ninth time at the OIE Headquarters, from 3 to 5 November 2009. Hereafter is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting. The full report is included in the report of the February 2010 meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), which has been distributed to all OIE Delegates and has been published on the OIE website.

The Working Group received an update on OIE, CAC, FAO and WHO activities relevant to its work and then addressed the following main topics.

258. Priority pathogens for standard setting by the OIE

Dr Knight-Jones presented a discussion paper he had prepared on ‘Animal Production Food Safety: priority pathogens for standard setting by the OIE’. The Working Group, when it met in November 2008, had requested the development of this paper.

Since data required for prioritisation of pathogens involved in foodborne disease are lacking, particularly for developing countries, he based his paper on expert opinion, consultation with colleagues at WHO and a literature review. Prioritisation was based on a pathogen’s impact on human health, the potential for on-farm control and a lack of coverage
in OIE Codes: the study focused on developing and in-transition countries. The regions considered were Eastern Europe, Asia (excluding the Middle East), the Middle East, Africa and South America. Opinions from one or two experts from each region were obtained using a postal questionnaire.

Experts from four of the five regions considered *Salmonella* spp. from sources other than poultry to be a top priority and pathogenic *E. coli* was considered a top priority in three regions. The OIE Terrestrial Code contained little or no information on appropriate on-farm measures for these disease agents and Dr Knight-Jones recommended that they be prioritised for future standard setting. *E. granulosus*, the causative agent of hydatidosis, was estimated to have the greatest impact of all foodborne pathogens in Africa; it was also listed for the Middle East and thought to be of importance by both South American experts consulted. Hydatidosis was inconsistently considered as a foodborne disease by experts. *Taenia saginata* was considered important in South America, Africa and by one expert in the Middle East. As WHO, FAO and the OIE had already published recommendations on the control of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella spiralis* and *Taenia solium* there might be less reason to prioritise these pathogens for future OIE standard setting.

The Working Group noted the conclusions drawn by Dr Knight-Jones and provided him with a number of comments. Noting the limitations of the methodology used, it concurred with the overall findings of the report that non-avian *Salmonella* spp. and pathogenic *E. coli* were the main candidates for prioritisation from a food safety point of view. However, the paper was not available at this meeting so the Working Group agreed to provide the secretariat with any further comments by the end of November 2009 and recommended that the final paper, with any modifications proposed by the Working Group or the Code Commission, be provided to OIE Members for further consideration of the proposed standard-setting priorities and this had been done. It would also be published in an issue of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review.

The Working Group also suggested that the Director General ensure ongoing communication between the OIE and WHO with regard to the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) to assist in the prioritisation of pathogens for future OIE standard setting.

259. **Review of the Working Group’s Terms of Reference and modus operandi**

The Working Group reviewed its Terms of Reference and *modus operandi* with a view to ensuring their ongoing relevance. The Working Group felt that it could continue to provide useful advice to the Director General, Specialist Commissions and other Working Groups, as well as helping promote alignment/collaboration between the OIE and CAC, with some minor modifications to these texts. It was also of the opinion that co-operation between the main technical partners in the field of good governance was an important element of its work and encouraged between-session contact at the governance level between the bodies represented on the Working Group.

260. **OIE work on trade in animal products (‘commodities’)**

The Working Group was provided with an update on the latest meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products (‘Commodities’), which took place in October 2009.
261. **Salmonellosis**

The Working Group was provided with an update on OIE work on salmonellosis in poultry and noted the active collaboration between the OIE and Codex to harmonise the standards under development by the two organisations. The OIE was represented at the FAO/WHO Expert meeting on Salmonella and Campylobacter in chicken meat in May 2009 and participated in the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene Working Group on the proposed draft “Guidelines for control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in chicken meat”. The *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.4. “Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries” had been revised by the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis following consideration of Member comments and circulated to Members as part of the October 2009 Report of the Code Commission.

The Working Group noted the excellent collaboration between the OIE and CAC on standards related to salmonellosis in poultry (leading to aligned standards) and recommended that such collaboration be continued with the CAC in standard setting for salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis in poultry.

262. **The control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in heat-treated pet food**


263. **Aquatic and Terrestrial Code chapters on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed**

The Working Group reviewed the revised *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Code* chapters on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed. It noted that the definition of *feed additive* used in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code* chapters differed from the CAC definition and recommended that the two OIE Commissions align definitions as far as possible with CAC definitions. The Working Group noted that *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.5. included more detailed information on certification procedures than the equivalent *Terrestrial Code* chapter and recommended that the Code Commission give consideration to expanding the text on certification procedures to harmonise the two chapters. The Working Group also recommended several other amendments to *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.3. and *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.5.

264. **Antimicrobial resistance**

The Working Group was informed that the OIE continued to participate as an observer in the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and considered that the chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* on antimicrobial resistance had provided a good basis for the Codex work. The Working Group encouraged the OIE to continue to engage closely with CAC, FAO and WHO on the important topic of antimicrobial resistance. It noted that the World Assembly at the 77th OIE General Session in May 2009 had expanded the mandate of the Aquatic Animals Commission to include
animal production food safety and animal welfare. As one of its first priorities, the Aquatic Commission was developing a new text addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance, along similar lines to Chapters 6.7., 6.8., 6.9., 6.10. and 6.11. in the Terrestrial Code.

265. Biotechnology

The Working Group was informed that the OIE ad hoc Group on Biotechnology had been divided into two separate groups: the ad hoc Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies, focused on vaccinology, and the other on molecular diagnostic tests. The former met in January 2010 to consider food safety issues related to the use of biotechnology-derived vaccines in animals. The report would be reviewed by the Working Group during its next meeting. The members of the latter Group would include experts to be nominated by FAO and WHO, in addition to OIE experts.

The Working Group recommended that in view of the food safety issues related to the use of nanotechnology in animal vaccines, the OIE and the Working Group should be involved.

266. Private standards for health security measures and animal welfare

The Working Group was briefed on the current OIE work programme on private standards. In August 2009 the OIE sent a questionnaire on private standards for animal welfare and health security measures to Members. The replies were reviewed by the ad hoc Group on Private Standards at its meeting on 9–10 November 2009. The ad hoc Group had been asked to recommend actions that could be taken by the OIE to help Members avoid trade problems arising from private standards on health security measures (i.e. animal health, zoonoses and animal production food safety) and on animal welfare.

267. OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, 2009

The Working Group was briefed on the recommendations from the ‘OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability’, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23–25 March, 2009. The OIE was collecting the remaining papers submitted by speakers at the conference and it was hoped to publish the proceedings by mid 2010.

268. The development of common OIE–CAC standards

Dr Slorach updated Delegates on progress with the future development of common OIE–CAC standards. As mentioned by Dr Schlundt, representing the WHO, in his presentation on Tuesday 25 May, the World Health Assembly at its recent meeting, adopted a proposed revision to the text of the Agreement between the OIE and WHO. This provided a legal base for the future development of common standards, allowing the OIE and CAC to consider possible needs and mechanisms for the development of such standards.

269. Dr Slorach updated Delegates on the recent series of regional seminars for the OIE National Focal Points on Animal Production Food Safety that had been held in Sofia, Bulgaria (April 2009), Yaounde, Cameroon (September 2009), Kuwait City, Kuwait (February 2010) and Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 2010). He noted that a further workshop was planned for Singapore in October 2010.

270. Work Programme for 2010

The Working Group drafted a work programme for 2010 comprising three areas:
– Horizontal issues: antimicrobial resistance, pet food, potential food safety implications of biotechnology vaccines, import risk analysis, scientific evidence of the relationship between animal welfare and food safety, food safety in veterinary education, the importance of food safety for food security, food safety issues arising from the ongoing work on emerging zoonoses at the human-animal ecosystem interface and finally certification, in particular electronic certification.

– Disease-specific OIE texts: brucellosis, salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis in poultry; follow up on the report on priority pathogens for standard-setting activities in animal production food safety.

– Continue to strengthen the relationship between the OIE and Codex.

271. **Next meeting**

The Working Group planned to hold its next meeting from 2 to 4 November 2010. Work on key items would be progressed via physical or electronic meetings of Working Groups on an as needed basis.

272. The President of the Assembly, Dr Correa Messuti, complimented Dr Slorach on his chairmanship of the Working Group and the Group’s achievements. He highlighted the need for close ongoing cooperation between the OIE and the FAO, WHO and CAC and invited Delegates to raise comments or questions.

273. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

**Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 19**

**Animal Production Food Safety**

274. The President submitted draft Resolution No. 19 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 19 at the end of this report.

275. **Working Group on Animal Welfare**

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


In accordance with the established practice for industry representation, the International Meat Secretariat (IMS) member participated as a full member in 2009. Representatives of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) and the International Dairy Federation (IDF) participated as observers and attended the second day of the meeting only.

At this meeting, the Working Group agreed on the following work programme priorities:

- Ongoing revision of standards on land transport, sea transport, slaughter for human consumption, killing for disease control purposes, and stray dog population control.
• Finalisation of standards for the welfare during slaughter of farmed fish to be proposed for adoption at the 2010 General Session.

• Finalisation of additional text to address gaps in adopted standards on the slaughter, transport and killing of poultry.

• Finalisation of standards on the use of animals in research and education, to be proposed for adoption at the 2010 General Session.

• Further development of draft standards for animal welfare in livestock productions systems (broiler chickens and beef cattle).

• Development of criteria to establish future priorities for standards development.

• Development of criteria to guide the evaluation of future applications to be recognised as an OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre.

The Chairman of the Working Group continued to hold regular teleconferences with OIE Headquarters, to discuss work programme progress and other issues of operational and strategic significance. Valuable teleconferences of the full working group and the Laboratory Animal ad hoc Group were also held prior to the February 2010 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission meeting.

The Working Group noted the increasing importance of the active involvement of all OIE members to consolidate progress made to date, with particular emphasis on the implementation of OIE standards. This involvement requires close liaison and collaboration with OIE Regional Commissions and Representatives, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. The Working Group also noted that the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy developed for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region had now been complemented by a detailed Implementation Plan and recommended that other OIE Regions consider adopting this model.

Communication and consultation with interested parties were two important activities of the Working Group. These activities were supported by the OIE website, the OIE Bulletin, the 2005 special issue of the Scientific and Technical Review entitled “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges” and the October 2008 Technical Series publication “The Scientific Assessment and Management of Animal Pain”, which provided important sources of information and underlined the OIE’s international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.

The Working Group would hold its ninth meeting from 23 to 25 June 2010. This meeting would include a joint session with representatives of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres, who would be attending the second OIE Global Conference of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres to be held from 21 to 23 June 2010.

276. Dr Bayvel then provided an update on additional key issues currently under consideration by the Working Group.

277. Dr Bayvel noted the significant progress made by the OIE in reviewing the role of private standards and the acceptance that private standards for animal welfare played a different role from those for animal health and food safety.
278. Dr Bayvel acknowledged the progress made by the laboratory animal welfare ad hoc group in developing the chapter proposed for adoption. He also noted other priority activities relating to laboratory animal transport, the use of animals for regulatory testing and specialist training needs for laboratory animal veterinarians.

279. Dr Bayvel confirmed that the Working Group had provided criteria to prioritise future standard development as well as criteria to assess future applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres.

280. Dr Bayvel confirmed that the Working Group was monitoring progress with the EU Welfare Quality Project because of its strategic significance in relation to welfare indicators.

281. Dr Bayvel noted that training seminars for animal welfare focal points were currently under way in all five OIE regions and commended this important initiative.

282. Dr Bayvel drew the attention of Delegates to several important developments, including the establishment of four OIE animal welfare Collaborating Centres; the OIE participation in the initiative of the FAO in developing the ‘Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare’ web portal; the ongoing collaboration with the Veterinary Services of Egypt; the holding of the AAVMC/AVMA veterinary education conferences; and, finally, the OIE relationship with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the current consideration of the problems with air transport of animals for use in scientific research.

283. Dr Bayvel identified the maintenance of momentum in all these important areas of work as the principal challenge for the future. He noted the important role of OIE Focal Points and the ongoing application of the PVS Tool in strengthening Veterinary Services. He also commented on the significant contribution of the FAO in national capacity building.

284. The President of the Assembly, Dr Correa Messuti, complimented Dr Bayvel on his chairmanship of the Working Group and on the achievements of the Working Group and opened the discussion.

285. The Delegate of South Africa asked Dr Bayvel about the use of the term ‘standard’ or ‘guideline’ in Resolution No. 20. He also queried the process with regard to the discussion to be held in the afternoon on the inclusion of animal welfare in the PVS Tool. The Delegate also noted the importance of the use of animal-based indicators in the new standards to be developed on animal production systems.

286. The Delegate of Ghana thanked the Working Group for the work done in the last year and the future planning. He asked about future training for focal points in the Africa region.

287. The Delegate of Chile thanked Dr Bayvel for his work and that of the Working Group and commented that the OIE’s work on animal welfare was very important. The Delegate noted that Chile had established a new sub-Department with the objective of improving information, standards, legislation and training on animal welfare. He stated that all existing OIE standards, given the manner in which they are made, allowed for application independent of the level of economic development of the country.
288. The Delegate of Colombia thanked the Working Group for the information provided and noted that it had reviewed the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy developed in the Asia, Far East and Pacific Region. The Delegate noted that this area of work was important for her country, and that it was particularly seeking guidance on the development of animal welfare standards appropriate to the production systems in each region.

289. The Director General clarified that the OIE was holding training seminars for all OIE Focal Points, including an animal welfare seminar for Africa this year, and encouraged Delegates to contact the Head of the Regional Activities Department or Dr Eloït, Deputy Director General, for detailed information on dates and locations of the training seminars around the world. Before the end of the year, all the focal points would benefit from an OIE training workshop.

The Director General also clarified that according to the WTO SPS Agreement, all recommendations on animal health and zoonotic diseases made by the OIE were considered as standards for the purposes of international trade. He also recalled the democratic procedures used to adopt the texts published in the two OIE Codes and two Manuals (terrestrial and aquatic). He added that these four publications were the most formal statement of OIE standards, the other publication channels serving rather as a support for the guidelines and recommendations.

Regarding the Delegate of South Africa’s question about the PVS Tool, the Director General recalled previous discussions that had concluded that Veterinary Services were the best placed to take a leadership role in the application of animal welfare standards in their countries. If Veterinary Services did not accept this challenge, other administrations would step in. In recognition of the competence and leadership of the OIE in the field of animal welfare globally, and of the key role to be played by Veterinary Services, it had been decided with a broad consensus that a new critical competency should be included on animal welfare in the PVS Tool.

290. The Delegate of Colombia questioned how point 12 in the draft Resolution might apply to trade negotiations. Could the use of the PVS Tool present an additional difficulty in negotiating trade access?

Dr Thiermann clarified that international standards on animal welfare had been included in the Terrestrial Code for several years. The inclusion of a critical competency on animal welfare in the PVS Tool simply recognised the standards existing in the Terrestrial Code. The inclusion of animal welfare in the PVS Tool would in fact help countries in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards and give a basis for negotiation for trade access, rather than becoming a trade obstacle.

291. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 20
Animal Welfare

292. The President submitted Draft Resolution No. 20 for adoption. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 20 at the end of this report.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

293. Dr Alejandro Thiermann, President of the Assembly Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the 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 7 to 18 September 2009. The Commission had met again from 8 to 12 February 2010 to examine Member comments on the report of its September meeting, to identify issues which could be presented during the General Session. The items
and comments on texts not being submitted for adoption at this General Session, and which could not be dealt with during the February meeting would be discussed at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2010, together with any new comments on the report of the February 2010 meeting.

Dr Thiermann expressed his appreciation to his fellow members of the Commission (Drs E. Bonbon, J. Caetano and S.K. Hargreaves and Profs S.C. MacDiarmid and A.M. Hassan) for their expertise and dedication and commitment during the entire year. He also thanked Dr Kahn and her staff at the OIE Headquarters for their hard and continuous work in assisting the Commission in its tasks.

In general, Dr Thiermann considered that it had been a very productive year, with 56 new or revised texts being submitted for adoption. Dr Thiermann appreciated the recent increased participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE and noted that several Members had provided comments for the first time. However, the Code Commission continued to encourage the participation of developing countries. He also mentioned the problems encountered with translation of the *Terrestrial Code* texts into French and Spanish. In some cases, the problems relate to regional differences in language. He assured Delegates that the OIE was continuing to work hard to resolve these linguistic issues and to expedite the distribution of the French and Spanish versions of the Code Commission reports.

Dr Thiermann also thanked Members for respecting the OIE convention regarding the submission of comments, i.e. suggested modifications shown as double underline and strike through and the provision of a scientific justification for the proposal. He reminded Delegates that if comments were resubmitted without modification or new justification the Code Commission would not, as a rule, repeat previous opinion. Dr Thiermann encouraged Members to refer to previous reports in formulating their comments.

Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE would continue to provide electronically a preliminary version of meeting reports in English on the Delegates’ website as soon as possible after each meeting, while waiting for the official versions to be finalised and translated. Starting in February 2010, the report and all annexes of the Commission were posted on the Delegates’ website as Microsoft Word documents to facilitate the process of providing comments. He also recalled the OIE policy of placing Commission reports, including Working Group and *ad hoc* Group reports, as annexes to the report, on the OIE public website. This will continue to provide an opportunity for other organisations and the general public to be aware of the transparent work being done in the OIE on international standards, and for them to contribute to that work. Dr Thiermann also noted that the reports of two permanent OIE working groups, i.e. on animal welfare (the Working Group on Animal Welfare) and on animal production food safety (the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety) were now provided shortly after examination by the Code Commission on the relevant public domain webpage in order to accommodate the needs of OIE Delegates and other interested parties.

Dr Thiermann advised Delegates that they would find in their Delegate bags CD-ROMs containing the complete report of the September 2009 and February 2010 meetings of the Code Commission. The folder distributed at the General Session contained only the Introductory Part and Part A (containing texts for adoption) of the February 2010 report of the Code Commission, due to the volume of this printed material.
Dr. Thiermann recalled that the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions had both noted that some Members providing inconsistent comments on proposed changes to horizontal chapters of the respective Codes did not seem to be aware that the two Commissions had proposed equivalent changes to matching text. The OIE continued to take steps to harmonise texts in the two Codes as appropriate and Members were encouraged to review equivalent Chapters in the two Codes when preparing comments on horizontal chapters.

Dr. Thiermann emphasised the progress made in coordinating the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions and noted the change in the date of the meetings as well as the deadlines for comments. He reiterated that detailed comments should be submitted by mid-August each year for consideration at the Code Commission’s September meeting and by the beginning of January for the Commission’s February meeting. It was difficult for the OIE to deal with comments submitted just before or during the General Session. He reminded Members that the Code Commission would not examine any comments submitted after the Commission’s February meeting, including just prior to the General Session. Any additional comment from Members received after the February meeting and those made during the discussion and adoption process at the General Session would be considered during the September 2010 meeting of the Code Commission.

294. Concluding his introductory remarks, Dr. Thiermann reminded the Assembly that any insertion or amendment to the Terrestrial Code would take the form of a Resolution to be submitted to the Assembly for adoption during the course of the week.

295. Dr. Thiermann presented the following texts to the Assembly for adoption:

296. **Chapter deletions**

Dr. Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had discussed and agreed that all chapters and references to diseases no longer listed by the OIE should be removed from the Code. Relevant information on delisted diseases could be maintained in other locations (e.g., on the OIE website) but unless these were updated regularly they could become obsolete. Dr. Thiermann proposed deletion of the following chapters to the Assembly:

- Chapter 11.4. Bovine cysticercosis
- Chapter 11.10. Dermatophilosis
- Chapter 12.4. Epizootic lymphangitis
- Chapter 12.12. Horse mange
- Chapter 12.13. Horse pox
- Chapter 15.2. Atrophic rhinitis of swine
- Chapter 15.6. Teschovirus encephalomyelitis

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the deletion of the nominated chapters.

The Delegate of South Africa supported the deletion of the nominated chapters, particularly of Teschovirus encephalomyelitis, from the Terrestrial Code and supported the rationale provided by Dr. Thiermann. The Delegate also supported retention of the relevant chapter on teschovirus in the Terrestrial Manual in view of the comments made by the Delegate of Haiti earlier in the day.
The President of the Assembly recommended that Chapter 15.6. be retained in the *Terrestrial Code* (but designated as 'suspended') pending further developments.

The Delegate of Haiti stated that, given the importance of Teschovirus encephalomyelitis for Haiti and the region, the deletion of the chapter should not be done immediately; the disease was emerging and nobody knew how far it could spread.

The Delegate of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, did not agree to the proposal to suspend Chapter 15.6. based on the rationale previously provided.

The Delegate of Cuba reminded Members of one of the achievements of the OIE – the regular reviewing and updating of the list of diseases, with its focus on diseases that disappear and then reappear. He felt that it would be unwise at this time to delete Chapter 15.6. and supported the comments of the President and of South Africa. The proposal to retain the chapter for one year was supported.

The Delegates of Guatemala, Barbados and Peru supported the comments of the Delegates for South Africa, Haiti and Cuba.

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates of the rationale for listing diseases or removing them from the OIE list. Removal from the list did not mean that a disease was unimportant. However, if a disease did not meet the OIE criteria for listing, it should not be listed. The information on disease diagnosis and related matters would, in all cases, be retained in the *Terrestrial Manual*. It would be possible to include ‘unlisted’ next to the title of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

The Delegate of Spain commented that an unlisted disease should not be included in the *Terrestrial Code*. If the disease is considered to be important enough for listing, it should be listed.

The President of the Assembly proposed that Teschovirus encephalomyelitis disease be retained in the *Terrestrial Code* but with the annotation ‘under study’ and asked Delegates to consider this approach.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, opposed the proposal of the President.

It was agreed that Teschovirus encephalomyelitis would be kept on the list, with the annotation ‘under study’, for review by the *ad hoc* Group on the Notification of Terrestrial Animal Diseases/Pathogenic Agents.

Dr Thiermann advised that this Group would meet in July and reminded Members of the need to apply the listing criteria agreed by the OIE in making decisions on the listing of diseases and disease agents.

The deletions and retention as described above were adopted by majority decision.

297. **Glossary, Border posts and quarantine stations (Chapter 5.6.)**

Dr Thiermann reported the discussion on the definition of ‘quarantine station’ in order to clarify that the presence of disease or infection in animals in a quarantine station does not affect the health status of the country or zone. The final conclusion of the discussion was that relevant text should be added to Article 5.6.2. according to Members comments.
Dr Thiermann also reported that the Code Commission had not agreed to create a definition for the term ‘biosecurity’ or to re-insert the definition of the term ‘uncertainty’ as it considered that adequate definitions were available in standard dictionaries, such as the Oxford English Dictionary.

Dr Thiermann noted the simplified definition of the term ‘infected zone’ and that this term might be defined more specifically in individual disease chapters, as appropriate. He also noted that some modifications had been made, taking into account the definitions in the Aquatic Code, to harmonise the two Codes.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Niger, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, supported the proposed changes to the Glossary and suggested an additional modification.

The Delegate of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the modified Glossary, but drew the attention of the OIE to the comments previously provided. In particular, the Delegate highlighted proposed amendments to the text on antimicrobial agents and to the term ‘infected zone’. In the definition of Veterinary Services, the Delegate encouraged the OIE to align the definitions for Aquatic Animal Health Services and Veterinary Services as closely as possible.

Dr Thiermann proposed to reconsider the EU comments at the Code Commission's September 2010 meeting. On this basis, he proposed that Members adopt the changes proposed to the Glossary.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, and the President of the Assembly agreed to this approach.

The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, and the Delegate of Algeria supported the addition of the last sentence under Article 5.6.2.

The Glossary and Chapter 5.6. were adopted unanimously.

298. **Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

Dr Thiermann advised that the ad hoc Group on the Notification of Terrestrial Animal Diseases/Pathogenic Agents would hold a meeting in early July to review the criteria for disease listing in response to the Member comments.

Following the adoption of Resolution N° XXIX at the 73rd General Session, Dr Thiermann proposed to modify Article 1.2.3., to include the provision that any changes to the OIE List of diseases made at the General Session would come into effect on 1 January of the following year.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Chapter was adopted unanimously.

299. **Animal health surveillance (Chapter 1.4.) and Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal disease (Chapter 1.5.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had made some minor modifications to the text in response to Members’ comments. He pointed out that the definition of the term ‘case definition’ had been maintained and noted that this term was explained more clearly in Article 1.4.3. point 2(e).
Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Sudan, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, commented on the proposed modification of the text regarding compartments (Article 1.4.6.4.). The policy of the OIE on the recognition of compartmentalisation needed to be made clear in order for African countries to benefit from the application of this concept.

The Delegate of Swaziland supported the intervention of the Delegate of Sudan.

Dr Thiermann responded to the comments of the Delegates of Sudan and Swaziland saying that the OIE was fully committed to implementation of the compartmentalisation concept. The deletion was proposed because the OIE did not, yet, have a procedure for the official recognition of compartments.

The Delegate of South Africa indicated that he was not comfortable with the outright removal of the statement “the presence of appropriate biosecurity measures” from paragraph 2 of Article 1.4.1., without this requirement being emphasised elsewhere in the chapter. He recommended that the statement be retained. The concern was that the results of surveillance demonstrating disease freedom in a domestic animal population, at one point in time, cannot be regarded as reliable in the absence of appropriate separation and biosecurity measures between domestic animals and infected wild animals.

Dr. Thiermann commented, in reply to the Delegate of South Africa, that the presence of appropriate biosecurity measures was not an essential requirement for the statement that disease/infection in wild animals did not imply that the same disease/infection was necessarily present in domestic animals, or vice versa, in the same country or zone. Dr Thiermann therefore supported the proposed deletion of text referring to biosecurity from paragraph 2 of Article 1.4.1. but did not agree that the requirement for biosecurity measures needed to be emphasised elsewhere in the chapter.

The Delegate of Ethiopia commented on Article 1.4.1. regarding disease in wildlife. African countries wished to thank the Code Commission for adding the term ‘vice versa’ in this Article. Africa supported the modification of references to domestic animals here and elsewhere in the chapter.

The Delegate of Kenya, on behalf of the 52 African Members, opposed the proposed adoption of the word ‘additional’ in the text in Article 1.5.1. dealing with surveillance for vectors, on the grounds that this is repetitive. The Delegate proposed to delete the word ‘additional’.

The Delegate of Uganda supported the comments of the Delegate of Kenya.

The President of the Assembly commented that he had been advised by the Director General that the French and Spanish versions of this text did not include the word ‘additional’ and proposed to delete the word ‘additional’.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

300. **Status for OIE-listed diseases (Chapter 1.6.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that, based on Member comments, the Code Commission had made an appropriate modification to Article 1.6.1. Any changes to the disease status questionnaires in response to Member comments would be provided by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) in due course.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.
The Delegate of Lesotho, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, and supported by the Delegate of Sudan, commented on Article 1.6.1. She sought clarification of the English text, noting that the French text used the word ‘procedures’, while this did not appear in the English version of the text.

Dr Thiermann clarified that the proposed modification to this text provided the clarification sought.

The President of the Assembly suggested maintaining “self-declaration” in Article 1.6.1. and proposed that the Spanish version be modified accordingly.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

301. **Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.1)**

Dr Thiermann reported that, based on Member comments, the Code Commission had made a minor modification to Article 2.1.3. Dr Thiermann informed the Assembly that the second edition of Volume 1 of the OIE Import Risk Analysis Handbook would be published in 2010.

Dr Thiermann reminded the Assembly that the changes had been proposed by Members and he presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

302. **Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapters 3.1. and 3.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had endorsed the proposed new critical competencies and noted the need to include specific references to animal welfare in Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. in the *Terrestrial Code*. Noting that the definition of Veterinary Services in the Glossary already identified the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards as a responsibility of the Veterinary Services, the Code Commission considered that the addition of appropriate references to Chapter 3.1. and Chapter 3.2. did not represent a significant change but that it was needed to maintain the explicit linkages between the OIE PVS Tool and these chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Dr Thiermann also reported that the Code Commission made amendments relevant to the OIE veterinary legislation initiative. Dr Thiermann informed the Assembly of relevant activities, including the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, to be held in Djerba (Tunisia) on 7–9 December 2010.

Dr Thiermann presented the proposed amendments to Chapter 3.1. to Delegates, explaining that the modified text on animal welfare and legislation reflected the established understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services as discussed at past General Sessions.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the revised chapter but asked the Code Commission to review comments previously provided. The Delegate considered that the role of other competent authorities in animal welfare should be recognised and recommended that the words ‘or animal welfare’ be added after the words ‘animal health’.

The Delegate of Benin, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, commented on the first paragraph of Article 3.1.2. point 6, suggesting the deletion after ‘veterinary legislation’ of the phrase ‘is a fundamental element of quality as it supports’ and its replacement by ‘is a prerequisite to’. In regard to the second paragraph under this point, the Delegate recommended that the scope either be extended or the entire paragraph deleted. The Delegate commented that the third paragraph under this point was not very clear; in particular, he asked, what kind of demonstration was being proposed.
The Director General advised that the second paragraph simply provides examples (hence the use of the term ‘notably’) and that this could be reviewed in future. However, he considered that the text should be adopted at the present time and adjustments made in future as appropriate. In regard to the third paragraph, the Director General proposed to modify the French text to use the word ‘elements’ rather than ‘preuves’.

The Delegate of Zambia supported the approach proposed by Dr Thiermann and the Director General.

The Delegate of Australia, supported by the Delegate of Norway, commented on Chapter 3.2. He opposed the proposal to change ‘must’ to ‘should’ in regard to the veterinary staffing of Veterinary Services. The Delegate of Norway proposed that the term ‘should always’ be used as an alternative to ‘must’.

The Delegate of Mali, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members and supported by the Delegate of Ethiopia, recommended a modification of the French version of Article 3.2.2. The word ‘réglementations’ (i.e. regulations) should be replaced by ‘cadres réglementaires (i.e. regulatory frameworks).

The Delegate of the United Kingdom recommended the addition of a reference to animal welfare in Article 3.1.1. because organisations other than the Veterinary Services may be responsible for animal welfare. He also recommended that in future there should be more information on the animal welfare obligations of Veterinary Services. The President of the Assembly agreed that the comments of the EU would be addressed by the Code Commission at its next meeting.

Dr Thiermann agreed with the proposal from the Delegate of Norway, to use ‘should always’ in the revised text.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

303. **Design and implementation of systems to achieve animal traceability (Chapter 4.2.)**

Dr Thiermann explained the modifications that had been made in response to Member comments and noted that the concept of animal ownership might be very different in developing and developed countries. The proposed modification was made in this light.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Ghana, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, advised that those countries were not in agreement with Article 4.2.3., point 5.c.iii., and that the proposed text was not clear. In the same vein, the Delegate of Botswana also raised concerns about, for example, the inclusion of births and deaths of animals in the classification of ‘movements’.

In response to the points raised by African Delegates, Dr Thiermann proposed to change the title of point 5.c.iii to read ‘other events’.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

304. **Zoning and compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.3. and 4.4.)**

Dr. Thiermann explained that text had been included to define the application of a protection zone in Article 4.3.3. and that some other minor modifications had been made in response to Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.
The Delegate of The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, thanked the Code Commission for its work on this topic and supported the adoption of Chapters 4.3. and 4.4.

The Delegate of Uganda, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, appreciated the revised text but proposed that the Scientific Commission review the proposed text before adoption.

In response to the comment of the Delegate of Uganda, Dr Thiermann clarified that the Scientific Commission had already reviewed the text and supported it.

The Delegate of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members and supported by the Delegate of Angola, stated that the concept of compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.4.) was strongly supported by the African countries. The Delegate reiterated the request of African countries for detailed guidance on OIE policies for the recognition of compartments implemented by OIE Members.

The chapters were adopted unanimously.

305. Semen and embryos (Chapters 4.5., 4.6., 4.7., 4.8. and 4.10.)

Dr Thiermann reported some amendments that had been made in response to Member comments and the advice provided by experts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

Concerning Chapter 4.6., Dr Thiermann explained the need to reinstate the deleted text in point 1 g) of Article 4.6.3. dealing with animals from countries or zones not free of scrapie, and to replace the reference to Article 14.9.6. with a reference to Article 14.9.8.

Regarding Article 4.7.14., the Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, advised that the revised chapter was supported, but raised concerns about the reference to the IETS\(^{36}\) categorisation of the pathogen; this text should rather refer to a decision of the OIE. The President of the Assembly agreed to modifying the text as proposed by the Delegate of Spain.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

306. Disposal of dead animals (Chapter 4.12.)

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had reviewed a proposal with a supporting scientific rationale for the addition of new text to Chapter 4.12. and proposed the updated Article 4.12.6. He welcomed this evidence confirming the effectiveness of a thermal hydrolysis system, in addition to incineration and alkaline hydrolysis systems, for the inactivation of prions.

Dr Thiermann introduced the proposed modification to Chapter 4.12. on the Disposal of dead animals.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Members, raised concerns about Article 4.12.6. point 10, and recommended elimination of the sentence “The process...feed additives” and the word “(prions)”. The Delegate also recommended that the 10 bar figure referenced in point 10 be re-examined because other scientific findings support the use of a 12 bar figure.

\(^{36}\) IETS: International Embryo Transfer Society
The Delegate of Japan opposed adoption of the new text as there is only one scientific paper on the subject and the text was proposed without giving Members the opportunity to submit comments.

Dr Thiermann agreed with the intervention of the Delegate of Spain and argued for adoption of point 10 with the modification proposed by Spain.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

307. **Model certificates (Chapters 5.1. and 5.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported some amendments that had been made in response to Member comments.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members and supported by the Delegate of Lesotho, supported adoption of the text because the revision should help to prevent Members seeking certification of horses for freedom from FMD. However, the wording of the French version was preferred to that of the English version of Article 5.1.1.

The Delegate of Canada, in relation to the comments of Nigeria and Lesotho on Article 5.1.1., suggested that the key issue is for the signing veterinarian to have competence in the subject of the certification. He recommended the deletion of the sentence “There should be only one signing veterinarian for one certificate”.

In response, Dr Thiermann proposed to remove the offending sentence and retain the first and third sentences in this point unchanged.

The Delegate of Nigeria proposed moving some text from Chapter 5.1. to Chapter 5.2. The Delegate of Chile supported retaining this text in Chapter 5.1. Dr Thiermann proposed to review this matter at the September meeting of the Code Commission.

The Delegate of Australia, supported by the Delegate of the United States of America, opposed the proposed modification of Article 5.2.2. point 2., on the grounds that the provision of the relevant attestation was not necessarily made by an organisation authorised by the Veterinary Authority.

The Delegate of Côte d’Ivoire, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, raised concerns about Article 5.2.3. point 3, because the languages of both the importing and the exporting countries needed to be taken into account.

Dr Thiermann reminded Members that the text in Article 5.2.3. point 3 was existing text and that no changes had been proposed.

The Delegate of Sudan, supported by the Delegate of Swaziland, proposed to add the word “certifying” before “veterinarian” in Article 5.2.1.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

308. **Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed (Chapter 6.3.)**

Dr Thiermann reported some amendments that had been made in response to Member comments and recommendations of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.
The chapter was adopted unanimously.

309. **Prevention, detection and control of infection with *Salmonella* spp. in poultry (Chapter 6.5.)**

Dr Thiermann reported on the extensive and detailed comments provided by Members on the chapter and commended the excellent work of the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which had addressed these comments in a comprehensive manner. He explained that the Code Commission had not accepted several comments calling for overly prescriptive provisions as this was deemed not to be in accord with the general approach taken in this chapter at the request of Members. He also made reference to the thorough discussion on antimicrobials in poultry and concluded that the current text was considered to be accurate and appropriate. The OIE standards on prudent use of antimicrobials should also be considered when prescribing antimicrobials for use in poultry.

Dr Thiermann advised that the *ad hoc* Group had recently held a meeting to review Member comments on biosecurity procedures in poultry production (revised Chapter 6.4.) and that the Code Commission was continuing to work on this important topic; he also noted the relevant ongoing work by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of South Africa made several comments on Chapter 6.5. On Article 6.5.3., he proposed a modification to the definition of layer flocks. The Delegate also proposed to add a provision to the effect that *Salmonella* surveillance and reduction programmes should be compulsory in breeder flocks. Finally, on Article 6.5.5., the Delegate proposed that the use of antimicrobials for *Salmonella* infection be recommended as one of the optional control measures.

In response to the Delegate of South Africa, the President of the Assembly proposed that the comments be submitted to the Code Commission for consideration at its meeting in September 2010.

The Delegate of South Africa clarified that the comments had already been submitted to the Code Commission and that he had been rather disappointed with the response of the Code Commission to date.

Dr Thiermann reminded Delegates that the Code Commission tried to avoid repeating recommendations from one chapter to another and that recommendations on the use of antimicrobials were contained in Chapters 6.7. to 6.11., inclusive. Moreover, the text proposed for adoption by Delegates had been developed by the experts in the relevant *ad hoc* Group and the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety. In other words, the recommendations were supported by experts and were not only the opinion of the Code Commission.

The Delegate of France advised that South Africa’s first comment, on the definition of a layer flock, was already addressed in Chapter 6.5.

The Delegate of Denmark did not support including a reference to the use of antimicrobials as recommended by the Delegate of South Africa.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

310. **Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.7.)**

Dr Thiermann reported some amendments that had been made in response to Member comments.
Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, stated that he did not approve the text on the preventive use of antimicrobials. The collaborative efforts of the OIE with the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been greatly appreciated and should be reflected in this chapter of the Terrestrial Code. The Delegate of France, supported by the Delegate of Sweden, proposed some modifications to the proposed text, i.e. to delete the words “and preventing” before “infectious diseases” in the second paragraph of the “Objective” section and, in the same section, to insert the words “and in synergy with the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission” after “Arising from its mandate for the protection of animal health and food safety.”.

The Delegate of the United States of America suggested that the changes proposed by the EU be addressed at the next meeting of the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann asked the EU to provide the proposed new text for consideration by the Code Commission at its September 2010 meeting.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

311. Animal welfare

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had continued to work on this important topic with advice from the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) and ad hoc Groups, in accordance with the mandate granted by the Assembly. Dr Thiermann noted the good work of relevant experts in drafting a proposed new chapter on ‘the Use of Animals in Research and Education’ and reports that paved the way for new work on animal welfare in livestock production systems.

Concerning animal welfare in production systems, Dr Thiermann reported that, in view of the extensive comments provided by Members, the Code Commission had recommended that the two ad hoc groups revise both chapters; if possible, before the next meeting of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, to be held on 23–25 June 2010. The Code Commission undertook to review the revised texts at its September 2010 meeting.

Use of animals in research and education (new chapter)

Dr Thiermann reported extensive Member comments on this draft chapter and explained the revised draft text for adoption:

The Code Commission made several changes aimed at reducing the number of definitions and bringing the text into line with the format of the Terrestrial Code. The text on the international tenet, the ‘three Rs’, was removed from the definitions and placed in a new article, as the Code Commission felt that this was more appropriate.

The Code Commission supported the proposed definition of the term “euthanasia” and noted that, if this definition was approved by the Assembly, it should be included in the Glossary, as the term is also used in Chapter 7.7. (and defined differently). The Code Commission invited Members to comment on which of the two definitions should be used in future in the Terrestrial Code Glossary.

Updated chapters on poultry (Chapters 7.3. – 7.6.)

Dr Thiermann reported on the updated chapters and noted, with appreciation, the work done by the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare Working Group, which held a
teleconference to address Member comments. The Code Commission amended several articles as proposed by the Working Group and referred some Members’ comments to the Working Group for consideration at the meeting to be held on 23–25 June 2010.

**Stray dog population control (Chapter 7.7.)**

In regard to a Member’s recommendation that the OIE address the problem of feral cats in this chapter, Dr Thiermann reported the Code Commission’s view that the priority of the issue should be determined by the OIE and that if cats were to be addressed this should be done in a separate chapter. The Code Commission asked the Working Group on Animal Welfare to advise on the best approach to developing appropriate recommendations.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Chad, supported by the Delegate of Mauritania, commented on behalf of the 52 African Members regarding Article 7.5.1. point 1, paragraph 2. The Delegate requested an explanation for the proposed removal of text from this point.

The Delegate of Japan requested the sources of the specific recommendations given in Article 7.5.2. paragraph 2 and Article 7.5.4. paragraph 14. In the absence of scientific evidence, Japan proposed to delete the prescriptive percentages concerning broken wings and waiting time before slaughter quoted in these two paragraphs.

In response to the question raised by African countries, Dr Thiermann explained that the modification of Article 7.5.1. point 1, paragraph 2 had been proposed because specific language relating to poultry had now been included in the Terrestrial Code. In response to the comments of Japan, Dr Thiermann explained that the recommendations were based on expert opinion and experience in the practical situation in abattoirs rather than on specific scientific publications. Dr Thiermann urged Delegates to retain the text concerning the 12-hour waiting time but to place the indicator on the percentage of broken wings ‘under study’.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members and supported by the Delegate of Mali, commented on the new chapter 7.X. The Use of Animals in Research and Education. The Delegate recommended to add “and interventions” after “key events” in paragraph 5 and to modify the definition of “euthanasia” as follows: “Euthanasia means the act of inducing death using a method that causes rapid loss of consciousness with an irreversible effect with minimal pain and distress to the animal”. Finally, the Delegate recommended that “Ethical Evaluation” (as in the current French text) should be the title of Article 7.X.4., rather than “Animal care and use programme” – as currently appears in the English text.

Finally the decision was to maintain the proposal while submitting the problem to the Code Commission which will make a new proposal in May 2011.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, congratulated the Code Commission for its work on this topic but requested the removal of the word “vertebrate” preceding the word “animals” (in two places) in Article 7.X.3. Moreover, the Delegate requested that other comments submitted by the EU be considered by the OIE in future. The development of similar standards for aquatic animals was also encouraged by the EU.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.
312. Anthrax (Chapter 8.1.)

Dr Thiermann reported the discussion on the safety of milk, time/temperature provisions and the use of quicklime to inactivate anthrax spores, which was explained in detail in the report of the Code Commission. He explained that, although the contents of Article 8.1.14. were not related to trade, the Code Commission had decided to maintain it as the recommendations were still relevant, pointing out that the OIE sets standards and makes recommendations with respect to listed diseases in response to the requests of Members and that Chapter 8.1. had been expanded in response to concerns about the possible use of *B. anthracis* as a bioterrorism agent.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Sudan, on behalf of the 52 African Members and supported by the Delegate of Togo, agreed with the amendment of Article 8.1.1., but queried the presence of scientific references in Articles 8.1.13. and 8.1.14.

The Delegate of Australia raised several concerns about Chapter 8.1., including the need for better consistency between articles on the treatment of commodities. He suggested that the sentence in the General Provisions that began “When authorising import or transit of commodities...” should include a cross-reference to point A.3. of the Code Users’ Guide, to ensure that Members understand how to apply the recommendation and to avoid its misuse. The Delegate proposed the insertion of the word “movement” before “restriction” in Articles 8.1.4., 8.1.5. and 8.1.8. and gave an example of why this addition was necessary. He also opposed the inclusion of Articles 8.1.4. and 8.1.15. in the *Terrestrial Code* as they are about disease control measures and could be subject to misuse regarding trade. The Delegate proposed that the shaded text in Article 8.1.10. point 2 be moved to a third dot point.

Dr Thiermann responded by indicating that the sentence in the General Provisions that began “When authorising import or transit of commodities...” had been incorporated into this chapter in order to be consistent with many other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. The intention of the Code Commission was to avoid excessive and unnecessary cross-referencing, as the *Terrestrial Code* needs to be examined *in toto*, taking into consideration all recommendations and existing Member obligations in the pertinent horizontal chapters.

Regarding Articles 8.1.14. and 8.1.15., Dr Thiermann responded by saying that while these articles might not be directly related to trade recommendations, they were intended to provide useful recommendations on disinfection, similar to those in other chapters. This was particularly important when dealing with an organism with the potential for use in bioterrorism.

The Delegate of Panama commented on the use of the word “bacteridiano”, which was incorrect in the Spanish text and asked the OIE to replace this with the word “bacteriano”.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the chapter, but proposed the development of a separate chapter on disinfection in Volume 1 of the *Terrestrial Code* and the deletion of reference to disinfection in Chapter 8.1. A separate section on inactivation of the pathogen could also be developed. Moreover, there is an inconsistency between Articles 8.1.5., 8.1.6. and 8.1.11. – the Delegate asked the Code Commission to review and improve this text.
The Director General reminded Delegates that although the primary function of the *Terrestrial Code* was to facilitate safe international trade, a large number of recommendations on the inactivation of pathogens had been incorporated into the various chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* at the request of Members. This policy allowed the export of certain commodities from countries infected with certain diseases (“commodity-based trade”).

Dr Thiermann agreed that the term “movement” should be added before “restriction” in Articles 8.1.4., 8.1.5. and 8.1.8. He also agreed that in Article 8.1.10., the point at the end of paragraph 2 should be moved to a new paragraph.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

313. **Aujeszky’s disease (Chapter 8.2.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had proposed only editorial modifications and that the provisions for the use of gene-deleted (‘marker’) vaccines should be discussed in consultation with the relevant experts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of Chapter 8.2. However, she wished to identify several inconsistencies. Article 8.2.2. should be revised because it was confusing. The reference to Chapter X.X. should be replaced by Chapter 1.4. in Point 3 a) of Article 8.2.2., the reference to a 5-km radius was too prescriptive and the decision should be made by each Member in respect of the local conditions.

With reference to Article 8.2.2., the Delegate of the United States of America wished to raise again the use of gene-deleted vaccines and requested that the Code Commission make provision for this practice, consistent with Article 15.3.3. on classical swine fever.

The Delegate of Mexico asked the Code Commission to review the use of certain types of vaccines for Aujeszky’s disease.

Dr Thiermann noted that the comments from the EU, the United States of America and Mexico would be addressed by the Code Commission at its meeting in September 2010.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

314. **Bluetongue (Chapter 8.3.)**

Dr Thiermann reported the discussion of the Code Commission, including what was said about the deletion of text referring to geographical distribution. He noted that the issue of maternal transmission of BTV-8 was still under review by the experts.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia noted and opposed the references throughout Chapter 8.3. to “freedom from *Culicoides*” on the grounds that this is not practical and is overly restrictive with reference to the Australian experience with bluetongue. He proposed to reintroduce the previous wording. The Delegate also opposed the revised wording of Article 8.3.3. point 3 b).

The Delegate of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the modified chapter as presented.
In response to the comment from the Delegate of Australia, Dr Thiermann made reference to the expert advice to the Code Commission, which was that the competence of vectors was difficult to determine in advance. The provision of two options – either conducting surveillance or determining that Culicoides were absent – was based on expert advice and was supported by the Scientific Commission.

The President of the Assembly proposed that the Code Commission reconsider the comments of Australia with the Scientific Commission at the September 2010 meeting.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

315. **Foot and mouth disease (Chapter 8.5.)**

Dr Thiermann reported that the only major new development was inclusion of the compartmentalisation concept and that other modifications were minor or editorial in nature.

He emphasised that Members should not confuse compartmentalisation with other recently introduced concepts, notably the containment zone and the protection zone. He also reminded Delegates of the decision taken in 2008 on the requirement for stamping out in a containment zone. The essential characteristics of a containment zone were that it was as small as possible and that it enabled the disease outbreak to be dealt with as quickly as possible (within two incubation periods). Under practical conditions, this would normally require the application of a stamping-out policy.

Concerning the development of an official checklist on biosecurity provisions for FMD-free compartments, he explained that this document, to be posted on the OIE website (as done for avian influenza and Newcastle disease), could be helpful but that placing this guidance in the *Terrestrial Code* would not be appropriate. He noted that such a checklist should be developed with the input of experts involved in the practical implementation of the concept under field conditions.

He noted that the OIE was taking steps to encourage national disease control and eradication by developing a new procedure for official recognition of national FMD eradication strategies and informed the Assembly that the Code Commission would work with the Scientific Commission on this topic.

With reference to FMD, Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission appreciated the review paper “Qualitative assessment of the commodity risk factor for spread of foot and mouth disease associated with international trade in deboned beef”, which had been drafted by experts and endorsed by the *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products (Commodities).

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Australia, commenting on Article 8.5.9., opposed the proposal to move animals to slaughter outside the infected zone, unless there was no alternative. He recommended retaining the words that had been proposed for deletion at the end of the article.

Dr Thiermann responded that in many situations the problem did not relate to a complete absence of abattoirs within the infected zone. For example, the only abattoir available within the infected zone might be hundreds of kilometres away, while there were abattoirs closer but just outside the infected zone border. Based on a thorough evaluation of biosecurity implications and the utilisation of appropriate measures, it might be preferable to use the abattoir that is closest.
The Delegate of Japan commented on the inclusion of the concept of compartmentalisation. As a reference standard for international trade, the Terrestrial Code provision should be realistic enough to ensure safety. Maintaining effective biosecurity measures is very difficult for this highly contagious disease. He also pointed out that the proposed revised text had been discussed for only one year. On these grounds, the Delegate recommended continued examination of feasibility and deferral of adoption.

The Delegate of Botswana, on behalf of the 52 African Members, and supported by Uganda, supported the inclusion of Article 8.5.5.bis but sought clarification with reference to point 2.a) on the geographical application and point 4. Regarding stamping out in Article 8.5.8., the Delegate preferred the use of slaughter to the use of stamping out. Finally, with reference to Article 8.5.39., the Delegate thanked the Commission for taking into account the request of African Delegates.

The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) supported the comment of the Delegate of Japan. Based on experience in his country, more consideration was needed on the use of the compartmentalisation concept.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the proposed text. He stated that the EU was ready to participate in future work on FMD, especially in regard to control programmes. The EU encouraged the OIE to develop practical examples and checklists for use by OIE Members.

Dr Thiermann replied to the comments of Delegates as follows. In many cases, abattoirs were not available within a feasible distance within the infected zone in countries. He agreed with the Delegate of Japan that good practical examples of the application of the compartmentalisation concept did not yet exist. Practical examples and checklists, as stated by the Delegate of Spain, needed to be developed. However, Dr Thiermann pointed out that there were some limited examples currently available and therefore the Commission suggested maintaining the text proposed for adoption. Dr Thiermann replied to the questions of the Delegate of Botswana, explaining that the requirement was for the compartment to be within a country or zone that had not experienced FMD infection for 3 months. It was not proposed to require stamping out of all animals within a containment zone, but to limit this requirement to the infected and suspect animals. Slaughtering animals that were not infected or suspected of being infected was an acceptable option.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

316. Dr Barry Hill, President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission), informed the Assembly of the new Commission following the elections held at the previous General Session.

317. Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had been extremely busy during the previous 12 months, not least because of its expanded mandate and several new initiatives and activities. He sincerely thanked for their continued support the other 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. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Hill gratefully acknowledged the continuing support of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the guidance and assistance given to the Aquatic Animals Commission by several members of staff at the OIE Headquarters, and especially Dr Sarah Kahn, Dr Gillian Mylrea and Ms Sara Linnane.
The Commission met twice, from 28 September to 2 October 2009 and from 22 to 26 February 2010. The meeting reports were provided as Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 A and Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B, respectively. At the October 2009 meeting, the Commission addressed comments that Members had submitted on texts provided with the report of the March 2009 meeting of the Commission. Texts provided with the report of the October 2009 meeting and relevant Member comments were addressed by the Commission at its February 2010 meeting and the amended texts presented to Members in the usual manner.

Dr Hill acknowledged the following Members and organisations that had provided comments: Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America. The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety also submitted comments.

The Aquatic Animals Commission was pleased that a large number of Member comments had been submitted but noted that some comments were still not being provided in the requested format and many did not include a science-based justification in support. The Commission strongly encouraged Members to participate in the development of the OIE’s international standards for aquatic animals by submitting comments on its proposals and would be grateful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale.

Four ad hoc Groups reporting to the Aquatic Animals Commission met at OIE Headquarters during the past 12 months:

- Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals: 19–21 January 2010.
- Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance: 8–10 February 2010.

In addition, the Crustacean Team of the ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases worked together electronically between July and September 2009 and also between December 2009 and February 2010.

All ad hoc Groups had submitted reports of their meetings to the Aquatic Animals Commission. Dr Hill pointed out that many of the Commission’s decisions on texts for adoption were based on the reports and recommendations of the ad hoc Groups. He encouraged Delegates to ensure that those reports are read in conjunction with the Commission’s meeting reports.

As in previous years, Aquatic Animals Commission members or other OIE representatives had continued to update Delegates and others worldwide on developments in aquaculture and aquatic animal health, and specifically on the continued development of the OIE standards in the Aquatic Animal Health Code (the Aquatic Code) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (the Aquatic Manual). Since the last General Session, members of the Commission or other OIE representatives had made presentations on the work of the Commission at the following OIE Regional Conferences and other meetings:

- 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, Doha, Qatar, 25–29 October 2009. (Dr Karim Ben Jebara).
- 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 16–21 November 2009 (Dr Huang Jie).
• FAO/OIE Aquatic Biosecurity Framework for Southern Africa: A Scoping Meeting of Regional Fisheries and Veterinary Authorities, Windhoek, Namibia, 13–14 October, 2009 (Dr Mara Gonzalez).

• 4th Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health, Costa Rica, December 2009 (Dr Ricardo Enriquez).

• 8th Annual General Meeting of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health, Bangkok, Thailand, 2–4 December 2009 (Dr Barry Hill).

With the support of the Director General, the Commission would continue to provide updates at forthcoming conferences of each of the OIE’s Regional Commissions, and other relevant meetings. Members of the Aquatic Animals Commission or other OIE representatives would be attending the following OIE conferences and meetings and would deliver a presentation on the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission:

• 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Kazakhstan, 20–24 September 2010,).

• 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Uruguay, 16–19 November 2010,).


• International Symposium for infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) (Norway, 13–15 September 2010,).

321. Dr Hill reported that, as of April 2010, 119 Members had nominated an aquatic animal focal point and he encouraged Members that had not already nominated such a focal point to do so. An OIE training workshop for aquatic animal focal points of Members of the Regional Commission for Europe was to have been held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 20 to 22 April 2010 but had to be postponed because of disruption to air travel; similar workshops were planned for Members’ aquatic animal focal points as follows:

• Middle East: Umm el Quwain, United Arab Emirates, 27–29 September 2010;

• Africa: Swakopmund, Namibia, 15–19 June 2010;

• Americas: Roatan, Honduras, 23–25 November 2010;

• Asia, the Far East and Oceania: venue to be decided, 2011.

322. Dr Hill informed Delegates that a pilot OIE PVS evaluation of an OIE Member’s Aquatic Animal Health Services had been conducted in November 2009 and that Dr Vallat had supported the proposal to develop a parallel PVS Tool for use in the evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services and considered the strengthening of both Aquatic Animal Health Services and classical Veterinary Services to be a global priority. Dr Hill encouraged Members to request PVS evaluations of their Aquatic Animal Health Services.

Dr Hill gave a brief outline of his presentation, emphasising that, due to the limited time available, he would focus on proposed changes to the Aquatic Code.
323. **Aquatic Animal Health Code**

Dr Hill again thanked Delegates for providing comments and suggestions on the proposed changes to the text of the *Aquatic Code* and gave an assurance that all Members’ comments had been considered carefully by the Aquatic Animals Commission and appropriate amendments made where agreed.

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that the *Aquatic Code* texts now proposed for adoption were provided in Annexes III to XXV in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

324. **Glossary**

Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had continued its review of the *Aquatic Code* Glossary. Certain terms in the *Aquatic Code* had now become obsolete because they were either not used at all or were used only once or twice in the text of the *Aquatic Code* and these were proposed for deletion. Text changes were also being proposed with a view to harmonising of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*.

It was proposed that the terms ‘Veterinary Services’ and ‘Feed additives’ be deleted, as these terms were not used in the *Aquatic Code*. To be consistent with the equivalent definitions in the *Terrestrial Code*, as part of the ongoing harmonisation of the two Codes, the following definitions were amongst those amended: ‘infected zone’ and ‘international aquatic animal health certificate’. Amongst other changes, a new definition was proposed for ‘Aquatic Animal Health Services’ to replace ‘Competent Authority’ in Chapter 3.1. as this term more accurately reflects the Aquatic Animal Health Services of many Members.

The revised Glossary showing all the changes proposed for adoption is presented at Annex III in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

325. **Diseases listed by the OIE (Chapter 1.3.)**

Dr Hill reported that there were no changes proposed for the fish diseases and mollusc diseases listed in Chapter 1.3. Two crustacean diseases that were under study (necrotising hepatopancreatitis and milky haemolymph disease of spiny lobsters [*Panulirus* spp.]) were referred to the *ad hoc* Group on the List of Aquatic Animal Diseases (Crustacean Team) for review against the disease listing criteria taking into account Member comments on their listing. The *ad hoc* Group had concluded that milky haemolymph disease of spiny lobsters (*Panulirus* spp.) did not meet the criteria for listing as outlined in Articles 1.2.1. and 1.2.2. of the *Aquatic Code* and therefore should not be listed as either an emerging disease or an OIE-listed disease. No Member comments were received objecting to the proposed listing of necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP).

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission supported the *ad hoc* Group’s assessments and agreed with their recommendations:

- to list necrotising hepatopancreatitis;
- not to list milky haemolymph disease of spiny lobsters (*Panulirus* spp.)

The revised Chapter on Diseases Listed by the OIE proposed for adoption is at Annex IV in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that any changes to the OIE List of diseases made at the General Session would come into effect on 1 January 2011.
326. **Example Articles X.X.3., X.X.9. and X.X.11/X.X.12. in all disease-specific chapters**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on the ‘Example Articles X.X.3., X.X.9. and X.X.11/X.X.12.’ to be included in all disease-specific chapters and endorsed their recommendations.

Dr Hill reminded Members that the scope of each of these articles was as follows:

Article X.X.3. addressed the importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ‘Disease X’.

Article X.X.9. addressed the importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ‘Disease X’.

Article X.X.11. (crustacean and mollusc chapters) / Article X.X.12. (fish chapters) addressed the importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ‘Disease X’.

The revised Articles X.X.3., X.X.9. and Article X.X.11. (mollusc and crustacean chapters) / X.X.12. (fish chapters), to be applied across all disease-specific chapters, proposed for adoption are presented at Annex V of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

327. **Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Chapter 5.3.)**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that Member comments on proposed amendments in Article 5.3.1. and Article 5.3.2. had been referred by the Aquatic Animals Commission to the February 2010 meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals. The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed and endorsed their recommendations.

The revised Chapter 5.3. Criteria to Assess the Safety of Aquatic Animal Commodities proposed for adoption is presented at Annex VI of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

328. **Chapters on epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, Taura syndrome and infection with *Bonamia ostreae***

Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had accepted the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on amendments to the chapters on epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Articles 10.1.3., 10.1.9. and 10.1.12.), Taura syndrome (Articles 9.4.3., 9.4.9. and 9.4.11.) and infection with *B. ostreae* (Articles 11.2.3., 11.2.9. and 11.2.11.). The Aquatic Animals Commission welcomed the change in aquatic animal product descriptions as this improved clarity.

The revised Articles on epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, Taura syndrome and infection with *Bonamia ostreae* proposed for adoption are presented at Annex VIIA (clean text) and Annex VIIIB (tracked text version) of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.
329. **Quality and evaluation of Competent Authorities (Chapter 3.1.)**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on Chapter 3.1. and amendments proposed by the Code Commission to the equivalent chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*, and made relevant amendments. The Commission proposed replacing the term Competent Authority/ies throughout this chapter with Aquatic Animal Health Service(s), as they believed this term was more appropriate for this chapter. Similar substitutions would be considered for other relevant chapters in future work.

The revised Chapter 3.1 Quality and Evaluation of Competent Authorities proposed for adoption is presented at Annex X of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

330. **Application of compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.X.)**

Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had compared the texts on compartmentalisation in the *Aquatic Code* and *Terrestrial Code* and noted that the *Terrestrial Code* included a specific chapter on the application of compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.4.). The Aquatic Animals Commission had then drafted similar text for the *Aquatic Code* and considered Member comments on it and amendments proposed by the Code Commission to the equivalent chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*, and had made relevant amendments. The Aquatic Animals Commission had also amended the *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.1. Zoning and Compartmentalisation by removing provisions specific to compartmentalisation as these were now included in draft Chapter 4.X.

The new Chapter on the Application of Compartmentalisation, proposed for adoption, is presented at Annex XII of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

331. **Article X.X.8. for inclusion in all disease specific chapters**

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed Article X.X.8., intended for inclusion in all disease-specific chapters. The Commission had also made some modifications to clarify that the recommendation in the *Aquatic Code* for OIE Members to apply the provisions of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES Code) were limited to those issues falling within the OIE mandate. The recommendations did not extend to the specific ICES provisions for the assessment of invasiveness when establishing measures for the translocation of aquatic animals. The principles of the ICES Code also applied to non-marine species and therefore the Aquatic Animals Commission had not accepted the recommendation of a Member to include the reference to ICES only in chapters dealing with diseases of marine species.

The revised Article X.X.8. for inclusion in all disease-specific chapters proposed for adoption is presented at Annex XVIII of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

332. **Other proposed amendments to existing *Aquatic Code* chapters**

Dr Hill pointed out that in response to Members’ comments, and to ensure harmonisation between the *Aquatic* and *Terrestrial Codes* some minor amendments had been made to the following chapters:

- Measures concerning the international transport of aquatic animal disease agents and pathological material (Chapter 5.9.).
- Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.2.).
- Zoning and compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.1.).
Control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed (Chapter 4.5.)

General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

Certification procedures (Chapter 5.2.).

Model health certificates for international trade in live aquatic animals and products of aquatic animal origin (Chapter 5.10.).

Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Chapter 7.2.).

Recommendations for safe transport of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products (Chapter 5.4.).

The proposed revised texts are at Annexes VIII, IX, XI, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, XVII and XXIV, respectively, in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

333. **New disease chapters for the Aquatic Code**

Dr Hill reported that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on the draft chapters for 1) necrotising hepatopancreatitis and 2) infection with abalone herpes-like virus and had made relevant amendments.

The new Chapter 9.X. Necrotising hepatopancreatitis and new Chapter 11.X. Infection with abalone herpes-like virus, both of which had been proposed for adoption, are presented at Annexes XX and XIX in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

334. **New chapter: introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.1.)**

Dr Hill referred to the work underway to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance as this relates to the use of antimicrobial products in aquatic animals. He reported that an *ad hoc* Group on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals had been convened to review relevant information, including the current *Terrestrial Code* chapters, with the objective of developing text for inclusion in the *Aquatic Code*. The Commission produced a text and considered Member comments and those of the *ad hoc* Group and made relevant amendments to the draft text.

The new Chapter 6.1. Introduction to the Recommendations for Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance, proposed for adoption, is presented at Annex XXIII in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

335. **New chapter on welfare aspects of the stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption (Chapter 7.3.)**

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that the OIE was committed to developing appropriate aquatic animal welfare standards and would do so over time, with the assistance of Members and international experts, taking into account the latest scientific information available. He informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on the new draft chapter on welfare aspects of the stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption and made several amendments.

The Aquatic Animals Commission had looked at the definition of slaughter in the *Terrestrial Code* but had not adopted this definition because it was generally not applicable to aquatic animal species. As the term was not amenable to definition in the *Aquatic Code*, references to slaughter were amended to read ‘stunning and killing’ throughout the chapter.
The new Chapter 7.3. Welfare Aspects of the Stunning and Slaughter of Farmed Fish for Human Consumption, proposed for adoption, is at Annex XXII in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

336. **New chapter on handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste (Chapter X.X.)**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that this chapter had been under development for some time and had been through several rounds of comments by Members. This text had initially been drafted by an expert in collaboration with the Commission, but recently an *ad hoc* Group had been convened to resolve outstanding technical issues.

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the *ad hoc* Group on the Disposal of Aquatic Animals had met in January 2010 to review Member comments and had made relevant amendments to the proposed new chapter.

The Aquatic Animals Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group recommendations and proposed the new chapter on the handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste, for adoption, as at Annex XXV in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

337. **New articles on disinfection of salmonid eggs (Articles 10.4.X., 10.5.X. and 10.9.X.)**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals in response to Member comments on amendments to new articles on the disinfection of salmonid eggs (Article 10.4.X., Article 10.5.X. and Article 10.9.X.) and agreed with the proposed amendments.

The new articles on the disinfection of salmonid eggs (Article 10.4.X., Article 10.5.X. and 10.9.X) proposed for adoption are at Annex XXI in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.

338. Dr Hill reminded Delegates that a new text, Chapter 6.2. on Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine had been circulated for Member comment as Annex XXIX in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B. He encouraged Members to submit comments, which would be reviewed by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its October 2010 meeting.

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

Dr Hill reminded Delegates that the sixth edition of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* had been published in September 2009 and work had already started on preparing the seventh edition for publication in 2012. Dr Hill also reminded Delegates that the current edition of the *Aquatic Manual* included only chapters on OIE-listed diseases.

Dr Hill clarified that pending publication of the seventh edition, amendments could be made to the online version of the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Manual* reflecting the changes adopted at the General Session.

340. **References to non-susceptible species in mollusc disease chapters**

The OIE designated experts on Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, *Martellia refringens* and *B. exitiosa* had reviewed the list of non-susceptible species for these diseases and clarified the situations where scientific information was available to substantiate a finding of non-susceptibility. The Aquatic Animals Commission had decided that those species could be retained as species that are not susceptible to the disease in question in the *Aquatic Manual* chapter. The revised text in Chapter 2.4.3. Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, proposed for adoption, is presented at Annex XXVI Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B.
341. **New chapter on Infection with abalone herpes-like virus**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the draft chapter on Infection with abalone herpes-like virus prepared by experts and agreed that it should be proposed for adoption.

The chapter is presented at Annex XXVII in Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B. If adopted, the new chapter will be added to the online version of the *Aquatic Manual* shortly after the General Session.

342. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

Dr Hill informed Delegates that annual reports had been received from the single existing Collaborating Centre and from all but one of the OIE Reference Laboratories for aquatic animal diseases. The Aquatic Animals Commission was impressed with the quality of the work carried out by all the institutions involved and reiterated its gratitude to the experts for their efforts. The Commission had, however, noted significant differences in the nature of the information provided under different headings, the amount of content and the style and proposed that the experts be given a sample report illustrating what the OIE and the Commission would like to receive from experts in their annual reports.

An application had been received from Chinese Taipei for approval of a laboratory as an OIE Reference Laboratory for Infection with Abalone Herpes-like Virus. Contact details, which will appear on the OIE website, are provided in an Annex XXVIII of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B. Dr Hill reported that the Commission had reviewed the application and recommended its approval.

Two institutes had submitted a joint application for approval as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Aquatic Epidemiology and Risk Assessment. The two institutions proposed to be equal partners in the Collaborating Centre. The Aquatic Animals Commission recommended that the Collaborating Centre be titled ‘OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases’. The leading expert will be nominated on a rotational basis by the two Centres. Contact details, which will appear on the OIE website, are provided in Annex XXVIII of Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B. The Aquatic Animals Commission recommended that the joint Collaborating Centre be approved.

343. Dr Hill informed Delegates that the first twining project for aquatic animal disease laboratories had just been approved between the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA in Canada (parent laboratory) and the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics in Chile (candidate laboratory). Dr Hill noted that two more twinning projects for aquatic animal diseases were currently under development. He encouraged Delegates to submit other twinning projects for aquatic animal diseases.

344. Dr Hill informed Delegates that the *ad hoc* Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance had completed the OIE Guide on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance, which was published in late 2009. He noted that guidance on surveillance for specific diseases would initially be developed for (i) Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (ii) Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*, and (iii) White spot disease. The *ad hoc* Group for Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance had been reconvened to draft these chapters together with the OIE experts for these diseases, for completion in 2010.

346. Dr Hill informed Delegates that the planned meetings for 2010 included:

the Aquatic Animals Commission meeting (11–15 October 2010); and ad hoc Group meetings for Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance (July 2010); Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals (electronically in August 2010) and Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals (October 2010).

347. Dr Hill closed his presentation by informing Delegates that more detail on the Aquatic Animals Commission’s work plan for 2010/2011 was provided in the February 2010 meeting report (see Annex XXXVI to Doc. 78 SG/12/CS4 B).

348. The President of the Assembly, Dr Correa Messuti, thanked Dr Hill and the Aquatic Animals Commission for the work they had carried out over the past 12 months and invited comments from Delegates.

349. The Delegate of Australia thanked Dr Hill and commended the work of the Commission. The Delegate supported adoption of the Aquatic Manual text on Infection with abalone herpes-like virus, but reminded the Aquatic Animals Commission of the need to observe the normal 2-year period for the adoption of new texts to allow Members to comment on proposed new text.

350. The Delegate of Mexico commented that there was inconsistency between the Spanish and English versions of the Aquatic Manual in the chapter on Yellowhead disease. The English version included sampling for both lymphoid organs and gills while the Spanish version included only lymphoid organs. The Delegate requested that the Spanish version be amended.

351. The Delegate of Norway thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its ongoing hard work and the excellent progress achieved in updating both the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual. She indicated Norway’s willingness to support the work of the Commission.

Regarding the Aquatic Code, the Delegate opposed the proposed new text in point 2a) of Articles 10.4.X., 10.5.X. and 10.9.X. on disinfected salmonid eggs on the basis that the method referred to in the Aquatic Manual was not up to date or acceptable. She proposed that point 2a) ‘Aquatic Manual’ be placed ‘under study’ and that the text that had been struck out be re-instated. Norway would provide additional information on better methods for disinfection for the Commission to consider at its October meeting.

Regarding Chapter X.X. Handling, Disposal and Treatment of Aquatic Animal Waste, the Delegate advised that Norway supported the adoption of the chapter, but would provide new scientific information on treatment methods to be considered by the Commission at its October 2010 meeting.

The Delegate was pleased with progress on the aquatic animal welfare chapters.

The Delegate welcomed all Delegates to attend the International Symposium for ISA to be held in Norway from 13 to 15 September 2010.

The Delegate invited the Commission and Delegates to call upon the newly approved Collaborating Centre for support in all relevant areas of work.

352. The Delegate of Chile acknowledged the excellent work of the Commission and of Dr Hill. The Delegate re-iterated his request to include pancreatic disease as a listed disease because it caused significant losses in production, was highly infectious and diagnostic methods were readily available. Since 2009 this disease had been actively monitored in Chile. The Delegate undertook to provide scientific information to support a decision to list pancreatic disease by the Commission.
The Delegate of Chile commented that there was sufficient evidence for vertical transmission of ISA virus in salmon eggs. The Delegate proposed to submit this evidence to be considered by the Commission at its October 2010 meeting.

353. The Delegate of Panama thanked Dr Hill and congratulated the Commission for its work. The Delegate suggested that the Aquatic Code be harmonised with regard to the terminology used in relation to live aquatic animals (for example, breeders, larva, molluscan seeds, spermatophore, eggs) to better reflect the reality of aquaculture. The Delegate recommended that the glossary be developed to provide more details on these terms. The Delegate also requested that the term ‘gamete’ be deleted from Chapter 5.10 and replaced with ovum and sperm. The Delegate indicated that his country would submit comments on this topic for the Commission to consider at its October 2010 meeting.

354. The Delegate of Finland commented on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU. She thanked the Commission for its work and stated that the EU generally supported the adoption of the proposed amendments. The Delegate supported the intervention made by Norway regarding the text on the disinfection of salmonid eggs.

The EU welcomed the work on the welfare of farmed fish during transport and on stunning and killing for human consumption, and supported the adoption of both chapters.

355. A member of the Canadian Delegation thanked the Aquatic Animals Commission for its work, particularly in ensuring consistency between the Aquatic Code and the Terrestrial Code. She asked that the Commission review and clarify the use of the term “aquatic animal health services” in Chapter 3.1. for the purposes of consistency as the Aquatic Code also refers to “Competent Authority”.

356. The Delegate of Sri Lanka thanked the Commission for its excellent work and proposed that the Commission develop a new chapter in the Aquatic Code dealing with agro-chemical and heavy metal residues in aquatic animals and their products.

357. Dr Hill thanked Delegates for their extensive comments. He thanked the Delegate of Australia for supporting adoption of the chapter on abalone herpes-like virus mortality and undertook to deal with any new comments received. Dr Hill thanked the Delegate of Norway for her comments and undertook to add the word ‘under study’ after ‘Aquatic Manual’ in point 2a of Articles 10.4.X, 10.5.X. and 10.9.X. and to re-instate the words ‘or those specified by the Competent Authority of the importing country’. Dr Hill invited Norway to provide scientific information on alternative methods for disinfection that would be addressed at the October 2010 meeting of the Commission.

Dr Hill requested that Delegates submit their comments in writing for the Commission to consider at their October 2010 meeting.

358. The Assembly noted the report of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 23
Adoption of two draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

359. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 23 on the Adoption of two draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.

360. The text appears under Resolution No. 23 at the end of this report.
Activities of the Specialist Commissions (Contd)

Biological Standards Commission

361. The activities of the Biological Standards Commission, which met twice, from 15 to 17 September 2009 and from 26 to 28 January 2010, were presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Commission (Docs 78 SG/12/CS2 A and B). He thanked the Members of the Commission: Dr Beverly Schmitt, Vice-President, Dr Mehdi El Harrak, Secretary General, Dr Hualan Chen, Dr Alejandro Schudel and Dr Paul Townsend. He expressed appreciation for the contributions by the other regular participants, Dr Peter Wright, specialist in diagnostic tests, Dr Adama Diallo from Joint Division FAO/IAEA\(^{37}\), and Prof. Steven Edwards, Consultant Editor, as well as specialist contributions by OIE experts from Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Staff at the OIE Headquarters, especially the Scientific and Technical Department, had been unstinting in their support.

362. **OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres**

The Commission recommended establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia at the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) and the National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL), Tokyo, Japan.

The OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis, located in Fort Collins, Colorado, United States of America, had requested to extend its mandate to include epidemiological modelling such that its title would now be: OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems, Risk Analysis and Epidemiological Modelling. Dr Cristobal Zepeda would continue to be the contact point. The Commission endorsed this request.

The Commission recommended acceptance of the following new applications for OIE Reference Laboratory status.

- **Rabies**: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America.
- **Newcastle disease**: National Veterinary Research & Quarantine Service, MIFAFF, Gyeonggi, Republic of Korea.
- **West Nile fever**: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise “G. Caporale” (IZS A&M), Italy.

A number of OIE Reference Laboratories had notified changes in their designated disease expert. In each case the Commission had reviewed the curriculum vitae of the new expert to ensure that he/she had the appropriate expertise. Prof. Caporale presented their names to the Assembly and they would be published in the list of OIE Reference Laboratories.

General aspects of the twinning initiative were examined. Given that the final objective was not always to have new OIE Reference Laboratories but sometimes to significantly improve the capability of national laboratories so that they would have capability to provide support to other countries, a clear strategy had to be in place. While twinning requests were driven by the initiatives taken between prospective parent and recipient laboratories, geographical distribution of the laboratories concerned, as well as involvement of the same

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\(^{37}\) IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
laboratories in twinning, should also be considered when endorsing a twinning project on a case-by-case basis. The Commission encouraged prior coordination among institutions involved to ensure optimal benefits when a candidate laboratory was involved in several twinning projects.

The text of the Twinning Guide was updated and amended to emphasise, among other points, that the existing twinning relationship between the parent laboratory and the candidate laboratory would remain the principal structure of twinning although training courses could be expanded to include other laboratories. Prof. Caporale drew the Delegates' attention to the OIE twinning guide, placed on the OIE website (http://www.oie.int/downld/LABREF/A_Guide.pdf).

The Commission agreed that it would be advisable to request that parent laboratories assure their support of and collaboration with the candidate laboratories following the ending of the financial support of the OIE project. This would ensure that twinning arrangements grow into long-term projects aimed at creating sustainable working relationships within the OIE laboratory network worldwide.

A number of twinning projects are now active, and more are in process of application.

Annual reports were received from 153/156 Reference Laboratories and 33/34 Collaborating Centres for diseases of birds, bees and terrestrial mammals. An analysis of the reported activities was included in the report of the January meeting of the Commission. The full set of reports would be supplied to Members on CD-ROM and to all the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres during the Second Global Conference. These reports of activities demonstrated the high level of commitment and the high standard of scientific work of these OIE centres of excellence. The Commission continued to stress the huge importance of the international activities of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres.

In response to a question from the Delegate of Canada, the Director General clarified that the application for recognition as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases had already been dealt with (see point 342).

363. Past ad hoc Group meetings

a) Report of the meeting of the ad hoc Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies

The Commission agreed to the ad hoc Group's proposal to retain the introductory chapter on biotechnology, to add a new chapter on vaccines derived from biotechnology, and to review on a case-by-case basis the individual disease chapters where biotechnology-derived vaccines exist. The Commission also took note of the recommendation that authors of the individual disease chapters consider the safety of animal products originating from animals vaccinated with recombinant vaccines, where relevant.

The report of the meeting of this ad hoc Group can be found at Appendix III of the January Report of the Commission and it includes the Report of the OIE/FAO/WHO Meeting on the Assessment of Food Safety Related to the Use of Recombinant Vaccines in Food-Producing Animals (Appendix V of the report of the ad hoc Group meeting). The OIE/FAO/WHO Meeting had recommended that a new appendix should be added to Chapter 1.1.8. (Principles of Veterinary Vaccine Production) of the OIE Terrestrial Manual on benefit–risk assessment of veterinary vaccines, including genetically engineered vaccines, with a specific section on safety, including food safety. The Commission believed that this issue could be addressed by adding text on food safety to the introduction to the existing Appendix 1.1.8.2. (Risk Analysis for Veterinary Vaccines) rather than creating a new appendix.
b) **Report of the meeting of the ad hoc Group on Diagnostic Tests for Trypanosomoses**

The Commission took note of the report of the meeting of this ad hoc Group, which can be found at Appendix IV of the September report of the Commission.

c) **Report of the meeting of the ad hoc Group to Develop an OIE Network of Collaborating Centres to Reduce the Risk of Infectious Diseases at the Animal–Human–Pathogen–Ecosystems Interface**

The Commission recommended that the ad hoc Group expand its membership to include experts from other OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories active in the area of zoonotic diseases. The Commission noted and endorsed in principle the ad hoc Group's proposed future activities.

d) **Report of the third Meeting of the ad hoc Group on Validation of Diagnostic Assays**

At the previous meeting in February 2009, the Group had combined the two introductory chapters on validation from the *Terrestrial Manual* into one single redrafted chapter, and undertook to develop a number of appendices that would eventually be added to this chapter. The principle objective of this meeting was to finalise these appendices, which cover: development and optimisation of antibody detection assays; development and optimisation of antigen detection assays by immunological means; development and optimisation of nucleic acid detection tests; measurement of uncertainty; statistical approaches to validation; equivalency; and selection and use of reference panels. As these draft appendices were longer than expected and their content was rather detailed, the Commission suggested, following the proposition of the ad hoc Group, that it would be better to include them in a stand-alone booklet, and refer to them in the chapter rather than to include them in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The content of the new appendices would also be made available on the OIE website, independently of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The booklet and website could also include an updated glossary of terms used commonly by validation experts.

The Group would finalise the guidelines to support the dossier used for the OIE Procedure for validation and certification of diagnostic assays.

364. **Planned ad hoc Group meetings**

**Second meeting of the ad hoc Group on Diseases of Camelids**

The Terms of Reference for a second meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on Diseases of Camelids can be found at Appendix V of the January report of the Commission.

365. **Proposed ad hoc Groups**

The Commission identified three priority areas: scientific partnerships of laboratories; quality, biosafety and biosecurity of veterinary laboratories; and quality of vaccines and performance of diagnostic tests. It recommended convening three ad hoc Groups to address these issues. Details of the proposed Terms of Reference were found in the January report of the Commission. Prof. Caporale proposed that other ad hoc Groups, for subjects such as residues of veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants in food animals and wildlife, be established in the future.
366. **International standardisation/harmonisation**

a) **Vaccines**

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the 2009 report of the equine influenza expert surveillance panel, which was published in the OIE *Bulletin*.

b) **Diagnostic tests**

A data sheet had been provided for the International Standard anti-*Brucella melitensis* sera (ISaBmS). The sera are for use in the competitive ELISA, the RBT, the modified RBT and the FPA, but not in the CFT, so as to avoid confusion with the OIE International Standard Serum (OIEISS).

Prof. Caporale stressed the importance to the work of the Commission of the preparation of internationally accepted standard reference reagents, preferably validated by the OIE, to ensure quality of the performance of diagnostic tests. He reported on ongoing projects to develop such standards for avian influenza, rabies, enzootic bovine leukosis, and porcine brucellosis. Further detail was provided in the Commission reports. The Commission noted that no progress had been made with the project to develop internationally validated standard sera for dourine testing and a recognised standard strain that was representative of currently circulating isolates. Prof. Caporale informed the Commission that he would resolve this impasse.

c) **OIE Register of diagnostic tests**

The results of an inter-laboratory study on the rabies kit that was on the OIE Register questioned the fitness for purposes for which the kit was certified. Reassessment of the kit submitted to the OIE would be carried out to resolve this issue.

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

The following chapters had been revised this year and circulated to Members for comment.

1.1.7. The application of biotechnology to the development of veterinary vaccines
2.1.7. Japanese encephalitis
2.1.12. Q fever
2.1.17. *Trypanosoma evansi* infection (surra)
2.1.19. Vesicular stomatitis
2.3.8. Duck virus hepatitis
2.3.13. Marek’s disease
2.4.4. Bovine babesiosis
2.4.6. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
2.4.13. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
2.4.14. Lumpy skin disease
2.6.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
2.7.14. Sheep pox and goat pox
2.8.7. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome

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38 ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
39 RBT: rose bengal plate agglutination test
40 FPA: fluorescence polarisation assay
41 CFT: complement fixation test
The chapter on African horse sickness, though circulated for comment, was not being proposed for adoption as the Commission wished to further examine the proposed revision. The chapter on rabies had received a number of critical and complex comments that would need to be addressed. A further round of chapter revisions would be undertaken during the year ahead, and as usual, draft chapters would be circulated for comment. The chapters on African horse sickness and rabies would be included in this round.

The Commission proposed the adoption of the 17 chapters after incorporation of comments received, as appropriate.

368. Rinderpest

The Commission reviewed the document entitled “Global Rinderpest Eradication: Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration” that had been drafted by the OIE ad hoc Group on Evaluation of Rinderpest Disease Status of Members, with the assistance of some invited experts. The Commission endorsed the draft guidelines with suggested amendments and agreed that the document be forwarded to the Joint FAO/OIE Committee on Rinderpest Eradication. A draft resolution on the actions required in the move towards global eradication of rinderpest, strengthening Resolution No. 27 adopted in May 2009, was presented for adoption at the end of Prof. Caporale’s presentation.

369. Liaison with other Commissions

a) Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Biological Standards Commission noted the report of the OIE FMD mission to South America. The Commission also noted the need to coordinate work with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases on African horse sickness.

b) Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Biological Standards Commission provided advice on some comments that the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission had received from OIE Members on proposed chapters for the Terrestrial Code.

370. Conferences, Workshops, Meetings

The Commission was informed of the initiative to hold training workshops for national focal points, on a rotation basis in each of the OIE regions.

Following the Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Dakar, Senegal, a second conference was held in Damascus, Syria, in December 2009.

The OIE co-sponsored a symposium on Practical Alternatives to Reduce Animal Testing and Quality Control of Veterinary Biologicals in the Americas, which was held from 18 to 19 February 2010, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Second Global Conference for OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, 21–23 June 2010, OIE Headquarters

The second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres will be held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 21 to 23 June. The Second Conference is expected to build on the outcome of the First Conference by enhancing collaboration between the OIE and its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres by strengthening scientific cooperation within the network of OIE Reference Laboratories and
Collaborating Centres, and by discussing how to improve international cooperation and solidarity to support the veterinary scientific community in developing and in-transition countries.

371. Technical disease cards

The Collaborating Centre for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas, at Iowa State University, had drafted technical disease cards on 33 diseases of which 32 are listed by the OIE. These had been reviewed by OIE experts. Prof. Edwards verified that the information in the cards did not contradict the information on diagnostic tests in the Terrestrial Manual. The cards were available in English on the OIE website (http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/en_technical_diseasecards.htm) and were being translated into other languages.

372. Update on OFFLU

Two OFFLU meetings were held in September 2009: the 6-monthly meeting of the OFFLU Steering Committee (14 September) and the second OFFLU Technical Meeting (15–16 September). A note on both of these meetings were placed on the OFFLU website (www.offlu.net).

OFFLU continued to make progress and to raise its international profile. Several of the OFFLU technical activities provided outputs, including global biosafety guidance, and guidance on pandemic H1N1 detection in pigs. The OFFLU applied epidemiology group began developing a strategy for influenza surveillance in animals.

373. The President thanked Prof. Caporale for his comprehensive presentation and opened discussions on the various issues raised.

374. The Delegate of Cuba thanked Prof. Caporale for his excellent presentation and for maintaining the quality and quantity of the output of the Commission. He pointed out that Cuba was one of the countries that had benefited the most from the twinning programme and expressed his gratitude to the Parent Laboratories in Italy and Germany involved in these projects. He agreed with Prof. Caporale that twinning was very important for increasing diagnostic capacity in OIE Members and for capacity building at the regional level. For example, for classical swine fever, Cuba intended to establish a reference laboratory in the Caribbean region.

375. The Delegate of Ethiopia spoke on behalf of the 52 African Members. He thanked Prof. Caporale for his interesting presentation and congratulated him for the excellent work of the Biological Standards Commission. He stated that the African Region fully supported the principles described in the Guidelines for Rinderpest Virus Sequestration as an essential step in the move towards global eradication of rinderpest.

376. The Delegate of Luxembourg spoke on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU. He thanked the Commission and the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres for their outstanding work. He informed the Assembly that the EU had sent comments on the 19 Terrestrial Manual chapters that had been updated and would be proposed for adoption, and was reassured that adoption of the updated chapter on rabies had been postponed because of the importance of the comments sent. Although he was aware that all Member comments would be considered by the Commission, he pointed out that the time given to send comments had been very short and that the Assembly was not being given an opportunity to see the chapters amended in accordance with the comments received. This made the process not very transparent and could lead to questions about the legitimacy of these standards.

377. The Delegate of Tanzania fully supported the intervention by the Delegate of Ethiopia on behalf of the 52 African Members regarding the sequestration of rinderpest virus.
378. The Delegate of Niger spoke on behalf of the 52 African Members. He commended the Commission for its work. He was pleased to know that the OIE works on diseases of camelids and fully supported this initiative. He emphasised the importance of camelids for the livelihood of many people in many countries, and particularly in Niger.

379. The Representative of the FAO stated that he was proud of the work done towards the eradication of rinderpest and acknowledged the healthy and constructive relationship between FAO and the OIE. He reminded the Delegates that a questionnaire had been sent to all FAO and OIE Members with the aim of locating all the laboratories in the world having rinderpest virus and verifying their biosecurity level. He pointed out that the response to this questionnaire had been far from complete and that it was essential that the information requested in the questionnaire be reported to FAO and the OIE. He urged the Delegates to ensure that their countries responded to the questionnaire as soon as possible.

380. The Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) congratulated the Commission for its work. He believed that the twinning programme was an important initiative to facilitate and improve transfer of expertise from developed to developing and in-transition countries. He thanked the United Kingdom and the United States of America for their support through their twinning projects with laboratories in China. He encouraged the OIE to continue this important programme. He also supported the OIE efforts in the validation of diagnostic methods and in the development of international reference reagents for the control of animal diseases.

381. The Delegate of Israel thanked Prof. Caporale for his presentation. He asked the OIE to continue to develop standards for vaccines for FMD. He reminded the Assembly that many countries were still fighting this disease and it was not always possible for these countries to purchase effective vaccines at a reasonable price. He stressed that good quality vaccines were essential for the eventual eradication of FMD.

382. The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) congratulated the Commission for its excellent work. He assured the Assembly that the newly proposed laboratory for Newcastle disease in his country would fulfil the mandate and responsibilities of OIE Reference Laboratories.

383. In response to the comment from the EU that the draft Terrestrial Manual chapters were not discussed in detail at the General Session, the Director General reminded the Delegates that every year all the proposed chapters (a document of at least 200 pages) were sent to them for comment by experts of their choice, and all comments received were taken into consideration by the Commission and the chapters were amended accordingly. The entire batch of chapters was then proposed for adoption. He stressed that it would take several more days for the Assembly to discuss such chapters and comments in detail. Therefore he believed that the current process was the best compromise between transparency and efficacy, unless the Assembly were to decide otherwise. On the subject of rabies, Dr Vallat acknowledged that questions had been raised about the fitness for purpose of a commercial kit that had been adopted by the International Committee at a previous General Session, following an evaluation carried out by OIE experts. In view of this situation, the kit would undergo a reassessment to resolve this issue.

384. Regarding the questionnaire on rinderpest viruses held in Members’ laboratories, the Director General stressed the fact that not many Members had replied among the whole OIE membership. He agreed with the Representative of the FAO that the questionnaire on rinderpest virus was critically important and joined the FAO in requesting that Delegates reply to the questionnaire as an important step towards global eradication of rinderpest, along the same lines as the WHO procedure with regard to smallpox.
In reply to the Delegate of Niger, Prof. Caporale fully agreed that the development and validation of diagnostic tests for diseases of camelids was of critical importance. In reply to the Representative of the FAO, Prof. Caporale stated that the criteria that would be used in determining which laboratories would be allowed to maintain reserves of the rinderpest virus must be determined clearly. He endorsed the comments from the Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) on the need to have validated diagnostic tests and international reference reagents. He thanked the Delegate of Israel for his comments and expressed his full agreement on the importance of developing standards for FMD. In response to the EU, Prof. Caporale was surprised at the present discontent as the procedure for updating the Terrestrial Manual had not changed since it was first published. Nonetheless he agreed that the procedure could be improved and agreed to review it at the next meeting of the Commission. He would welcome greater participation by the Delegates in the work of the Biological Standards Commission.

The President of the Assembly thanked Prof. Caporale once more. He indicated that several of the topics brought up in his presentation would be discussed by the Council at its next meeting in September.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 24
Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 24 on the Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. The text appears under Resolution No. 24 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 25
Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest

The Delegate of Senegal requested that the word “globale” be changed to “mondiale” in the French version of the Resolution.

The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 25 on the Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest, taking into account the above-mentioned amendment. The text appears under Resolution No. 25 at the end of this report.


Activities of the Specialist Commissions and Working Groups (contd)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (contd)

Dr Thiermann explained the editorial nature of the proposal in the article on safe commodities.

Dr Thiermann presented this proposal to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.
392. **West Nile fever (Chapter 8.16.)**

Dr Thiermann reported the deletion of chicken and turkey chicks under 12 days of age from the list of susceptible species and the consequent reorganisation of the recommendation on importation, and noted that the Code Commission had explained the rationale for these changes in detail in its September 2009 report.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

393. **Avian influenza (Chapter 10.4.)**

Dr Thiermann noted that some Members continued to raise concerns about the requirements for the notification of LPAI\textsuperscript{42} and HPAI and the definition of poultry in Chapter 10.4. He explained that the chapter was well supported by scientific evidence and needed no further significant modification. With reference to Article 10.4.20., he explained that there was no difference in risk between poultry meat from an NAI\textsuperscript{43}-free area and poultry meat from an HPNAI\textsuperscript{44}-free area and that the conditions should be the same. He emphasised that the proposed modifications were for clarity and did not represent significant changes.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of the 52 African Members, thanked the Commission for the modification of Articles 10.4.10., 10.4.13. and 10.4.14. However, the Delegate did not agree with the proposed text in Article 10.4.20. The inclusion of NAI in addition to HPNAI, within the Article, could not be supported as it was confusing and could have serious trade implications, for example in the export of ostrich meat.

The Delegate of The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the comments of the Delegate for Tanzania. The EU could only support adoption with the deletion of the words “NAI or” from paragraphs 1 and 2 in Article 10.4.20. The reason for this intervention was because the proposed text could lead to trade problems. The justification to delete Article 10.4.19. was that there was no risk related to fresh meat as regards LPNAI. The September 2009 proposal from the Code Commission should be retained. Moreover, the EU reminded the Code Commission that it would still like to receive the scientific rationale for changes to Articles 10.4.26. and 10.4.27.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso supported the intervention of the Delegate of Tanzania.

The Delegate of Mexico asked the Commission to look at Article 10.4.9. He considered that the reference to clinical signs was not sensible for day-old chicks, especially when speaking of HPAI. The Delegate also recommended to use the term “parvada” for “flock” in the Spanish version of the text as the term “manada” was incorrect.

The Delegate of Canada supported the proposal to delete the words “NAI or” and therefore agreed to withdraw his comments.

Dr Thiermann thanked all Delegates for their interventions and proposed to delete the words “NAI or” from paragraphs 1 and 2 in Article 10.4.20. He also undertook to correct problems with the Spanish translation of the *Terrestrial Code* in the course of the year.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

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\textsuperscript{42} LPAI: low pathogenicity avian influenza

\textsuperscript{43} NAI: notifiable avian influenza

\textsuperscript{44} HPNAI: highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza
394. **Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.13.)**

Dr Thiermann noted the wide variation in the conclusions of studies on the inactivation of Newcastle disease viruses. Based on the explanation provided by a Member and an expert, he reported that the Code Commission had decided to remove ‘under study’ in Articles 10.13.20. and 10.13.21. and had accepted the inclusion of poultry meal in Article 10.13.19. (feather meal and poultry meal). He also reported minor modifications to harmonise the chapter with Chapter 10.4. (Avian influenza).

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

395. **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Chapter 11.6.)**

Dr Thiermann reported proposed modifications by the Code Commission as follows:

Additional wording was included in Article 11.6.1. to clarify that, providing the commodities were imported in accordance with the recommendation in the chapter, the status of the importing country would not be affected.

The modification in Article 11.6.14. (specific risk materials (SRM)). For countries not in the negligible risk category, the key issue for BSE risk management was the age of the cattle at the time of slaughter, not the BSE status of the country. Moreover, brains and eyes presented a higher risk than the vertebral column.

The amendments to Article 11.6.23. concerning the investigation of BSE cases in cattle born after the feed ban (BAB). The Code Commission agreed with a Member’s argument that the finding of cases in such cattle did not necessarily imply that risk management is not effective. However, the investigation of cohorts of cattle born after the feed ban would normally be part of the epidemiological investigation of BSE cases in cattle born after the ban.

Dr Thiermann stated that based on comments already received, he proposed to maintain Article 11.6.14. unchanged from the 2009 version of the Terrestrial Code and to adopt the remainder of the changes proposed to Chapter 11.6. at this General Session.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of New Zealand thanked Dr Thiermann for his comments on Article 11.6.14. and recommended that the new text in point 3.a.ii and b.ii in Article 11.6.3. and point 3.a) and b) in Article 11.6.4. be modified to delete the text after ‘cross contamination’.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported adoption of the modified chapter but recommended that OIE Members consider the imposition of stricter controls, where appropriate, for example over feed, and that the Code Commission take into account the other written comments that had been provided by the EU.

The Delegate of Korea (Rep. of) thanked Dr Thiermann for the OIE’s excellent work on standard setting within the WTO framework. On Article 11.6.23. regarding the investigation of cases of BSE in BAB cattle, the Delegate considered that there was some uncertainty in interpreting the text and he asked Dr Thiermann to clarify the relationship between the implementation and enforcement of the feed ban and the epidemiological
investigation of BAB cases. The Delegate also asked Dr Thiermann to clarify the statement made in the Code Commission report of February 2010. He considered that the finding of BSE in BAB cattle implied that the feed ban was not effective.

The Delegate of Mexico commented that the text of Article 11.6.3. was not clear.

The Delegate of Singapore shared the concerns of the Delegate of Korea (Rep. of). Investigations should be conducted on all cases of BSE in BAB cattle. However, the outcome of such investigations was often inconclusive. He sought advice from Dr Thiermann on how inconclusive findings should be handled.

The Delegate of China (People’s Rep. of) shared the concerns of the Delegates of Korea (Rep. of) and Singapore regarding Article 11.6.23.

Dr Thiermann thanked Delegates for their agreement to the proposal to leave Article 11.6.14. unchanged. He appreciated the points raised by Delegates. He felt that the deletion proposed by the Delegate of New Zealand (Articles 11.6.3. and 11.6.4.) would largely address the concerns raised by the Delegates of Mexico and Austria.

In response to the Delegates of Korea (Rep. of) and Singapore, Dr Thiermann advised that the text of Article 11.6.23. had been strengthened and pointed out that the finding of BSE in BAB cattle, if linked to feed, would give rise to a new ‘start date’ for implementation of the feed ban. However, this was not the only factor that needed to be taken into account, hence the reference to a full epidemiological investigation.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

396. Bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 11.7.) and bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae (Chapter 11.8.)

Dr Thiermann reported a number of amendments that had been made in response to Member comments. These included amendments to Article 11.7.4. to address inconsistency in the period required for a herd to qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis to highlight the need for a second tuberculosis test, and to add a reference to the gamma interferon test. He also reported that the Code Commission did not agree to the inclusion of camelids in this chapter because no information supporting the applicability of the Terrestrial Code recommendations to these species was provided.

Regarding farmed cervidae, Dr Thiermann reported that modifications had been proposed to harmonise the two chapters on tuberculosis.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Swaziland, on behalf of the 52 African Members, reminded the Assembly of the intervention made at the 77th General Session (p. 99 of the Final Report) when the OIE undertook to provide an alternative text to the proposed inclusion of compartmentalisation in Chapter 11.7. The Delegate was disappointed that this text had not been provided for review by Delegates at this General Session. On the gamma interferon test, the Delegate considered that there were many uncertainties in the use of this test and for this reason the method should not be used for official testing. He noted that only one OIE Member had requested that this test method be included in the Terrestrial Code and asked if the Member had provided supporting scientific information.
Prof. Caporale, President of the Biological Standards Commission, supported the intervention of the Delegate of Swaziland. He stated that the test should only be accepted as an alternative test and not as a prescribed test.

The Delegate of Uganda supported the intervention of the Delegate of Swaziland.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the intervention of the African countries and of Prof. Caporale.

The Delegate of the United States of America supported the previous interventions.

The Delegate of Mexico considered that the inclusion of the gamma interferon test was appropriate and that the Biological Standards Commission should consider including this method in the Terrestrial Manual.

The Delegate of New Zealand supported the proposed review of the use of the gamma interferon test. The method was already being used with success in several countries. The Delegate encouraged Members to provide scientific information to the Biological Standards Commission to facilitate review of the method.

Dr Thiermann agreed to modify the text of the chapter by removing the words “or the gamma interferon test” wherever they occur in the chapter.

On the issue of compartmentalisation, Dr Thiermann undertook to review the text on compartments by providing additional clarity in light of the comments of the Delegate of Swaziland and assured Delegates that this issue would again be taken into consideration during the September 2010 meeting of the Code Commission.

The chapters amended as described above were adopted unanimously.

397. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 11.9.)

Dr Thiermann reported that the Code Commission had deleted the word ‘domestic’ from the sentence on susceptible animals because the fact of the animals being domesticated (or not) did not change their susceptibility to the pathogen. He also noted that the purpose of the chapter was to address the disease in domestic cattle and water buffalo.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

398. Enzootic bovine leukosis (Chapter 11.11.)

Dr Thiermann reported on the new text, which included conditions for a free compartment, following a structure similar to that adopted in the chapter on bovine tuberculosis. The Code Commission also added text specifying which animals were considered to be susceptible to enzootic bovine leukosis, i.e. cattle (Bos indicus and B. taurus) and replaced the word ‘animal’ with ‘cattle’ as appropriate throughout the chapter. Some minor modifications were made in response to Members’ comments.

He also reported that a Member’s comment requesting that it should be permissible to introduce cattle from herds that are not free into free compartments had not been supported by the Code Commission on the grounds that this could compromise the status of the compartment, which needed strict biosecurity controls.
Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

399. Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV) (Chapter 11.13.)

Dr Thiermann explained minor revisions to the text.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

400. Lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.14.)

Dr Thiermann explained some amendments to the chapter in response to the comments received. The revised text for adoption was presented as Annex XXXIII of the report of the Code Commission.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the proposed amendments but drew the Commission's attention to the comments previously submitted, particularly on the status of a free zone. Amongst the conditions, the Delegate considered that vaccination should have been prohibited for three years in free countries (see Article 11.14.2.) and that animals from infected countries should be tested negative before shipment (see Article 11.14.6.).

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

401. Equine diseases – Equine influenza (Chapter 12.7.) and Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 12.10.)

Dr Thiermann reported some amendments that had been made in response to Member comments. He also advised that the Code Commission had undertaken to review the report of the ad hoc Group dealing with freedom from equine diseases and relevant comments from the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) at its meeting in September 2010.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Ireland commented on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU. He supported adoption of the two chapters as proposed.

Chapters 12.7. and 12.10. were adopted unanimously.

402. Scrapie (Chapter 14.9.)

Dr Thiermann noted that scrapie is not considered to present a risk to human health and referred to the detailed information and references in the report of the Code Commission.

Dr Thiermann reported on the following specific points of discussion in the Code Commission:

Safe commodity. The Code Commission had proposed the inclusion of in vivo derived sheep embryos, as supported by IETS. However, the Commission decided not to include semen due to the insufficiency of supporting evidence proposed by Members.
The Commission modified text dealing with surveillance in Article 14.9.3., by replacing a reference to all chronic wasting conditions with reference to defined target populations, based on Member comments.

The Code Commission did not accept Members' requests to modify text on the feed ban provisions in Article 14.9.3., noting the absence of evidence suggesting that the feeding of meat-and-bone-meal had been associated with the transmission of scrapie.

The Code Commission did not accept a Member's arguments that rams from scrapie-free flocks could safely be permitted to have brief contact with sheep of lesser health status (Article 14.9.4.), on the basis that there is scientific evidence for horizontal transmission of scrapie between adult sheep, and from a contaminated environment. The Member's proposal that such risks could be managed by placing rams in quarantine after contact with sheep of lesser health status was rejected as impractical, given the prolonged incubation period of scrapie.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.

The Delegate of Austria, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, urged the Commission to address its comments on point 2.a.ii and point 2.b of Article 14.9.3. In point 2.a.ii of Article 14.9.3., historical freedom should be based on sound information and he suggested that the words “statistically valid” should be introduced after “a formal programme of”. The Delegate felt that there was no justification for a lower prevalence rate and that the rate should be maintained at 0.1% in point 2.b) of Article 14.9.3. The EU also asked the Commission to take into account its other important written comments.

Dr Thiermann proposed to make the change from 0.01% to 0.1% and agreed that the Code Commission would review the other comments of the EU during its September 2010 meeting. He also commented that the provisions throughout the Terrestrial Code on surveillance needed to be taken into account.

The Delegate of New Zealand agreed that there was no need to create a specific chapter on surveillance for scrapie.

The chapter amended as described above was adopted unanimously.

403. Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.3.)

Dr Thiermann explained that the modification aimed at distinguishing between vaccinated and infected pigs and emphasised the need for good vaccination control and the detailed diagnostic approach validated according to the recommendation in the Terrestrial Manual. He also reported on other modifications for consistency with other chapters.

He clarified the Code Commission's view that the reference to 'under study' in Article 15.3.16. meant that, currently, it was not possible to specify time/temperature provisions for inactivation of the classical swine fever virus for the purposes of this article. If scientific information were provided to enable more specification in the text, it might be possible to remove the words 'under study'.

He also informed the Assembly that the Code Commission would continue to work with the Scientific Commission and the relevant ad hoc Group to update this chapter as appropriate.

Dr Thiermann presented these proposals to the Assembly.
The Delegate of Australia noted that Article 15.3.13. still contained provisions for testing regardless of the country status. Last year the Delegate of New Zealand had proposed and Australia had supported the deletion of this text. The Delegate asked that this point be addressed at the September 2010 meeting of the Code Commission.

The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 Member States of the EU, supported the adoption of the modified chapter.

The Delegate of Argentina pointed out a problem with the Spanish translation of Article 15.3.1. (i.e. ‘cerdos fieros inclusive”).

The chapter was adopted unanimously.

404. Future work programme

Dr Thiermann indicated that a new table showing each item, annex, chapter number and status had been included in response to the requests of Members. He highlighted the important work of the Scientific Commission on rabies, brucellosis, bee diseases and swine vesicular disease as well as that of relevant ad hoc Groups on salmonellosis, pet food and communication by Veterinary Services. He reported that the latter two ad hoc Groups would meet soon and that all three topics would be discussed at the next Code Commission meeting.

Dr Thiermann noted that in September 2010 the Code Commission would review its work programme, taking into account the outcomes of this General Session, Member comments and input from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. He encouraged Members to provide comments on the future work programme of the Code Commission in due course.

405. The Assembly noted the report of the Code Commission.

(Doc. 78 SG/2)

406. Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, reviewed the most significant epidemiological events that occurred in the world in 2009 and in the first months of 2010 (Doc. 78 SG/2). He also presented an overview of the animal health situation in wildlife based on the information gathered through the 2009 questionnaire on wildlife diseases.

407. Two major events occurred recently, foot and mouth disease (serotype O) in Asia and glanders in Bahrain. Apart from these two events, in 2009 and early 2010 the world mainly witnessed a continuation of events that had already started in previous years.

408. Immediate notifications submitted to the OIE between 2005 and 2009

Members’ immediate notifications of exceptional epidemiological events involving animal health were disseminated by the OIE World Animal Health Information System in the form of alert messages. Timely dissemination was essential in order to provide the Delegates of all OIE Members and all stakeholders with early warning, not only on all OIE-listed diseases but also on any emerging diseases that were not listed.

The notification of disease events depended on the epidemiological situation and on the surveillance capabilities of the Veterinary Services. The highest number of exceptional disease events reported to the OIE in the period 2005–2009 involved highly pathogenic avian influenza (37% of immediate notifications in 2006 were on this disease), followed by foot and mouth disease (FMD), Newcastle disease, bluetongue, classical swine fever, low
pathogenic avian influenza, 2009 pandemic A/H1N1 influenza, anthrax, rabies, scrapie and African swine fever.

With globalisation of trade, increased movement of people and goods and the effects of climatic change, we are being observed several introductions or reintroductions of diseases to new territories, countries and even regions.

**Terrestrial animal diseases**

409. **Foot and mouth disease – serotype O in Asia**

Since January 2010, FMD due to serotype O had been spreading in Asia into previously free countries/territories such as the Republic of Korea (first occurrence since 2002) and Japan (first occurrence since 2000) after several years with no outbreaks. Chinese Taipei reported several outbreaks beginning in February 2009 (first occurrence since 2001) and Mongolia confirmed the presence of serotype O in April 2010 (first occurrence since 2005).

The current FMD events of concern were the outbreaks of the type O South-East Asia (SEA) topotype Mya-98 confirmed in the Republic of Korea in April 2010. Closely related FMD viruses were also identified in samples from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in February 2010 and Japan (event that started in March 2010). Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of PRC) continued to report the presence of serotype O; however, laboratory investigation had indicated that the new event of February 2010 was related to topotype Mya-98, rather than the Cathay topotype as previously reported. This topotype was also detected in Mongolia in 2004, but the topotype involved in the April 2010 event had not yet been determined.

All these findings highlighted the continued threat posed by FMD as a transboundary disease. A complete picture of the strains circulating in Asia was difficult to obtain since there was under-reporting in countries where the disease was endemic and a large number outbreaks remained untyped. Cross-border movements of animals and animal products contributed to the spread of several FMD serotypes in the region.

410. **Glanders**

Glanders was a zoonotic infection caused by *Burkholderia mallei* and affected Equidae, humans and occasionally Felidae; other species were also known to be susceptible. Infections were usually fatal. In 2009, the disease was reported in the Americas (Brazil), Africa (Ethiopia), the Middle East (Iran and Afghanistan) and Asia (India, Myanmar and Mongolia).

In Brazil, since 2008, the disease had been limited to areas in some north-eastern states, where it was endemic. In December 2009, an outbreak was reported in the Distrito Federal (first occurrence since September 2009) and involved a work horse.

Bahrain reported the first occurrence of the disease, the outbreak occurring in April 2010. There were six positive cases all of which were culled. Bahrain mentioned in its reports that the first two horses, which were positive but without clinical signs of glanders, originated from Syria and Kuwait and had arrived in Bahrain six months earlier. Further investigations were needed to clarify the epidemiological situation in the region.

Irregular reporting across several continents suggested an under-reporting of the disease. Given the potentially severe consequences for humans it was important to implement regular testing in the event of international movements of Equidae and to carry out
national surveillance plans to assess the situation in countries where the disease is thought to be absent or where the situation was undetermined. The expertise of the OIE Reference Laboratories for glanders should be used to assist OIE Members in improving their own technical expertise on this disease.

411. Highly pathogenic avian influenza due to serotype H5N1

In late 2003 and in 2004, HPAI due to serotype H5N1 (HPAI H5N1) was restricted to south-East Asia, but in 2005 it spread to Central Asia and Europe. In 2006, it reached the African continent and the Middle East for the first time.

The disease had been present in several parts of the world since 2003. The following Members constantly notified the occurrence of new outbreaks of the disease in 2009 and early 2010: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Egypt and Vietnam.

HPAI H5N1, as a zoonotic disease, affected 73 people (with 32 fatalities) in 2009 alone. This was however fewer than the 115 cases reported during the expansion of the epizootic in 2006. The majority of human cases reported in 2009 were in Egypt and Indonesia.

Since the beginning of the epizootic in late 2003, a sufficient quantity of data had been collected to enable the identification of a seasonal pattern in the occurrence of new HPAI H5N1 outbreaks. Although the overall trend indicated a reduction in the total number of new outbreaks, each year showed the same pattern with six consistent Gaussian curves starting around the period from October to January of each year.

Bangladesh continued to identify new outbreaks with 60 outbreaks reported since the beginning of 2009, which compared very favourably with the 225 outbreaks reported in 2008. Bangladesh was not vaccinating against HPAI and was applying a stamping out policy to control the disease.

In February 2010, Bhutan notified the first occurrence of HPAI, with five outbreaks in Chhukha province, near the border with India. The source of these outbreaks could be related to the illegal movement of birds. Twenty-four cases in free-range village chickens were identified; 2970 birds had already been culled. The event had been resolved.

On 29 March 2010, Bulgaria reported the first reoccurrence of HPAI since February 2006, HPAI H5N1 having been identified in a common buzzard (Buteo buteo) found dead in Varna.

In February and April 2010, Cambodia notified the OIE of two outbreaks in domestic chickens and ducks in Takeo and Prey Veng provinces, located in the south of the country on the border with Vietnam.

In February 2009, the People’s Republic of China reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in Xinjiang province in which 1330 birds were affected. In April 2009, HPAI was identified in a live chicken market in Cheng’guan, Tibet, an event in which 1500 chickens died. In May 2009, there were two additional outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in migratory birds in Hainan prefecture of Qinghai province; these two outbreaks were resolved in June 2009. A total of 23 693 backyard birds were destroyed as a precaution to avoid the spread of avian influenza.

In 2009, Germany notified the reoccurrence of the disease in a mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) shot on 10 January. The duck tested positive for HPAI H5N1. The 38 other birds shot at the same time (four Canada geese [Branta canadensis] and 34 mallards) were negative for influenza A.
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China) reported several dead birds (both domestic and wild) found on the shore and in parks which tested positive for the presence of HPAI H5N1 virus. In March 2010, a new outbreak was reported following the finding of a barn swallow (Hirundo rustica) carcass at the Mai Po Section of Castle Peak Road in Hong Kong.

Between November 2008 and May 2009, India reported 28 outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in the states of Assam, Sikkim and West Bengal. A total of 3779 cases were reported and 669,073 birds were culled; the event was now resolved. In January 2010, HPAI H5N1 reoccurred in West Bengal with five outbreaks in backyard poultry in which 1866 died and 149,072 were culled.

In January 2010, Israel reported an HPAI H5N1 outbreak in Haifa in a farm under high biosecurity measures; all birds were culled and the event is now considered resolved. The source of the outbreak was thought to be contact with wild bird droppings outside the affected poultry house. This was the first reoccurrence of the disease since 2008. In April 2010, another outbreak was detected in Hadarom; emus in a zoo were affected. All the birds in the zoo were culled and buried on the spot; there are no commercial poultry farms within a 10-km radius of this outbreak.

Laos reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in free-range poultry in January 2009 in the region of Phongsaly (on the border with the People’s Republic of China and Vietnam). The outbreak was linked to illegal movement of birds across the borders. Stamping out was applied and the event was resolved in April 2009. One year later, on 27 April 2010, another outbreak was reported in a layer poultry farm in Ventiane capital province (adjacent to the border with Thailand). All susceptible animals were slaughtered.

Mongolia reported two outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in Arkhangai in 2009, the first at Doitiin tsagaan Lake, Ugii-nuur soum, which started in May 2009, and the second at Doroo nuur, Tsetserleg soum, in August 2009. In 2010, another H5 outbreak (neuraminidase was not yet been identified) was reported in Sukhbaatar; 26 wild birds including whooper swans (Cygnus cygnus) and greylag geese (Anser anser) were found dead.

Myanmar reported the reoccurrence of HPAI in February and March 2010. Three outbreaks were identified in backyard poultry (chickens and ducks) in the provinces of Yangon and Sagaing. Stamping out was applied. The previous occurrence of the disease was in 2007.

Nepal reported the first occurrence of HPAI H5N1, two outbreaks occurring in January and February 2009 in the eastern part of the country adjacent to West Bengal State of India. Both outbreaks were controlled by stamping out coupled with a compensation policy. The disease reoccurred in January 2010 with five outbreaks in the central part of the country involving backyard ducks, chickens, pigeons and a few commercial farms.

Romania notified the reoccurrence of HPAI, with two outbreaks observed in backyard poultry in Tulcea in March 2010. The previous occurrence of the disease was in December 2007, when an outbreak also occurred in Tulcea, near the Black sea. The outbreaks were attributed to contacts with infected wild birds in and around the Black Sea.

Russia reported an outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in June 2009 in Respublika Tyva, bordering Mongolia. Fifty-eight wild birds were found dead. On 26 October 2009, a new positive case of HPAI H5N1 involving a wild bird (a rock dove, Columba livia) was found in an urban area in Moskovskaya Oblast.
A national post-vaccination monitoring programme in Vietnam showed that over 62% of the birds tested had protective immunity against avian influenza H5N1. Activities conducted to detect virus circulation in high-risk areas have demonstrated that HPAI H5N1 virus was still present in the country, albeit with a low prevalence, ranging from 0.15 to 2%. The number of HPAI outbreaks decreased significantly in 2009, the overall picture being the notification of new sporadic outbreaks occurring mainly in non-vaccinated birds, and especially in ducks. However, the wide geographical distribution of the outbreaks suggested that virus circulation persisted where there was a high density of birds, mainly in the south and in the north of the country.

The recent notifications of outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in both domestic and wild birds showed that the virus was still circulating, not only in countries such as Egypt, Indonesia and Vietnam where it was entrenched, but also in other countries, such as certain parts of India and Bangladesh. Also the reoccurrence of the disease in Europe and the Middle East showed that the problem was not over and countries should be prepared to face new occurrences or reoccurrences of this disease. Early warning and detection were key factors in effectively dealing with avian influenza. Surveillance had to cover both domestic and wild birds. Efforts should continue and be strengthened in countries such as Egypt, Indonesia and Vietnam and in the affected regions of India and Bangladesh to better control avian influenza at the source.

412. Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009)

Although it was not an OIE-listed disease, pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) had been notified to the OIE as an emerging disease, in accordance with the notification requirements laid down in Article 1.1.3. of the Terrestrial Code.

Since the first official notification made by Canada in May 2009, 22 other OIE Members reported the occurrence of this disease in animals in 2009 and early 2010. Most notifications pertained to infection with mild clinical signs in pigs. Chile, Canada, France and the United States of America reported the occurrence of pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) in breeding turkeys, with a drop in egg production (up to 80% less than the normal rate). The People's Republic of China reported that two dogs tested positive during the investigation of 52 samples taken from pets at the Animal Hospital of China Agriculture University in accordance with a routine surveillance plan. Other cases, including in companion animals (e.g. dogs and cats) had not been officially notified to the OIE. There had also been occurrences of pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) in other species, reported officially by provinces or states, that have not been officially notified to the OIE.

The disease spread in the human population around the world with at least 18,036 reported human deaths (World Health Organization data as of 9 May 2010). Therefore, notification of the occurrence of pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) in animals was to be expected. Since the first identification of the pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) virus in humans, the OIE encouraged all its Members to intensify their surveillance for potential influenza virus infections in swine or other animals, particularly in cases where there was a suspected relationship between the presence of the infection in animals and its presence in humans. The 24 immediate notifications submitted in 2009 and early 2010 indicated that the OIE's recommendations had been followed by the majority of countries and showed different levels of transparency of affected Members. Pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) in animals had not been shown to play a role in the transmission of the disease in humans. Thanks to the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Code (Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and epidemiological information), OIE Members were required to handle the disease as an emerging disease and notify any occurrence. This was particularly important at the start of the pandemic in Mexico, when little information was available on this novel virus and the effect of the disease on animals, or on any role that animals might play as an additional source of infection for humans. Through the resulting surveillance and notification by its Members, the OIE was able to monitor the worldwide situation of the disease in animals and to conclude that it was not really an animal disease and did not impact on animal health or on trade of animal and their products. Indeed, no cases of transmission from
animals to humans had been notified. The approach that the OIE adopted in response to pandemic influenza A H1N1 (2009) clearly demonstrated the importance of notifying emerging diseases as soon as they occurred, both for early warning purposes and so that they could be monitored. The OIE would then be able to determine what steps to take to protect human and animal health.

413. African swine fever

In Europe

In Georgia, African swine fever (ASF) was confirmed for the first time in June 2007; the source of the virus appears to have been the introduction of contaminated products of animal origin arriving in the port of Poti on the Black Sea. This ASF virus isolate was closely related to isolates from genotype II circulating in Mozambique, Madagascar and Zambia. The virus spread beyond the national borders of Georgia and in August 2007 neighbouring Armenia reported the first occurrence of this disease, with 13 outbreaks, one of which was close to the border with Azerbaijan. The disease spread to Azerbaijan in January 2008, constituting the first occurrence of the disease in that country; domestic pigs were affected. The source of infection was attributed to wild boar. The affected village covered an area 10 km long and 9 km wide. It included 1336 houses with more than 600 backyards containing 4832 pigs. Azerbaijan informed the OIE that the last dead animal was registered on 7 February 2008 and that sero-surveillance of all pigs had been carried out throughout the country, with negative results. Also, Russia reported the reoccurrence of ASF in November 2007, in wild boar along the Argoun and Shatoy-Argoun rivers in Chechenskaya Republic. The previous occurrence of the disease in Russia was in 1977. In the affected region, wild boar were known to move freely across the sub-alpine grassland along the aforementioned rivers. As feared, ASF now appeared to be endemic in this region and could spread to other countries, given the presence of the wild boar population and ticks of the genus Ornithodoros. Since then, Russia had continued to notify cases in wild boar and outbreaks in domestic pigs. In 2009 and early 2010, Russia reported 70 cases in wild boar and 1575 cases in domestic pigs. All outbreaks occurred in the south-west of Russia in the area between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. However, it must be pointed out that one outbreak was observed in Leningradskaya Oblast, hundred of kilometres north-west of the zone where most of the outbreaks in Russia had been reported. This outbreak started in October 2009 and involved domestic pigs. The epidemiological link with the outbreaks occurring in the south of the country was reported to be the introduction of infected pigs from the South Federal district to the Northwest Federal district. Also in 2010, Armenia reported an outbreak of ASF in March in the northern part of the country, in Tavoush region, near the border with Georgia. Three pigs in a farm died and the rest of the herd was culled. The Veterinary Services were applying control measures to wildlife reservoirs.

In its six-monthly reports for 2009, Georgia reported the absence of the disease in domestic and wild animals and no specific control measures were mentioned for this disease.

The above description showed that the virus spread after affecting wild boar and that it was still circulating in Central Europe. It also underlined the importance of effective movement control within affected countries to prevent further spread of the disease. The level of infection in the wild boar population should be determined in countries of the region through active surveillance – a measure currently lacking in most of these countries – so as to protect domestic pigs, which were mostly of the backyard type and were important for the food security of the rural population.
In Africa

The infection was present and was maintained in the wild boar population in most sub-Saharan African countries. Infection of domestic animals was observed from time to time and depends on their close contact with wild boar. Namibia notified the reoccurrence of ASF, with 15 outbreaks occurring between March and April 2009 in the regions of Omusati and Oshana in the northern part of the country, near the border with Angola. The outbreaks involved 795 pigs (backyard and commercial pigs). In commercial units, pigs are raised in bio-secure pens to avoid contact with wild warthogs. Backyard pigs, however, were usually free-roaming and the disease could spread through direct contact. The event was resolved in domestic pigs in May 2009 though stamping out and disinfection of infected premises.

414. Sheep pox and goat pox

During the past 50 years, the geographical range of sheep pox and goat pox had been mainly restricted to Asia and Africa, extending from North Africa to the Equator, from West Africa to East Asia, including Turkey, the Middle East and the Southern Regions of the former Soviet Union.

In the last decade, the range of sheep pox and goat pox had extended southwards, affecting Uganda (2000) in Africa, and eastwards, affecting Vietnam (2005, declared endemic in 2008), the Republic of Korea (2007) and Chinese Taipei (2008) in Asia. Moreover, the disease reoccurred recently in four countries after years of absence. These countries were as follows: Kenya, which notified sheep pox and goat pox in 2003, the first occurrence since 1989 (14 years ago); Mongolia, where the disease reoccurred in 2006 and again in 2008 after a 30-year absence; Azerbaidjan, which notified the reoccurrence of the disease in 2009 after a 13-year absence; and Kazakhstan, where the disease reoccurred in 2009 after nearly 8 years without the disease. In southern Europe, Greece reported several introductions, the last occurring in 2007 from Turkey.

According to the literature, sheep pox and goat pox had never been reported in wild ungulates but their infection was theoretically possible. In reply to the OIE questionnaire on wildlife diseases for 2008, Sudan reported 30 cases of sheep and goat pox disease in Bohor Reebuck (Redunca redunca). These findings would thus constitute the first report of the disease in wild ungulates. However there was a need for further investigation and confirmation.

The monthly data collected from 1996 to 2008 showed that the incidence of sheep pox and goat pox varied according to the region, its climate and the most prominent livestock production system. Associated factors included close contacts between animals in cold seasons and dietary deficiencies during periods of food scarcity.

In Asia, the highest incidence of sheep pox and goat pox was observed from November to March. In North Africa, there was also a significant increase in incidence in winter, from September to February, related to the lack of food reserves and the lambing period. In Sub-Saharan Africa, two waves could be distinguished: one in February and March during the cool period and one from June to October during the rainy season.

Sheep pox and goat pox could cause considerable socio-economic losses in affected regions. There was consequently a pressing need to control this disease in order to improve food security and reduce poverty. Great strides had recently been made to improve sanitary conditions and develop effective, safe and low-cost vaccines. Sheep pox and goat pox could therefore be easy to control and even eradicate in some regions.

National and regional political commitment was needed to provide the necessary resources to implement an efficient control programme, such as ensuring an optimal vaccination strategy that would cover a sufficient proportion of the susceptible population. Coordination at the regional level was sharing borders with frequent animal movements in between.
415. Rift Valley fever

Rift Valley fever (RVF), peracute or acute zoonotic disease of domestic and wild ruminants, was caused by a single serotype of a mosquito-borne bunyavirus of the genus *Phlebovirus*. The disease was most severe in sheep, goats and cattle, in which it produces abortions in pregnant animals and a high mortality rate in newborns. Humans were susceptible to infection through contact with infected organs or by mosquito bites. The disease had historically been observed in Egypt, in some Sub-Saharan African countries but also in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

In Madagascar, after the outbreaks in 2008 in the Haute Matsiatra region had been resolved, the disease reoccurred in March 2009 in a dairy cow in the same region. The event was resolved in May 2009.

Mayotte (France) reported the occurrence of four outbreaks of RVF in 2008. The event was resolved in April 2009.

Namibia reported the reoccurrence of the disease with an outbreak in Hardap region (the disease had been absent since 1985). The outbreak was located near the border with South Africa and concerned 10 sheep in a commercial sheep flock; other species were present in the flock: 70 goats, 70 cattle, 150 springboks and 30 oryx. Vaccination was applied in response to the outbreak.

South Africa notified two separate RVF events in 2009, with a total of 39 outbreaks involving 266 cattle, sheep and goats. The provinces of Kwazulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape were affected and the events were resolved in July 2009 and January 2010, respectively.

A third event started in the Free State province of South Africa with the reoccurrence of several outbreaks in January 2010. The disease then spread to the following provinces: Eastern Cape Province, Northern Cape, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West and Western Cape. This event was significantly more important than the two previous ones since 11 389 cases had been reported (mainly in sheep, but goats, cattle and wild species were also involved) and because of the considerable spread of the infection in the human population (as of 27 March 2010, 172 cases, fifteen of which were fatal). This particular event was related to the abnormally high rainfall recorded in the Free State province at the beginning of the year: normal rainfall for the area was 450 mm/year whereas the rainfall in January 2010 alone was 400 mm. Vaccination against RVF was not compulsory. The State Veterinary Services was supplying some vaccines to farmers and supporting vaccination campaigns in non-commercial domestic animals; private owners were responsible for the vaccination of commercial domestic animals.

Selected tick-borne diseases

Global warming was considered to be leading to the introduction of tick-borne diseases into countries where their presence was not expected to occur since it was thought that competent vectors for their transmission were absent. The presence of host species together with competent vectors and the pathogenic agent provided suitable conditions for infection to occur. The introduction of infected animals could trigger the disease to become durably established if the other necessary conditions, such as the presence of a host species and suitable vectors, were fulfilled. Iatrogenic transmission allowed the transmission of the infection even in territories without competent vectors. Its control was easiest after the introduction of the disease, since there was no competent tick to play a role in the transition. Given the presence of host species, the presence of competent vectors was one of the main factors that would determine the likelihood of controlling and eradicating the disease. Vectors distribution is linked to environmental parameters and was clearly being influenced by global warming.
416. **Bovine anaplasmosis**

Bovine anaplasmosis resulted from infection with *Anaplasma marginale* and, occasionally, with *A. centrale*. *Anaplasma* sp. were transmitted either mechanically or biologically by arthropod vectors (mainly ticks although mosquitoes and horseflies could also be involved). The disease had been reported across all continents; however, some countries remained free, a situation related to the absence of biological vectors capable of sustaining the disease.

In 2008, **Canada** reported the first reoccurrence since 2000 of bovine anaplasmosis in the province of Saskatchewan. It involved a beef cow-calf production farm located 48 km from the border with the United States of America. The event was resolved by the elimination of the infected animals and the arrival of the cold season inactivated the vectors.

Starting in January 2009, new outbreaks occurred in the province of Manitoba. The outbreaks occurred in the southern part of the country, near the border with the United States of America. In total, 27 outbreaks were reported, with 278 cattle testing positive. It was clarified that there are no known epidemiological links with the outbreak reported in Saskatchewan province in 2008. Vectors are known to be present in Canada. It was hoped that the cold winter would destroy the ticks in February and March 2009. However, enhanced surveillance conducted in previously infected farms in Manitoba, in the Lac du Bonnet area, during the autumn and winter 2009–2010 revealed that five of the farms previously infected were again positive for anaplasmosis. All positive animals were slaughtered. Enhanced passive surveillance also resulted in the detection of outbreaks in the south-eastern part of the province of Manitoba. Clinical signs were associated with one of these outbreaks. Control measures were applied and the investigation was ongoing.

417. **Bovine babesiosis**

Bovine babesiosis was a tick-borne disease of cattle caused by protozoan parasites of the genus *Babesia*. The principal species of *Babesia* causing the disease were *Babesia bovis*, *B. bigemina* and *B. divergens*. All *Babesia* were transmitted by ticks with a limited host range. Bovine babesiosis was found in areas where its arthropod vector was present, especially in areas with a tropical or subtropical climate.

In 2008, **New Caledonia** reported the first occurrence of bovine babesiosis since 1990, due to *Babesia bovis* and *B. bigemina*. The first four outbreaks occurred in March 2008, with three subsequent outbreaks being reported, the last of these in July 2009. In total, 107 cases in cattle were reported. The source of the first outbreak was the introduction, from Australia in December 2007, of a batch including 43 Senepol cattle vaccinated with a live attenuated vaccine (trivalent tick fever vaccine) containing *B. bovis*, *B. bigemina* and *Anaplasma centrale*. The presence of cattle with no owner remained the principal factor in the spread of the disease; this feral population was restricted to the area of Païta (La Tamoa) thanks to natural barriers. Investigations were continuing in order to determine the evolution of the situation.

418. **Equine piroplasmosis**

Equine piroplasmosis (EP) was a tick-borne disease of equids caused by the intraerythrocytic protozoan parasites *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*. The continued presence of the disease required competent arthropod vectors. The introduction of carrier animals into areas where competent tick vectors were prevalent could lead to an epizootic spread of the disease. The parasites occur in Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America, and certain parts of the southern United States of America.

In 2008, an outbreak of EP occurred in the **United States of America** for the first time for 30 years. The outbreak, which was due to *T. equi*, occurred in Florida following the introduction of two horses from Mexico. As a result of iatrogenic transmission (injections), the disease spread to 18 other horses. Ticks did not seem to have played a role in the transmission of the disease and this event was closed in August 2009.
In June 2009 a new outbreak due to *T. equi* occurred in eight horses in a horse stable in Missouri. The origin of the outbreak was traced to illegal movement of animals and iatrogenic transmission (by hypodermic needles); no competent EP ticks were found in the premises.

Following these events, a new outbreak of EP due to *T. equi* occurred in the state of Texas in October 2009. On this occasion, competent EP tick vectors *Dermacentor nitens* and *D. variabilis* were identified among ticks collected from multiple horses; additionally, *Amblyomma Cajennense* ticks collected from the index premises had experimentally been shown to be capable of transmitting *T. equi*. This first outbreak involved 364 cases (horses), of which 289 were located on the index ranch in Texas; the remaining horses were on premises in Texas, Alabama, California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin. In December 2009, another outbreak occurred in Texas, in Galveston County.

In the state of New Mexico, *T. equi*-positive horses were detected in December 2009, as a result of that state’s EP race track screening programme. None of the 17 *T. equi*-positive horses showed clinical signs of disease. As indicated by the Veterinary Services, the New Mexico detections were not epidemiologically linked to the Texas EP outbreak of October 2009. Preliminary results of the investigation indicated that the transmission of the organism might have resulted from management practices (use of shared hypodermic needles or veterinary substances) rather than from a tick vector.

Controlled movement of equids through testing and certification was necessary to prevent the introduction of EP in a free zone. Any detected *T. equi*-positive animals should be isolated from surrounding horses and vectors and special care should be taken to avoid any mechanical infection of horses with contaminated blood. In zones where the vectors were present, tick control programmes were recommended.

In *Ireland*, the disease occurred for the first time in 2009 and was related to *T. equi*. The event started in Wexford with an outbreak on 10 June 2009; five more outbreaks occurred in September and October, in Wexford, Tipperary and Kildare. The origin of the first outbreak had not been confirmed, but was thought to have been associated with an animal that had returned to Ireland (Wexford) after a long period abroad in an endemic area. Ticks were not believed to have played a role in transmission during the outbreaks. No ticks were found on examination of affected horses. Ireland had only one species of tick (*Ixodes ricinus*), which had not previously been linked with transmission of EP. Transmission is thought to have been iatrogenic, but the exact mechanism was unknown. The event was closed in December 2009.

**Notified exceptional events involving bee diseases**

Bees were known to play an important role in the pollination of many plants and thus in the maintenance of plant biodiversity and the supply of vegetables and fruit for human consumption. A decline in bee populations had been observed in many countries. The reasons for this decline had not yet been fully elucidated but pollution, including the use of insecticides for agricultural pest control, expansion of monoculture and diseases are undoubtedly major reasons for the decline observed in some countries.

The major exceptional events notified to the OIE involving bee diseases in 2009 and early 2010 were as follows.

419. **American foulbrood of honey bees**

American foulbrood (AFB) affected the larval stage of the honey bee *Apis mellifera* and other *Apis* species, and occurs throughout the world. *Paenibacillus larvae*, the causative organism, is a bacterium producing spores that were extremely resistant and could survive for many years.
Jamaica reported the first reoccurrence of AFB since 2004, with an outbreak in the Portland area in October 2009.

South Africa reported the first occurrence of AFB, with two outbreaks in the Western Cape Province in February and March 2009. This was the first occurrence of the disease in the southern part of the African continent. Clarification was needed on whether the indigenous bee population can spread the disease to the north and affect neighbouring countries. In May 2010, South Africa declared the disease to be endemic.

420. European foulbrood of honey bees

The causal organism of European foulbrood (EFB) was the bacterium Melissococcus plutonius. Infection remained enzootic within individual colonies because of mechanical contamination of the honeycombs by the durable organism. Recurrences of disease can therefore be expected in subsequent years. The disease was present in all continents.

Chile reported the first occurrence of EFB, with three outbreaks in the central part of the country in the province of Coquimbo. The disease had been declared endemic.

421. Small hive beetle infestation (Aethina tumida)

The small hive beetle Aethina tumida, was a parasite and scavenger of honey bee colonies. The adult beetles could fly and actively infest colonies. The disease had been reported in North America, Central Africa and Australia.

In 2008, Canada reported the reoccurrence of the infestation in the province of Quebec; the event was ongoing and new outbreaks continue to be reported. The affected area was located in Quebec near the border between the province of Ontario and the United States of America. The particularity of this event was the detection of specimens of adults and larvae of Aethina tumida in Canada. Inspection visits took place at three-week intervals up until November 2009 and no trace of reproduction was detected (absence of eggs and larvae). According to the Canadian Veterinary Services, the infestation of bee colonies in Quebec was caused by the dispersal of adult specimens of A. tumida from colonies across the border with the United States of America. Additional investigations were ongoing.

Mexico reported the reoccurrence of the disease in the state of Coahuila, with one outbreak in November 2009.

The United States of America reported the occurrence of the disease for the first time in the Island of Hawaii with an outbreak which started in April 2010. An epidemiological investigation was on-going. The disease was present in some of the continental states of the United States of America.

422. While the OIE provided recommendations through its international standards on the six OIE-listed bee diseases, it seemed that importing countries sometimes failed to insist on compliance with these standards and indeed, in some cases, were even unaware that they existed. These standards laid down provisions for safe trade in commodities (e.g. eggs, larvae, pupae, live queen honey bees, equipment) and provided all OIE Members with the normative tools to prevent the introduction of these diseases. It should be the role of national Veterinary Services to oversee the control of all animal diseases, including bee diseases, and where appropriate to coordinate their efforts with other national authorities dealing with bee production. This would help to diminish the spread of bee diseases to new countries and regions.
OIE-listed aquatic animal diseases

423. Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*)

Crayfish plague was caused by infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* Schikora. This organism was a member of a group commonly known as the water moulds (Oomycetida). All species of freshwater crayfish were believed to be susceptible to infection with crayfish plague; however, the North American crayfish was largely resistant and was a carrier of the disease. The disease had been recurrently reported in Canada and Northern Europe.

In 2009, Spain notified the occurrence of the disease. It was the first confirmation of the disease since a suspicion was reported in 2005.

Italy reported the first occurrence of the disease, with an outbreak in Molise in September 2009 which affected 17 European freshwater crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

2009 OIE questionnaire on wildlife diseases

424. Wildlife diseases might have a serious impact on livestock health and public health and could adversely affect wildlife conservation. Members should realise that disease surveillance was as important in wildlife as it was in domestic animals.

The OIE was a precursor in recognising the importance of having a good knowledge of the disease situation in wildlife and has been collecting worldwide information on wildlife diseases since 1993.

Since 2008, the questionnaire had undergone important improvements aimed at collecting quantitative and qualitative data on wild animals from Members. The type of data collected had been modified to be exactly in line with the data collected as part of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), which had itself been further developed to better address the disease situation in wild animals for OIE-listed diseases. The benefit of these changes would soon become apparent when the questionnaire would be fully integrated with WAHIS, with the launch of WAHIS-Wild.

A total of 83 completed wildlife disease questionnaires for 2009, out of a possible 175 (47%), had been received by 30 April 2010. The response was higher than in the previous years.

Seventeen questionnaires were received from Africa, 14 from the Americas, 11 from Asia, 37 from Europe and four from Oceania.

Members that submitted a completed questionnaire on wildlife for 2009 were as follows:

**Africa:** Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, Swaziland and Tanzania;

**Americas:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, United States of America and Uruguay;

**Asia:** Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore and Thailand;

**Europe:** Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom;
Oceania: Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

Worldwide, a total of 13,527 cases in wild animals were reported in the questionnaires for 2009. Cases reported in the questionnaires related to 317 different species belonging to 85 different families. The information provided was extracted from the questionnaires received from the countries listed above.

OIE-Listed diseases affecting wild animals

425. Rabies

Rabies was present on all continents except Antarctica. Although some countries had successfully implemented control measures and managed to eliminate the disease, rabies remained endemic in other countries including in wild animal hosts.

Rabies was maintained in two epidemiological cycles, one urban and one sylvatic. In the urban rabies cycle, dogs were the main reservoir host, while the epidemiology of the sylvatic cycle was more complex. Several factors might play a role in the epidemiology of the wildlife cycle, including factors that affected the virus strain and the behaviour of the host species, and ecological and environmental factors.

From data gathered through the questionnaire on wildlife, cases of rabies in 2009 were reported in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. A total of 2963 cases of rabies were recorded worldwide in wild animals in 2009, involving 38 different species belonging to 17 different families. Some cases were simply reported to have occurred in wildlife, without any details of the affected species being provided.

In Europe, the zone along the border between Italy and Slovenia deserved particular attention in light of the epidemiological evolution of rabies since the recurrence of the disease in 2008. The main host reservoirs of sylvatic rabies in Europe were red foxes (Vulpes vulpes) and raccoon dogs (Nyctereutes procyonides). Raccoon dogs were playing an important role as a rabies reservoir in the Baltic countries.

In October 2008, Italy identified the first case in a red fox (Vulpes vulpes). This was the first occurrence of rabies in Italy for 13 years. The index case occurred in the municipality of Resia (Udine province) situated in Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (north-east of Italy). The disease crossed the border from neighbouring Slovenia, which had been reporting cases in wild and domestic animals since 1996.

Austria declared itself free from rabies in 2008 since no infections with rabies virus had been reported in the country since 2003. Austria registered two cases of attenuated vaccine-induced rabies in 2004 and 2006, respectively. Croatia, to the south of Slovenia, reports cases of rabies on a regular basis.

As stated above, Slovenia had been reporting cases of rabies since 1996. Croatia, though not sharing a border with Italy, had reported an average of 627 cases per year since 1996.

There number of rabies cases in Italy was increasing (10 cases in 2008, 69 cases in 2009 and 137 cases in the first quarter of 2010). Starting in the eastern part of Udine province (where the index case occurred in October 2008) the epidemic was now spreading westwards across northern Italy (involving Veneto and Trentino Alto Adige regions). Most cases had been occurring in wild animals (mainly red foxes [Vulpes vulpes]) though some domestic animals had also been infected. From the information gathered through the questionnaire on wildlife for 2009, there were 63 cases in red foxes (Vulpes vulpes), one case in Western roe deer (Capreolus capreolus) and two cases in European badgers (Meles meles). The same trend in wild animals appeared to be occurring in 2010, with most cases having been found in red foxes. In 2009, one case occurred in a donkey (Equus asinus) in Belluno district, Veneto region. There were also two cases in dogs (Canis lupus familiaris) in the same district, and another case in a dog in Udine district, Friuli-Venezia Giulia.
region. In early 2010, a total of nine cases were reported in domestic species: one case in a horse (Equus caballus) in Belluno district and eight cases in cats (Felis catus).

In view of this epidemiological situation, the Italian Veterinary Services had put control measures in place in the affected areas, such as compulsory rabies vaccination of dogs and other domestic animals at risk of infection along with implementation of oral vaccination of foxes. Surveillance in the wild animal population had also been stepped up.

On the basis of the epidemiological evolution, the disease was now considered endemic in the affected zone of north-eastern Italy namely: Friuli-Venezia Giulia region and Veneto region – Belluno province. New oral vaccination campaigns were planned for 2010, the aim being to distribute about 2 million baits for foxes in all the aforementioned affected zones and neighbouring areas, covering a total of about 20,000 km².

426. **West Nile fever**

West Nile fever resulted from infection by the West Nile virus, a mosquito-borne arbovirus of the genus Flavivirus of the family Flaviviridae. This disease was maintained in a mosquito–bird–mosquito transmission cycle, whereas humans and equidae were considered dead-end hosts. Most human infections occurred by natural transmission from mosquitoes.

West Nile virus was now distributed in many regions of the world, with infections observed in birds, horses and humans.

**Disease situation in humans**

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), West Nile fever outbreaks in Europe were erratic, a spatially and temporally limited phenomena, occurring quite unpredictably even if all conditions appeared to be present in a given place. They had been reported from Romania (1996–2000) and France (2003). In 2008, human cases of West Nile fever were also reported in Italy, Hungary and Romania. According to the meeting report of an expert consultation on West Nile virus infection, held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 21–22 April 2009, two human cases in Romania, three cases in Italy and 14 human cases in Hungary were reported between August and September 2008. A more recent published paper reported a total of 16 confirmed human cases of West Nile neuroinvasive disease (WNND) in Italy between August and September 2009, involving three regions: Veneto (six cases), Emilia-Romagna (eight cases) and Lombardia (two cases). The number of cases was higher in comparison with 2008, when nine cases were identified (eight cases of WNND and one case of West Nile fever), and the geographical distribution indicates spread from east to west.

West Nile virus had spread rapidly across North America, affecting thousands of birds, horses and humans since it was first discovered in the Western hemisphere. West Nile virus had been causing human epidemics in North America since it was first detected in 1999 and was now an important vector-borne disease in this continent. In 2009, a total of 722 human cases had been reported to the Centers for Disease Control (United States of America), and eight cases had been reported in Canada as of 3 October 2009.

**Disease situation in animals**

In accordance with the information reported to the OIE through the six-monthly reports in 2009, the disease had been reported to be present in Oman (in domestic species), Austria (in wild species), Israel (in domestic species) and Canada (in domestic and wild species). The disease had been also reported as present but limited to certain zones in Cuba (in domestic and wild species), Italy (in domestic and wild species), Hungary (in domestic and wild species) and the United States of America (in domestic and wild species).
With regard to domestic species data provided through the six monthly reports in 2009, Canada reported a total of eight cases of West Nile fever in equidae in the following zones: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia; Italy notified a total of 169 cases in equidae involving the following regions: Lombardia, Emilia-Romagna, Toscana, Lazio, Veneto and Friuli-Venezia Giulia; Hungary reported a total of six cases in equidae (no details were provided on the affected zones); the United States of America also reported one case in equidae (no details on the location).

Costa Rica notified the first occurrence of West Nile fever in November 2009 in horses in Guanacoste province in the north-western part of the country.

Information on West Nile fever in wild animals received through the questionnaires on wildlife for 2009 was as follows.

**Europe**

In Italy a total of 53 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009 in Emilia-Romagna and Veneto regions, involving eight different species of wild birds.

The highest numbers of cases were recorded in European magpie (Pica pica) belonging to the family Corvidae, with 32 cases (61.5%), followed by common starling (Sturnus vulgaris) belonging to the family Sturnidae, with five cases (9.6%). There were also cases in common pigeon (Columba livia; 4 cases) belonging to the family Columbidae; in hooded crow (Corvus cornix; four cases), carrion crow (Corvus corone; one case and Corvus corone cornix; two cases), in Eurasian jay (Garrulus glandarius; one case), all belonging to the family Corvidae; and in Eurasian blackbird (Turdus merula; three cases) belonging to the family Turdidae. Additionally, one case was reported in a species belonging to the family Strigidae (no information was provided on the Latin name of the affected species).

Austria reported two cases in 2009 in Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) belonging to the family Accipitridae.

Hungary reported three cases in 2009 in Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) belonging to the family Accipitridae.

Spain reported a total of four cases in 2009 in species belonging to the family Accipitridae. Spain reported that the disease was limited to certain zones, such as La Mancha (three cases) and Castile and León (one case). The case that occurred in Castile and León was identified in a booted eagle (Hieraaetus pennatus). No details were provided on the species involved in the cases that occurred in La Mancha.

**North America**

In Canada, 10 cases were reported in wild birds in 2009, in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Six cases occurred in American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) belonging to the family Corvidae. Two cases were reported in red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis) belonging to the family Accipitridae and two cases in merlin (Falco columbarius) belonging to the family Falconidae.

The United States of America reported a total of 3025 deaths in 2009 in wild birds belonging to the family Corvidae. No details were provided on the species affected.

**South America**

Mexico reported the disease as present in wild animals in 2009. No qualitative information was provided on the affected species or the number of cases.
Bovine tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis, caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, was a chronic bacterial disease of cattle that occasionally affects other species of mammals. This disease was also a significant zoonosis. Many developed countries had reduced the level of disease or eliminated it in their cattle population. However, pockets of infection remained in wild animals and constituted a real problem in accomplishing complete eradication. In some circumstances, bovine tuberculosis might also represent a serious threat to endangered species.

Worldwide, a total of 356 cases of bovine tuberculosis were reported in wild animals in 2009.

**Africa**

**Tanzania** reported the infection to be present in wild animals in 2009. No information was provided on the number of cases or the affected species, since confirmation of these data would require active surveillance.

**Americas**

In **Canada** a total of seven cases of bovine tuberculosis were recorded in wild animals in 2009. The disease is present in certain zones. There was one confirmed case in an American bison (*Bison bison*) that occurred in November 2009 in the Northwest Territories. Three cases were reported in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in Manitoba province in April and October 2009. In addition, three cases were recorded in white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in Manitoba province, in January, March and December 2009.

The **United States of America** reported the disease to be present in white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in 2009, but restricted to certain zones. The zones involved were in Michigan and Minnesota. No quantitative information was provided.

**Asia**

In July 2009 **Chinese Taipei** reported one case in sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) in Miaoli County located in the western part of the island.

**Myanmar** recorded one case in an Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) during the first half of 2009. It also reported four cases in wild species belonging to the family Cercopithecidae in the second half of 2009.

**Nepal** reported three cases of bovine tuberculosis in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in July 2009.

**Europe**

In Europe, a total of 340 cases of bovine tuberculosis were reported in wild animals in 2009.

**Austria** reported the infection to be present in the country. No information was provided regarding the species affected or the number of cases.

In **France** a total of 64 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009, limited to Côte-d’Or, Seine-Maritime, Morbihan and Corsica departments. The largest numbers of cases were recorded in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) with 45 cases (70.3%), followed by European badger (*Meles meles*) with 16 cases (25.0%) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) with three cases (4.7%).

**Germany** reported the disease to be present in the country. The disease was found in Brandenburg but no information was provided regarding the species affected or the number of cases.
In **Hungary** a total of seven cases were reported in wild animals in 2009, limited to Somogy, Komárom and Tolna Counties. Five cases (71.4%) occurred in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), one case (14.3%) in fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and one case (14.3%) in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*).

In **Ireland** a total of 24 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009. Twenty-three cases (95.8%) were registered in European badgers (*Meles meles*) and one case (4.2%) in a fallow deer (*Dama dama*).

In **Italy** a total of 10 outbreaks occurred in wild animals in 2009. Two outbreaks were reported in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in Abruzzo region. The other eight outbreaks were registered in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in the following regions: Abruzzo, Liguria, Lombardy, Molise and Sardinia. Five cases were reported in the questionnaire (two cases in red deer and 3 cases in wild boar). For most outbreaks no information was provided on the number of cases.

In **Portugal** a total of 147 cases were reported in wild species in 2009. The highest numbers of cases were reported in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) with 90 cases (62.2%) and 57 cases (38.8%) were recorded in wild boars (*Sus scrofa*).

In the **United Kingdom** a total of 19 outbreaks were reported in wild species in 2009. The largest numbers of outbreaks occurred in European badgers (*Meles meles*) with seven outbreaks (36.8%). Five outbreaks (26.3%) were reported in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*); seven cases and five outbreaks in fallow deer (*Dama dama*; seven cases). One outbreak was also reported in western roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*; 1 case) and one outbreak in an Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjac*; 1 case).

**The Netherlands** reported one case. It involved a chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) belonging to the family Hominidae. The diagnosis was based on intradermal tuberculin test and Gamma interferon test results.

Spain reported a total of 76 cases of bovine tuberculosis in 2009 in wild animals. The largest number of cases was reported in fallow deer (*Dama dama*) with 64 cases. There were also six cases in red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), four cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), one case in a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and one case in a European badger (*Meles meles*).

**Oceania**

**New Zealand** reported the disease to be present in wild species in 2009, in ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). No information was provided on the number of outbreaks or cases.

428. **Trichinellosis**

Trichinellosis was a zoonotic disease caused by parasitic nematodes of the genus *Trichinella*. Worldwide, eight species and three genotypes had been described: *T. spiralis*, *T. nativa*, *T. britovi*, *T. murelli*, *T. nelsoni*, *T. pseudospiralis*, *T. papuae* and *T. zimbabwensis*, *Trichinella T6*, *Trichinella T8* and *Trichinella T9*. The most important source of human infection worldwide was domestic pigs, but in Europe, for instance, horses and wild boar had played a significant role in outbreaks in the past three decades.

A total of 971 cases of trichinellosis in wild animals were reported worldwide in 2009.

The largest numbers of cases reported in Europe in 2009 occurred in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) with 682 cases (70.5%), followed by Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) with 124 cases (12.8%) and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with 68 cases (7.0%). There were also cases in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), European badger (*Meles meles*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*; all cases were reported in **Finland**), beech marten (*Martes foina*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*).
**Americas**

Argentina reported two cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in 2009. They occurred in Buenos Aires Province (in July 2009) and in La Pampa (in September 2009).

**Europe**

In Europe the following 17 countries reported the disease to be present in wild animals: Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. A total of 969 cases in wild animals were reported in Europe in 2009.

Andorra reported two cases of trichinellosis in wild animals in November 2009, one in a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and the second in a European badger (*Meles meles*).

Bosnia and Herzegovina reported a total of six cases in wild animals: five cases occurred in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and one case was reported to have occurred in a species belonging to the family Mustelidae (no details of the species were provided).

Bulgaria reported a total of 65 cases in wild animals in 2009. Cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) accounted for 98.5% (64 cases) while one case was reported in a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in October.

In Croatia a total of six cases were reported in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in 2009.

Finland reported a total of 220 cases in wild animals in 2009. The largest number of cases occurred in Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) with 107 cases (49.1%), followed by raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) with 61 cases (27.7%) and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with 38 cases (17.4%). The country also reported seven cases in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*), two cases in European badger (*Meles meles*) and four cases in brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). One case was also reported in wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) belonging to the family Mustelidae.

France reported a total of three cases in red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) during the first semester in Var department, in the south-east of the country. *Trichinella britovi* was identified in these cases. More than 30,000 wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) were tested in 2009 and no cases were registered. *Trichinella britovi* was the most widely distributed species within sylvatic life cycles in Europe, Asia and Northern and Western Africa.

Germany reported the disease to be present in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in 2009. *Trichinella spiralis* was identified as the *Trichinella* species involved. No information was provided on the number of outbreaks or cases. *Trichinella spiralis* was the species most adapted to domestic pigs and wild swine but it might also include synanthropic rats in its life cycle. *Trichinella spiralis* has a wide and global distribution. This species was also the most important aetiological agent to cause disease in humans.

Hungary reported a total of nine cases in wild animals in 2009. The largest number of cases (7 cases) were reported in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) whilst one case occurred in a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) and one case in a Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). The cases were reported in Somogy, Békés, Heves, and Nógrád Counties.

Ireland reported a total of three cases in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in October 2009.

In Italy a total of 12 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009. Eight cases were recorded in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the following regions: Abruzzo (five cases), Lazio (1 case), the Marche (1 case) and Molise regions (1 case). Two cases were reported in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in Bolzano province and Molise region, respectively. One case was reported in a beech marten (*Martes foina*) in Bolzano province and one case in a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in Abruzzo region. Two other outbreaks involving wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) were registered in Piedmont region between April and May 2009, and *Trichinella britovi* was identified; no quantitative information was provided on the number of cases in these outbreaks.
Latvia reported a total of 33 cases in wild animals in 2009. There were 31 cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), which occurred in the following zones: Liepajas, Ventspils, Jelgavas, Cesu, Gulbenes, Daugavpils, Ogres, Talsu, Tukuma, Valkas, Valmieras, Rigas, Kraslavas, Preilu, Saldus districts. Two cases were also registered in Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), in Valmieras and Ventspils districts.

Lithuania reported a total of 86 cases in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in 2009.

In Poland a total of 471 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009. All cases were registered in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

In Romania a total of 13 cases were reported in wild animals in 2009. The disease was reported to be limited to certain zones. The largest number of cases occurred in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) with 11 cases. The cases were registered in the following zones: Ialomiţa, Mureş, Prahova, Sâlaj and Suceava Counties. Two cases were also reported in brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), one in Vrancea (in April 2009) and the other in Prahova County (in October 2009).

Slovakia reported a total of 17 cases in wild animals in 2009. The highest number of cases occurred in red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) with 13 cases; the other four cases were reported in wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

Sweden reported a total of 22 cases in wild animals in 2009. The largest number of cases was reported in Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) with 14 cases. There were also cases in grey wolf (*Canis lupus*; three cases), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*; two cases), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*; 1 case), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*; 1 case) and brown bear (*Ursus arctos*; 1 case).

Switzerland reported one case, in a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in the canton of Bern in October 2009.

Aquatic animals – OIE-Listed diseases – Amphibian diseases

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, one-third of the world’s 6000 amphibian species were under threat of extinction. Among their important features, amphibians were playing an important role in ecosystems and can provide ecological warning due to their ability to act as bio-indicators, revealing climate change and environmental stress. They were also very useful for agricultural purposes due to their ability to act as biological pest control agents. Amphibians might also have a role in helping to control the spread of diseases, such as malaria, by controlling the population of vectors such as mosquitoes.

429. **Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* was a chytrid fungus that caused chytridiomycosis in amphibians. The pathogen infected over 350 species of amphibians and was found on all continents except Antarctica². This emerging infectious disease of amphibians had been linked to their worldwide decline.

An analysis of infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* in amphibians based on the data received through the questionnaires for 2009 (new or total outbreaks rather than the number of cases) was as follows.

Seven countries reported this disease in amphibians in 2009 (Canada, Colombia, Japan, The Netherlands, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States of America).

**Canada, Japan** and the **United Kingdom** reported a combined total of 36 new outbreaks in 2009.
Iridoviruses, in the genus *Ranavirus*, were well known for causing mass mortality events in amphibians.

Information on infection with ranavirus in amphibians received through the questionnaires for 2009 was as follows.

A combined total of 18 new outbreaks were reported from Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom in 2009.

The United Kingdom reported 10 new outbreaks in European common frog (*Rana temporaria*: family Ranidae) during the second half of 2009.
Canada recorded a total of five new outbreaks in 2009. In New Brunswick province, one outbreak was reported in Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) in May and another in wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) in June. Another three outbreaks occurred in July, in wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*; 1 outbreak) and green frog (*Rana clamitans*; two outbreaks) in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island provinces.

Japan recorded a total of three new outbreaks in American bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) in Western Japan between September and October.

The United States of America reported the disease in 2009 in marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*: family Ambystomatidae) and wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*). No information was provided on the number of outbreaks or cases.

Spain reported the disease to be present in common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*: family Discoglossidae) in the Principality of Asturias in 2009. No information was provided on the number of cases.

Non OIE-listed disease affecting wild animals

431. Elephant herpesvirus

Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) was a serious disease affecting elephants that was discovered fairly recently (1995). The virus mostly affected young Asian elephants and produced a haemorrhagic disease that could have a high mortality rate. According to the International Elephant Foundation’s EEHV progress report 3-2009, “over 50 cases had been confirmed in North America and Europe, with an over 80% fatality rate”.

From the information gathered through the wildlife disease questionnaire for 2009, Nepal reported one case in an Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*: family Elephantidae) during the second half of 2009. A total of 20 susceptible animals were present in the outbreak.

Non infectious diseases

432. Chemical poisoning

Several types of potentially harmful chemical substances (natural or synthetic) were found in the environment shared by wild animals. These substances might cause direct poisoning and death but they could also have adverse effects on the animal populations, affecting their biological system (such as their reproductive system) and their behaviour. In a recently published study, the authors analysed data on wildlife poisoning in Belgium, France, Greece, Italy and Spain over the last 10 years. The results of the study showed that birds, mainly waterfowl and raptors, were more commonly reported to be victims of poisoning than wild mammals.

Based on information provided in the questionnaires on wildlife for 2009, a total of 239 cases of chemical poisoning were reported in Europe. There were 167 cases in France, 21 cases in Italy, 19 cases in Hungary, eight cases in Norway, six cases in Finland, 15 cases in Sweden and three cases in the United Kingdom. A total of 135 cases (56.5%) were reported in species belonging to the class Aves while 104 cases (43.5%) were reported in wild species belonging to the class Mammalia.

Among the class Mammalia, the highest percentage of cases was reported in the order Artiodactyla with 23.4% (56 cases), involving Cervidae and Suidae, followed by the order Carnivora with 15.9% (38 cases), involving Canidae, Mustelidae and Viverridae. Among the class Aves, the highest percentage of cases was recorded in the order Ciconiiformes with 23.4% (56 cases), followed by the order Anseriformes with 14.6% (35 cases).

A qualitative analysis by country, based on the information provided in the questionnaire, was as follows.
In **France** a total of 167 cases of chemical poisoning were reported in wild animals in 2009. The largest number of cases was reported in wild boar (Sus scrofa) with 43 cases (25.7%), followed by mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) with 21 cases (12.6%) and red fox (Vulpes vulpes) with 13 cases (7.8%). In wild boar, the following chemical substances were identified: cholinesterase inhibitors, carbofuran, bromadiolone, cyanide, chloralose, aldicarb, difenacoum, mevinphos and terbufos. In mallard, chloralose and metaldehyde were detected. In red foxes, the following chemical substances were identified: cholinesterase inhibitors, carbofuran, bromadiolone, chloralose and metaldehyde. There were also cases in golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos; five cases), common buzzard (Buteo buteo; 10 cases), black kite (Milvus migrans; four cases), red kite (Milvus milvus; 1 case), belonging to the family Accipitrifidae; in beaver (Castor fiber; one case), belonging to the family Castoridae; in western roe deer (Capreolus capreolus; 11 cases), belonging to the family Cervidae; in common wood pigeon (Columba palumbus; one case), Eurasian collared dove (Streptopelia decaocto; three cases), European turtle dove (Streptopelia turtur; one case), belonging to the family Columbidae; in rooks (Corvus frugilegus; four cases), belonging to the family Corvidae; in nutria (Myocastor coypus; 1 case), belonging to the family Echimyidae; in west European hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus; two cases), belonging to the family Erinaceidae; in common kestrel (Falco tinnunculus; one case), belonging to the family Falconidae; in common crane (Grus grus; one case); in European hare (Lepus europaeus; two cases), European rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus; four cases), belonging to the family Leporidae; in European robin (Erithacus rubecula; one case), belonging to the family Muscicapidae; in beech marten (Martes foina; two cases) and European badger (Meles meles; three cases), belonging to the family Mustelidae; in house sparrow (Passer domesticus; two cases), belonging to the family Passeridae; in grey partridge (Perdix perdix; four cases), belonging to the family Phasianidae; in Northern gannet (Morus bassanus; one case), belonging to the family Sulidae; in common genet (Genetta genetta; one case), belonging to the family Viverridae. In addition, a total of 24 cases were reported in species belonging to the family Anatidae (one case), Columbidae (18 cases), Laridae (four cases) and Phasianidae (one case). No details were provided on the individual species affected.

In **Hungary** a total of 19 cases of chemical poisoning were reported in wild animals in 2009. There were seven cases in white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla), belonging to the family Accipitrifidae. The cases were reported in the following zones: Fejér, Somogy, Békés, Csongrád and Tolna counties. Three cases occurred in common buzzard (Buteo buteo) and three cases in Western marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus), both belonging to the family Accipitrifidae. The cases were registered in Fejér, Bács, Békés, Baranya and Borsod counties. Two cases were also reported in red fox (Vulpes vulpes), belonging to the family Canidae, in Fejér County. Two other cases occurred in imperial eagle (Aquila heliaca), belonging to the family Accipitrifidae, in Baranya and Hajdú counties. One case was reported in a wild boar (Sus scrofa), belonging to the family Suidae, and one in a common pheasant (Phasianus colchicus), belonging to the family Phasianidae. The counties involved in the latter cases were Bács and Csongrád.

**Mexico** reported chemical poisoning in wildlife species in 2009. No qualitative information was provided on the affected species or the number of cases.

Norway reported a total of eight cases in wild animals in 2009. There were two cases in whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) and one case in mute swan (Cygnus olor), both belonging to the family Anatidae. These cases occurred in Sogn og Fjordane and Oppland counties. There were also three cases in common raven (Corvus corax), in Rogaland County, and two cases in Eurasian jackdaw (Corvus monedula), in Hedmark County.

In the **United Kingdom** a total of three cases were reported in wild animals in 2009. All three cases were reported in red kite (Milvus milvus), belonging to the family Accipitrifidae. One outbreak was also reported in common starling (Sturnus vulgaris), belonging to the family Sturnidae, but no information was provided on the number of cases.

In **Italy** a total of 21 cases of chemical poisoning were reported in wild animals in 2009. There were 11 cases in red fox (Vulpes vulpes) in the following zones: Emilia Romagna, Marche, Molise, Umbria and Veneto regions. Six cases occurred in grey wolf (Canis lupus).
in Abruzzo and Marche regions. One case was reported in a Eurasian sparrow hawk (Accipiter nisus), one case in a griffon vulture (Gyps fulvus), both species belonging to the family Accipitridae, and one case in a little owl (Athene noctua), belonging to the family Strigidae. The last three cases occurred in Abruzzo region. Lastly, one case was registered in a Western roe deer (Capreolus capreolus), belonging to the family Cervidae, in Veneto region. In this last case carbaryl was reported to be the chemical substance identified.

Finland reported a total of six cases in wild birds in 2009. Lead poisoning caused two cases in white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla), belonging to the family Accipitridae, and three cases in whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), belonging to the family Anatidae. There was also one case in a black-headed gull (Larus ridibundus), belonging to the family Laridae, caused by parathion (an organophosphate compound).

In the United States of America chemical poisoning was reported in several States and in several species in 2009. No information was provided on the number of cases and the species affected.

Australia recorded chemical poisoning in wild animals in 2009 but no details were provided on the species affected or the number of cases.

Chile reported chemical poisoning in wild animals in 2009 but no details were provided on the species affected or the number of cases.

Tanzania reported a total of three outbreaks of chemical poisoning in 2009. They occurred in Maswa district and involved 430 cases. All cases were recorded in white-backed vulture (Gyps africanus), belonging to the family Accipitridae. Carbofuran was identified as the chemical substance involved in the outbreaks. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the population of this species was decreasing and the trend was likely to continue. For this reason it was listed as “Near Threatened” (Year assessed: 2008).

Sweden reported 22 cases of chemical poisoning in wild birds in 2009. There were seven cases in white-tailed eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla), two cases in whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), one case in a mute swan (Cygnus olor) and one case in a golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos). In all the aforementioned cases lead was identified as the chemical substance involved. There were also four cases that occurred in long-tailed duck (Clangula hyemalis) caused by oil spill.

433. Botulism

Botulism was caused by botulinum toxin; a potent neurotoxin produced by Clostridium botulinum, and was found worldwide.

A total of 571 cases of botulism were reported in wild animals in 2009 worldwide.

The largest numbers of cases were reported in France (294 cases, during the summer), Canada (109 cases) and Spain (over 100 cases). There were also 46 cases in The Netherlands, 11 in Italy, seven in the United Kingdom, three in Hungary and one in Swaziland. In addition, Australia, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States of America registered the disease in 2009 but no information was provided on the number of cases.

The highest numbers of cases were reported in species belonging to the family Anatidae, with 402 cases, followed by species of the family Laridae, with 93 cases. All but two of the cases were reported in wild birds. The two exceptions were a giraffe (Giraffa camelopardalis; family Giraffidae) in Swaziland and a common map turtle (Graptemys graphica: family Emydidae) in Canada.

In view of the occurrence of botulism in wild birds in Canada during 2008 and 2009 and the good quality and the quantity of data submitted to the OIE, an analysis of the seasonality of the disease in that country had been carried out taking into account the data for these
two years. All cases occurred in wild birds. In Canada, outbreaks of avian botulism
normally occurred from July to the end of September, though outbreaks might occur as late
as December or January. Most cases were reported in the four months from August to
November, though there were also some cases in January, June and July. Since most
botulism outbreaks occurred during summer and autumn, when ambient temperatures
were high, the results of the analysis are in line with the literature.

434. Conclusion

The information provided was made available thanks to the questionnaires received from
Members. The picture would have been far more complete if all Members had completed the
questionnaire on wildlife diseases.

Many countries still did not attach sufficient importance to surveillance for wildlife
diseases. Countries that did not complete the questionnaire because of a lack of information
on diseases in wildlife or a lack of coordination with other national bodies involved in the
wildlife field were urgently requested to develop a strategy to start collecting information
on wildlife species. The appointment of focal points would help to resolve these problems.

If a disease was introduced into a country and not quickly brought under control, it might
well affect wildlife species which would then become a reservoir, complicating subsequent
attempts to control and eradicate the disease. Furthermore, the indiscriminate introduction
of wildlife species into a country without the application of appropriate science-based
import regulations, could lead to the introduction of pathogens and jeopardise livestock
and/or human health. Countries should therefore take all necessary precautions in
accordance with OIE standards, before allowing the importation of wild animals.

435. A member of the Delegation of Chile thanked Dr Ben Jebara and complimented him on the
comprehensiveness of his report. He agreed that H1N1 was a human disease and not an
animal disease. Chile had experienced trade problems with countries imposing restrictions
on Chilean exports related to the notification of the presence of H1N1 in birds in his
country. Chile suggested that countries should follow OIE guidelines.

436. The Delegate of Nepal thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his clear presentation. He emphasised
that Nepal endeavoured to report H5N1 outbreaks within 24 hours but that the report was
often delayed by late laboratory confirmation. Two outbreaks had been reported in 2009
and seven in 2010. The outbreaks had been successfully controlled. The Delegate then
acknowledged the donors (the World Bank, FAO, UNICEF and the OIE) for their support to
his country. With respect to FMD, the Delegate reported that the disease was endemic and
that the number of outbreaks was increasing. Nepal was trying to vaccinate but the vaccine
was too expensive. Nepal asked donors to support vaccination in the region. With respect to
classical swine fever, he indicated that there were outbreaks, that vaccination was ongoing
and that the disease was under control. Peste des petits ruminants in goats was a concern
in his country; vaccine was being produced and vaccination was now being undertaken.

437. The Delegate of Norway acknowledged and thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his interesting and
comprehensive report. Norway reported the first outbreak of H1N1 in 2009, with clear
evidence that it was transmitted by humans to pigs. Norway intended to publish a scientific
paper on this issue. The Delegate thanked the Director General for the excellent
communication on H1N1. Norway supported Chile regarding the unacceptable trade
restrictions imposed by other OIE Members due to H1N1. The Delegate indicated that,
after further testing, their report on Bonamia ostreae infection was incorrect and that the
notification would need to be corrected.

438. The Delegate of Iceland thanked the Chairman and Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. He
stated that his country had reported two cases of H1N1 that had clearly been transmitted
by humans to swine. He stated that all farm workers had now been vaccinated and all the
outbreaks had been resolved. He kindly asked for an update of Iceland’s WAHIS report. He clarified that his country had no problems with its animals after the volcanic eruption. He said that the affected area was small and contained sheep, dairy cattle and horses. He clarified the situation on three important points: animal health, animal welfare and food safety. As regards animal health, there had been no immediate consequences, but they anticipated long-term effects (e.g. fluorosis). As regards animal welfare, he pointed out that animals (sheep and horses) had been evacuated from the affected areas to clean pastures 3 to 5 days after the eruption. As regards food safety issues, he mentioned that he did not expect problems and said that the situation was being monitored. As already mentioned, it was expected that only teeth and bones would be affected and he clarified that meat would be unaffected. Iceland carried out a contaminant and residue control programme every year, but this year the programme would focus on the affected area. In view of the paucity of the literature on this issue, they would start research on this field in collaboration with the Human Health Authority. He invited the participants to contact him for further information.

439. The Delegate of Kuwait thanked Dr Ben Jebara for a very clear presentation. She pointed out that in the beginning of the glanders event, it was indicated that the horses had been imported from Kuwait 6 months before the current Bahrain event. However, as she explained, no horses were exported without a veterinary certificate. The Delegate of Kuwait stated that the country had discussed this issue with Bahrain. She asked Dr Ben Jebara to be more specific when indicating the source of introduction of the disease.

440. A member of the Colombian delegation thanked the Chairman and then thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. She expressed concern about diseases spreading to new places and expressed the need to monitor imports after the quarantine period, which, from her point of view, was too short.

441. The Delegate of the United States of America thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation and stated that the United States of America appreciated the good work done. He pointed out the difficulty of distinguishing different sanitary status between domestic animals and wildlife and that this created additional work for fulfilling the reporting requirements. He indicated that, in particular, there were difficulties in clearly reporting diseases that never occurred in wild species. The Delegate asked for a clearer and more user-friendly interface. He thanked Dr Ben Jebara again for his presentation and stated that he appreciated the Director General’s leadership regarding the H1N1 event, and gave his support to the comments made by Chile and Norway.

442. The Delegate of Russia thanked the Chairman and then thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his presentation. He acknowledged the OIE’s efforts in developing WAHIS, as demonstrated by Dr Ben Jebara’s presentation. He underlined however that the system (WAHIS) was not a real-time system, and was based on official information; it would therefore never be able to include all the suspicions that could occur within a country. He stated that in Russia they were working on a national system that would take into account all suspicions of monitored diseases. He explained the difficulty of finding appropriate software companies at a reasonable cost. He also mentioned that it would be appreciated if the OIE could provide its Members with a database programme to be used as a template to build national information systems. Regarding African swine fever and the very real threat of its spread, he said that it was clear that his country’s Veterinary Services had not been able to establish clear control of the disease, as they did not have the appropriate competencies and authority in this field. He asked the OIE for assistance in order to clarify that the mandate of the Veterinary Services needed to encompass the animal health situation in wildlife.

443. The Delegate of Nigeria thanked Dr Ben Jebara for a very well presented and commented presentation. He indicated that the OIE should develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the Veterinary Services responsibility within the whole field of animal health,
including bees and aquatic animals. He noted that information on bee diseases was often obtained in an irregular manner. He stressed that, to ensure their responsibility in these areas, the Veterinary Services had to meet minimal standards and that this had to be done by updating the veterinary education curricula. The development of the communication strategy should be in line with OIE international standards.

444. The Delegate of Mauritius thanked the Chairman and then Dr Ben Jebara for his clear and comprehensive presentation. He clarified that Mauritius had reported African swine fever in October 2007 and thanked the Government of the People's Republic of China, the OIE and FAO for the support provided in managing this event. He indicated that contagious caprine pleuropneumonia had also been reported in July 2009. Both events were now under control.

445. The Delegate of Syria thanked Dr Ben Jebara for his excellent presentation. Referring to glanders, he clarified that all horses leaving Syria were subjected to surveillance in accordance with OIE standards. He indicated that Syria used the regional laboratories to perform the required diagnostic tests. He asked the Biological Standards Commission to work on glanders to develop standards for reagents used by laboratories.

446. The Director General began his reply to the points raised by the Delegates by referring to the press conference held by the OIE the previous day, during which glanders had been discussed and insufficient surveillance and reporting of this disease in horses, especially in the Middle East, had been mentioned as one of the major problems relating to this disease. He emphasised that this disease was a zoonosis and that the Veterinary Services should take the necessary steps to control it in order to avoid being accused of not being sufficiently vigilant. He indicated that the OIE Reference Laboratory for glanders in Germany was available to assist any OIE Member. The Director General stated that the OIE supported the inclusion of wildlife diseases in the national Veterinary Services' mandate. He said that the OIE already provided clarification in the PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services that these Services should be in charge of managing wildlife surveillance. He explained that Delegates could use the outcome of PVS evaluations and Gap analyses to convince their governments to expand the competencies of the Veterinary Services to include wildlife diseases and to ask for the appropriate resources. He added a further important point, namely, that national focal points on wildlife diseases and focal points on disease notification cooperate with each other and exchange information with the OIE under the authority of the national Delegate, thereby giving the Delegate de facto responsibility for the animal health situation in both domestic and wild species. He concluded by stating that the OIE encouraged its Members to connect their national notification system software, and make it compatible, with the OIE WAHIS system.

447. Dr Ben Jebara started to address the Delegates' questions by taking up the point raised by the Delegate of Kuwait; he replied that the information presented had been derived from the immediate notification submitted by Bahrain. He agreed with the Delegate of Kuwait that the horses had been imported into Bahrain some 6 months earlier. With respect to the points raised by the Delegate of Russia, Dr Ben Jebara explained that national and international information systems were different because they had to meet different objectives. He indicated that it would be impossible for a world information system to track all suspected cases, whereas this kind of data would be valuable for a national information system. He clarified that OIE Members could report strong suspicions (i.e. backed by basic laboratory diagnosis) to the OIE while awaiting confirmation from an OIE Reference Laboratory, using internationally prescribed tests.

448. In relation to the comments raised by the Delegate of the United States of America on WAHIS “user friendliness” and on notifying the absence of a disease in the wild population only, Dr Ben Jebara stated that it was not an information technology problem but an automated verification measure put in place in the system. He clarified that WAHIS did not accept the occurrence code ‘0000’ for diseases that have never been reported in domestic species only or in wild species only, since the code ‘0000’ was intended to indicate that the
disease had never occurred in the territory of the Member, either in domestic or in wild species. One could not indicate that a disease had never occurred in the wild population if it was known to have occurred in susceptible domestic species, since in many countries disease surveillance in wild animals had been poor and indeed still remained so. He recommended reporting it as absent, with the date of the last occurrence being the same as for domestic animals, which in fact was the situation prior to the introduction in 2009 of different disease occurrence codes, where relevant, for domestic and wild species. With respect to trade problems due to pandemic influenza H1N1 raised by several speakers, he commented that the situation had improved since the beginning of the crisis and that this was also due to the efforts of the OIE and FAO (and subsequently WHO) to change the name of the disease from swine flu to pandemic influenza. He stressed the importance of increasing training for Veterinary Services staff on risk analysis, so as to ensure that trading partners complied with international standards, took science-based decisions and did not react negatively as soon as a disease event was published by the OIE.

449. The President of the Assembly indicated that he would discuss with the Director General the possibility of revising the agenda for the next General Session, in order to allow more time for Delegates to discuss their animal health situation.

450. The Delegate of Australia made a final comment in support of the views expressed by the Delegate of the United States of America. He expressed concern at the fact that WAHIS did not allow Members to indicate the historical absence of a disease in the wild population if the disease had already occurred in susceptible domestic species.

451. The Director General agreed that the notification system needed to be constantly improved and that the computer application needed to be tailored to the needs of the OIE and all its 176 Members, especially in the field of wildlife diseases. He explained that any change to the system would require considerable time and resources, but that the OIE considered these improvements to be a priority.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 1

452. The President proposed a vote on Draft Resolution No. 1 concerning the adoption by the Assembly of the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2009 and the Report on Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2009 and the Beginning of 2010. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 1 at the end of this report.

Presentation of proposed Resolutions drafted during plenary sessions
Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 21
Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code

453. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 21 on Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 21 at the end of this report.
Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 22
Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

454. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 22 on Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

The Delegate of Burkina Faso commented that the proposed modification of the text did not reflect the recommendation that he had made. In response, Dr Thiermann proposed that the Delegate provide modified wording for consideration by the Code Commission at its September 2010 meeting.

The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, commented that his understanding had been that teschovirus encephalomyelitis would not be relisted. Dr Thiermann explained that the decision was to retain the disease in the Terrestrial Code, with its status considered as “under study”. The listing of the disease would be reconsidered by the ad hoc Group on the Notification of Terrestrial Animal Diseases/Pathogenic Agents.

The Delegate of Chile raised concern about the proposed change to the title of Article 7.8.4. point 3.

The Delegate of the United States of America commented that he had not expected that the Code Commission would adopt the deletion of the words “and preventing” in Article 6.7.1. However, Dr Thiermann confirmed that this reflected the balance of Delegates' views.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire pointed out that her proposal had been for the Terrestrial Code to recommend that health certificates be provided in the language of both the importing and the exporting country. Dr Thiermann in response suggested that the Code Commission would further review this proposal at its September 2010 meeting. Dr Vallat stated that in some cases the importing country would accept certificates drawn up in the language of the exporting country.

455. The Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears under Resolution No. 22 at the end of this report.

Discussion and Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 26
Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare

456. The Assembly unanimously adopted the Draft Resolution. The text appears under Resolution No. 26 at the end of this report.

Activities and Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
(Docs 78 SG/11A and B)

Regional Commission for Africa

457. Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 78 SG/11B AF).

458. The Assembly noted the report.
Regional Commission for the Americas

459. Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles (Guatemala), Secretary General of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 78 SG/11B AM).

460. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

461. Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (People’s Republic of China), Vice-President of the Commission, presented the report on the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 78 SG/11B AS).

462. He also presented the recommendations of the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China, from 16 to 20 November 2009.

463. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Shanghai.

Regional Commission for Europe

464. Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Commission, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 78 SG/11B EU).

465. The Assembly noted the report.

Regional Commission for the Middle East

466. On behalf of the President of the Commission, the OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, Dr Ghazi Yehia, presented the report of the meeting of the Commission held on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris (Doc. 78 SG/11B ME).

467. He also presented the recommendations of the 10th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 25 to 29 October 2009.

468. The Assembly noted the report and also endorsed the recommendations of the Conference in Doha.

Dates of the 79th General Session (May 2011)

469. The Assembly decided that the 79th General Session of the Assembly would be held from Sunday 22 to Friday 27 May 2011. The Director General stated that the 79th General Session would also be held at the Maison de la Chimie up to and including the Thursday.

Technical Items for the 79th General Session (May 2011)

470. As a rapporteur had not been available, the Technical Item entitled “The contribution of veterinary activities to global food security for food derived from terrestrial and aquatic animals” could not be presented to the Assembly during the 78th General Session. Dr Brian Evans, speaking on behalf of the Sub-Commission for the Agenda, proposed that the item should be carried forward to the 79th General Session in May 2011 and that the Council would decide on the second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) during its meeting in February 2011 on the basis of proposals made today by the Presidents of the Regional Commissions. The Assembly supported this pragmatic approach and approved the proposal.
Technical Items for the 80th General Session (May 2012)

471. The Assembly accepted the postponement of the Technical Item “National and international experiences and roles in previous and future developments in the ‘One World, One Health’ approach” for presentation during the 80th General Session in 2012.

472. Further to the decision of the Council, the second Technical Item (without a questionnaire) for 2012 would be determined by the Council at its meeting in February prior to the 80th General Session, so that the latest developments could be taken into account.

Distribution of animal health status certificates

473. The OIE Members and non-OIE Members listed below were awarded a certificate from the OIE certifying that the country, or a zone of the country, was now recognised as free from specific diseases for which the OIE had a mandate to recognise animal health status: Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Dominica, Georgia, India, Israel, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Lesotho, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, San Marino, Somalia, Syria, Tonga, Turkey, Yemen.

474. The certificates given to non-OIE Members concerned their rinderpest-free status only.

SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION


(Doc. 78 SG/3)

475. Dr Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General, in charge of administration, management, human resources and regional actions, reported on newly appointed Delegates to the OIE and the elections that were due to be held during the Administrative Session.

476. She went on to present the main points regarding staff management, equipment acquisitions and maintenance and renovation work on the OIE Headquarters premises.

477. She indicated that the acquisition contract of the building at 14 rue de Prony had been signed on 16 March 2009 and provided information on the financing of the operation and the initial results of the subscription launched among Members in application of Resolution No. XI of May 2008.

478. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 2, approving the Report of the Director General. The text appears as Resolution No. 2 at the end of this report.

OIE Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year

(1 January – 31 December 2009)

(Doc. 78 SG/4) RESERVED ON DELEGATES
She presented the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year of the OIE. The Regular Budget for 2009, which had been set for income and expenditure of EUR 730,000, showed a positive balance of EUR 134,227.74.

Total expenses (operating expenses and an allocation to the Works and Equipment Account) amounted to EUR 763,290,57, which was 4.35% higher than the budgeted amount.

Income amounted to EUR 776,734,134.31, which was 6.40% higher than the budgeted amount. Income from statutory contributions totalled EUR 562,460,59, which was EUR 221,640,59 higher than the budgeted amount. Sales of publications totalled EUR 117,810,33, whereas investment income amounted to only EUR 37,956,44, a decline of 36.74%, due to a significant fall in investment revenue.

Internal contributions amounted to EUR 276,484,40, other operating income to EUR 1,602,979,62 and extraordinary income to EUR 107,262,93.

The positive balance for the 83rd Financial Year would be allocated as follows: EUR 100,000 to partially replenish the Reserve Fund and EUR 34,227.74 to the budgetary carry-over.

The Works and Equipment Account totalled EUR 229,222.09 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 653,442.77 at 31 December 2009. Income (EUR 114,905,467.73) consisted mainly of a bank loan (EUR 86,000,000), an allocation from the budgetary carry-over (EUR 760,000) and a withdrawal from the Reserve Fund (EUR 435,316) intended for the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony, a voluntary contribution from France (EUR 230,727) and exceptional contributions (EUR 650,000) allocated within the framework of the subscription launched in application of Resolution No. XI of 30 May 2008. Income also included rent of EUR 486,138.29 on a part of the building acquired at 14 rue de Prony.

Expenses amounted to EUR 108,600,026.05 and consisted mainly of EUR 93,600,000 for the purchase of the building (a deposit of EUR 104,000,000 having already been paid in 2008).


The Account of the Sub-regional Representation for Central America (Panama) totalled EUR 130,997.43 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 137,239.06 at 31 December 2009.

The Account of the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (Sofia) totalled EUR 139,256.27 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 238,511.13 at 31 December 2009.


The Account of the Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE/Japan Programme) totalled EUR 1,281,918.55 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 1,123,665.18 at 31 December 2009.


The Account of the Regional Representation for Africa totalled EUR 57,769.59 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 80,634.65 at 31 December 2009.

The Account of the Sub-regional Representation for Southern Africa (Gaborone) totalled EUR 317,073.61 at 1 January 2009 and EUR 45,586.44 at 31 December 2009.
490. The Assembly noted the report of the Auditors presented by Dr Rachid Bouguedour (Algeria) and Dr Nasser Eddin Al-Hawamdeh (Jordan).

491. The Assembly noted the reports of the External Auditor.

492. Draft Resolution No. 3 approving the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 3 at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Members and Intergovernmental Organisations that made voluntary contributions or subsidies to the OIE, or contributed to the organisation of OIE meetings

493. The Director General conveyed his warmest thanks:

1. To the Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Lithuania, Myanmar, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America;
To intergovernmental organisations: the World Bank, the European Commission, the World Trade Organization, the African Union IBAR, the WHO and FAO;

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies supporting the implementation of OIE programmes in 2009;

2. To the Governments of Argentina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China (People’s Rep. of), Cyprus, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Vietnam for contributing to the organisation of OIE regional conferences, seminars and regional workshops already held in 2009, or to be held in 2010.

494. The Assembly unanimously adopted Draft Resolution No. 4, subject to some amendments. The text appears as Resolution No. 4 at the end of this report.

495. The Director General also conveyed his warmest thanks to France for its voluntary contribution, and to Italy, the Sultanate of Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom for their exceptional contributions in 2009, designed to contribute to the acquisition of the building at 14 rue de Prony. He informed the Assembly that in 2010 the People’s Republic of China, Canada and the Latin-American Poultry Association had already made a voluntary contribution to the OIE. The subscription remained open to purchase the part of the building not yet placed on sale and to reimburse ahead of schedule the bank loan currently being reimbursed from rental income. The OIE would gradually be occupying the parts of the building currently rented out and would therefore gradually lose the rental income used to reimburse the bank loan.

496. Draft Resolution No. 12 was unanimously adopted by the Assembly. The text appears as Resolution No. 12 at the end of this report.

Renewal of the mandate of the External Auditor
(Doc. 78 SG/17)

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

498. Draft Resolution No. 8 was unanimously adopted. The text appears as Resolution No. 8 at the end of this report.

2010 Budget
(Doc. 78 SG/5) RESERVED ON DELEGATES
Proposed 2011 Contributions Scale and 2011 Budget Estimates
(Doc. 78 SG/6) RESERVED ON DELEGATES

502. Dr Eloit presented the budget estimates for 2011.

503. The 2011 contributions scale would be maintained at the same level as that adopted for 2010, namely a value for the contribution unit set at EUR 5,750. Under the new mechanism established by Resolution No. VI of 24 May 2006, a part of each contribution unit would be allocated, provided that the contribution had been paid, to the budget of the Regional Representation corresponding to the Regional Commission of which the country was a member.

504. The Draft Regular Budget for the year 2011 (85th Financial Year) was balanced in terms of income and expenses in an amount of EUR 7,760,000. Income consisted mainly of contributions (EUR 5,800,000). Other income comprised EUR 1,960,000 (sales of publications, internal contribution, investment income, other operating income, exceptional income, etc.). Operating expenses totaled EUR 7,710,000 and the allocation to the Works and Equipment Account amounted to EUR 50,000.

505. Draft Resolution No. 6 (Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 85th Financial Year of the OIE, 1 January to 31 December 2011) was adopted unanimously.

506. Draft Resolution No. 7 (Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2011) was adopted unanimously.

Resolutions Nos. 6 and 7 appear at the end of the present report.

507. The Assembly noted the Planned Working Programme for 2011.

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2011

508. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2011.

509. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

Adoption of Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2011

508. The President submitted for adoption Draft Resolution No. 9 on the Planned Working Programme for 2011.

509. The Draft Resolution was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 9 at the end of this report.

World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

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45 CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency
46 DFID: Department for International Development
47 USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
Activities of the Council

515. The President commented on document 78 SG/18, which summarised the activities of the Council between May 2009 and May 2010, and explained the statutory provisions relating to the Council. He emphasised that the work carried out during the year had been in large part devoted to the preparation of the draft Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015) and the revision of the Basic Texts. He also informed the Assembly of topics that would be examined by the Council at its forthcoming meeting in September 2010.

516. Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada and member of the Council, confirmed the financial support of his country for a third meeting of the Council each year, thereby enabling the many topics for discussion to be examined in detail between General Sessions.

517. The Assembly adopted document 78 SG/18.

Revision of the Basic Texts

518. Dr Correa Messuti presented the draft revised version of the Basic Texts (Doc. 78 SG/19). He proposed that the discussion begin on each part of the entire text.

519. Dr Vallat reminded the Assembly of the background to the preparation of this dossier and the different stages of consultation. He pointed out that many texts dated back to 1924 and required modernisation. He also explained the majority rules for the adoption of amendments to these texts. He stated that some Members had submitted comments and that a new draft would be prepared for adoption at the next General Session, in May 2011. The draft text would be submitted to Delegates two months before the General Session.

520. Mr Gaudemet, Legal Counsel, indicated that there were no plans to change the balance of power between the organs of the OIE. All that was being proposed was flexibility in the functioning of the institutions and Commissions of the Organisation in order to adapt to the increase in the number of Members.

521. The Delegate of Russia emphasised that the dialogue to reach a consensus on these texts must take into account the importance of the OIE’s technical missions. He mentioned in particular the importance of exchanges of animal health information at the world level.
522. The Delegate of Spain, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, supported the initiative and agreed with the draft texts as presented.

523. The Delegate of Japan expressed his support for the texts to be approved by a two-thirds majority, as well as for the pursuit of agreement by consensus. However, he requested a modification to the reference to the Vienna Convention for the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations (Article 33 of the draft General Rules) on the grounds that they did not require diplomatic status in order to be able to implement their proposed terms of reference. He also called for greater formalisation of the standards elaboration procedures and for risk analysis to be taken into account.

524. The Delegate of Cuba thanked the Council and the consultant, Mr Alan Randell, for their efforts and asked for the Delegates to be provided with a version highlighting the proposed modifications in order to facilitate examination of the text and to reach a consensus.

525. The Delegate of the People’s Republic of China supported the initiative. He outlined the comments already made concerning the preamble and Article 2 of the Organic Rules.

526. The Director General stated that if any Members wished to make further comments they should submit them on the basis of document 78 SG/19, circulated in March 2010 and also provided in the working documents for the General Session.

Adoption of the Fifth Strategic Plan

527. Dr Correa Messuti and Dr Vallat presented the main policy directions and objectives of the Fifth Strategic Plan, prepared by the Council and the Headquarters with the help of the consultant (Mr Randell) based on the regional proposals received (Doc. 78 SG/20) and taking into account available resources.

528. The Delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, thanked the Council for having taken into consideration the comments submitted. He highlighted the importance of better differentiation between standards relating to international trade in the Codes and Manuals and guidelines and recommendations to Members which should be covered by other specific documents. He also requested greater OIE involvement in the field of aquatic animals.

529. The Delegate of Rwanda expressed his satisfaction that the topics of food security and climate change, which were of great importance for Africa, had been taken into account.

530. The Delegate of The Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, asked for the Assembly to be better informed concerning OIE participation in the WTO SPS Committee. She also asked for the importance of greater cooperation between the standard-setting organisations to be underlined in the Fifth Strategic Plan.

531. The Delegate of Norway asked for a more explicit commitment from the OIE regarding aquatic animals, in particular concerning the creation of a specialised scientific commission. The Delegate of Norway also requested that there be a clear commitment to continue the cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission and also to ensure that in the fields of food security and climate change the OIE and FAO work closely together to assure best utilisation of scarce resources.

532. The Delegate of Niger, speaking on behalf of the 52 Members of the Regional Commission for Africa, expressed satisfaction with the project as presented, which was in harmony with the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan.

533. The Delegate of Germany, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, stressed the importance of the OIE’s commitment in the field of food security and climate change, with a view to collaboration with FAO to optimise available animal resources.
534. The Delegate of Australia welcomed calls for greater involvement in the field of aquatic animals.

535. The Delegate of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, asked for cooperation between public and private international organisations in order to avoid private standards representing unjustified trade barriers. She also asked the Council for a better definition of the indicators referred to in Chapter 146 of the draft Plan presented. Concerning Chapter 156, she asked for cooperation with the private sector in the field of research to be encouraged, for example by establishing regional technological platforms.

536. The Delegate of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the 27 EU Member States, also supported the call for a specific scientific commission for aquatic animals.

537. The Delegate of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the 52 Members of the Regional Commission for Africa, expressed support for the planned harmonisation and compatibility of information systems (Chapter 56). He also wished to see greater involvement of African countries in the elaboration of OIE standards.

538. The Delegate of Sudan asked for reference to be made to drought management in Chapter 32.

539. The Director General stated that the comments made by Delegates would be taken into account, either in the final draft which would be sent to them or in the forthcoming annual Working Programme. The Council would be asked to discuss whether it would be opportune to create a specialised scientific commission for aquatic animals.

540. The Assembly adopted the draft Fifth Strategic Plan subject to the modifications to be taken into consideration in the final version.

541. Draft Resolution No. 11 was adopted unanimously. The text appears as Resolution No. 11 at the end of this report.

**Election of a President and a Vice-President of the Regional Commission for Africa**

542. The President of the Assembly asked the President of the Regional Commission for Africa to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant positions of President and Vice-President of the Bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

President: Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher (Ethiopia)
Vice-President: Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz (Sudan)
Vice-President: Dr Saley Mahamadou (Niger).

**Election of a Secretary General of the Regional Commission for the Americas**

543. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Americas to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant position of Secretary General of the Bureau.

The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:

Secretary General: Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles (Guatemala).

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

544. The President asked the President of the Regional Commission for the Middle East to communicate the proposal of the Commission to fill the vacant position of Vice-President of the Bureau.
The Assembly unanimously adopted the proposal:
Vice-President: Prof. Mohamed M. El Garhy (Egypt).

**International support for Haiti**

545. In response to an intervention by the Delegate of Cuba, the President of the Assembly and the Director General of the OIE, duly noting the considerable needs of the Veterinary Services of Haiti, as described by the Delegate of that country in his speech on Wednesday (full text of the speech placed on the OIE website), urged the international community to procure the emergency human and financial resources required for the reconstruction of the Haitian Veterinary Services and asked Delegates to kindly inform their respective Governments.

546. In response to an intervention by the Delegate of Cuba, the President and the Director General of the OIE, duly noting the substantial needs of the Veterinary Services of Haiti as indicated by the Delegate of Haiti during his intervention on Wednesday (the text of which was published in full on the OIE website), called on the international community to urgently provide the human and financial resources required for the reconstruction of the Haitian Veterinary Services and asked Delegates to kindly inform their respective Governments.

**EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION**

**Presentation of the adopted Resolutions and the Draft Final Report**

547. The President reminded the Assembly that the Draft Final Report was now printed in two stages (the Technical Sessions, then the Administrative Sessions), to save time during its examination by the Delegates.

548. The Draft Final Report and the Resolutions already adopted during the General Session were distributed.

549. 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 2010** 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 have been adopted in its final form.

**Closing Session**

550. The President thanked the Delegates, the Rapporteurs and other participants for the quality of the debates. He congratulated the Director General, the staff of the Headquarters, 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 78th General Session closed. He wished the Delegates a safe journey home.

551. He invited the Delegates to return for the 79th General Session in May 2011.
Resolutions

Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE
during its 78th General Session

23 – 28 May 2010
LIST OF RESOLUTIONS


No. 2 Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2009

No. 3 Approval of the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2009)

No. 4 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

No. 5 2010 Budget modification

No. 6 OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 85th Financial Year of the OIE (1st January – 31 December 2011)

No. 7 Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2011

No. 8 Renewal of the appointment of the External Auditor

No. 9 Work programme for 2011

No. 10 Appointment of the Director General

No. 11 Fifth Strategic Plan

No. 12 Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries that helped the OIE in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

No. 14 Name of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD)

No. 15 Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

No. 16 Recognition of the Rinderpest Status of Members

No. 17 Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Status of Members

No. 18 Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Status of Members

No. 19 Animal Production Food Safety

No. 20 Animal Welfare

No. 21 Amendments to the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code

No. 22 Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

No. 23 Adoption of two draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

No. 24 Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

No. 25 Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest

No. 26 Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare
RESOLUTION No. 1


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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Annual Report of the Director General on the Activities of the OIE in 2009 (78 SG/1) and the Report on the Animal Disease Status Worldwide in 2009 and the beginning of 2010 (78 SG/2).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 2

Approval of the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE in 2009

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

THE ASEMBLY

RESOLVES

to approve the Report of the Director General on the Management, Activities and Administrative Work of the OIE during the 83rd Financial Year (1 January – 31 December 2009) (78 SG/3).

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 3

Approval of the Financial Report for the 83rd Financial Year of the OIE
(1 January – 31 December 2009)

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES


(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 4

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 2009 and the meetings organised by the OIE in 2009,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank:

1. The Governments of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Cyprus, France, Indonesia, Italia, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America;

To intergovernmental organisations: the African Union IBAR, the European Commission, the FAO, the World Bank, the WHO and the WTO

for their voluntary contributions or subsidies to support the execution of the programmes of the OIE in 2009.

2. The Governments of Argentina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, People’s Republic of China, Cyprus, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Vietnam for their contribution in the organisation of OIE Regional Conferences, seminars and workshops that were held during 2009.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 5

2010 Budget modification
RESERVED ON DELEGATES
The allocation of expenses among the working programmes, is as follows:

1. World Assembly and Council: 772,000
2. Directorate General and Administration: 2,180,000
3. Information: 545,000
4. Publications: 676,000
5. Commissions, Working Groups and Conferences: 2,967,114
6. Miscellaneous missions and meetings: 317,113

Subtotal (1 to 6): 7,457,227

7. Allocation to the Works and Equipment Account: 50,000

TOTAL: 7,507,227

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 6

OIE Budgetary Income and Expenses for the 85th Financial Year
(1st January to 31 December 2011)
RESERVED ON DELEGATES
RESOLUTION No. 7

Financial Contributions from OIE Members for 2011
RESERVED ON DELEGATES

In accordance with Article 11 of the Organic Statutes and Article 14 of the Organic Rules
AND
Considering the need to meet the budgetary expenses of the OIE for 2011,
THE ASSEMBLY DECIDES that the annual contributions from OIE Members be established for the 2011 Financial Year as follows (in EUR):

1st category: 143,750
2nd category: 115,000
3rd category: 86,250
4th category: 57,500
5th category: 28,750
6th category: 17,250

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 8

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 ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To renew for a period of one year (2010) the mandate of Mrs Marie-Pierre Cordier as OIE External Auditor.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 9

Work Programme for 2011

CONSIDERING

The examination and approval of the Fourth Strategic Plan by the World Assembly during its 73rd General Session in May 2005,

The draft Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2011-2015 period,

THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE COUNCIL

1. DECIDES

To approve the 2011 Work Programme prepared by the Director General (Appendix I of document 78 SG/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 World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 10

Appointment of the Director General

Taking note of the Basic Texts of the OIE, particularly Article 8 of the Organic Statutes, Article 11 of the Organic Rules and Article 29 of the General Rules

CONSIDERING

The result of the election that took place on 25 May 2010

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To appoint Dr Bernard Vallat as Director General of the OIE for a period of five years, beginning on 1 January 2011.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 11

Fifth Strategic Plan

CONSIDERING

The document 78 SG/20 that introduces the draft Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE, established for the 2011-2015 period

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

To approve the Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE.

REQUESTS

The Director General to prepare

- A Work Programme for the 2011-2015 period, in compliance with the Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE, which will be submitted to the approval of the Assembly in May 2011

- Annual work programmes, based on the guidelines of this Work Programme, with the corresponding budgets and contribution mechanisms, which will be submitted every year to the approval of the Assembly.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)

78 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2010
RESOLUTION No. 12

Acknowledgements to the Governments of Member Countries that helped the OIE, in the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony

CONSIDERING

The Resolution N° XI of 30 May 2008 giving the Director General a mandate for the acquisition of a property situated at 14 rue de Prony,

Having noted the voluntary contributions received by the OIE within the framework of the subscription launched with Member Countries or other donors to contribute to this acquisition,

THE ASSEMBLY

REQUESTS

The Director General to sincerely thank the Governments of France, Italy, Luxembourg, Oman, Turkey and the United Kingdom for their voluntary contributions to support the extension of the Headquarters so that it corresponds to the development of the objectives of the Organisation

RECOMMENDS THAT

This subscription remains opened until new order for other Member Countries or potential donors to finalize the acquisition of the property situated at 14 rue de Prony and, if needed, to proceed to the total or partial early reimbursement of the bank loan granted to acquire for the first part of the building

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 14

Name of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease Campaign (SEAFMD)

CONSIDERING

Resolution No. X of the OIE International Committee on 17 May 1991, recommending the creation of a working group to coordinate foot and mouth disease control in South-East Asia,

The approval given by the OIE International Committee on 18 May 1994 for the creation of a Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia,

The OIE programme for the eradication of foot and mouth disease in South-East Asia (SEAFMD) set up by the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in 1997,

Resolution No. XXXVI of 26 May 2006 relating to the composition of the Sub-Commission for the South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign,

That the inclusion of other countries in the region in the eradication Campaign will contribute to the effectiveness and success of the programme’s objectives,

That the Members of the Sub-Commission and their technical and financial partners wish to pursue and step up the programme based on an approved roadmap until 2020,

Request by the People’s Republic of China to become Member of the Sub-Commission,

Value of the full participation of the ASEAN member countries in the Sub-Commission and the willingness of Brunei and Singapore to join the Sub-Commission,

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES THAT

The People’s Republic of China, Brunei and Singapore shall become Members of the Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia (SEAFMD), with effect from 28 May 2010;

Consequently, the new name of the Sub-Commission shall be as follows:

“Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in China and South-East Asia (SEACFMD)”.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 15

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 62nd General Session, the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones recognised as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (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 for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases,

4. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the Terrestrial Code:
Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands.

2. The Director General publish the following Members recognised as FMD free where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the Terrestrial Code:

**Uruguay.**

3. The Director General publish the following list of Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. of the Terrestrial Code49:

- **Argentina:** zone designated by the Delegate of Argentina in a document addressed to the Director General in January 2007;
- **Botswana:** zones designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2009 and in November 2009;
- **Brazil:** State of Santa Catarina;
- **Colombia:** zones designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in November 1995 and in April 1996 (Area I - Northwest region of Choco Department) and in January 2008 (Archipelago de San Andres and Providencia);
- **Malaysia:** zones of Sabah and Sarawak designated by the Delegate of Malaysia in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2003;
- **Moldova:** zone designated by the Delegate of Moldova in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;
- **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;

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48 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.
49 For detailed information on the delimitation of zones of Members recognised as FMD free, enquiries should be addressed to the Director General of the OIE.
Philippines: Islands of Mindanao, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate, and two zones located on the Island of Luzon as designated by the Delegate of the Philippines in a document addressed to the Director General in December 2009;

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 Members having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.5. 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 Pará, as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in March 2004 and February 2007. The States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Tocantins, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná, São Paulo of Brazil as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in May 2008; and the zone in the State of Mato Grosso do Sul as designated by the Delegate of Brazil in a document addressed to the Director General in July 2008;

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, a southwestern zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2007 and an eastern zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General in January 2009;

Paraguay: zone designated by the Delegate of Paraguay in documents addressed to the Director General in March 2007.

Turkey: zone designated by the Delegate of Turkey in documents addressed to the Director General in November 2009 and in March 2010.

AND

5. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if FMD occurs in their countries or zones within their territories.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 16

Recognition of the Rinderpest Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from rinderpest according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code),

2. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain animal diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status, but which excluded rinderpest because participation in the cost of rinderpest disease status evaluation will be obtained, whenever possible, from sources other than direct payment by Members,

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

5. During the 75th General Session the International Committee adopted the proposed update in the “OIE rinderpest pathway” of the Terrestrial Code. In view of the progress in global rinderpest eradication, the provisions of Chapter 2.2.12. of the Terrestrial Code 2007 were restricted to the sole recognition of rinderpest free status representing a country-wide infection free status. Therefore new applications from Members for zones free from rinderpest or “rinderpest disease free” status are no longer applicable or listed,

6. The International Committee and relevant organisations having an official agreement with the OIE accepted that the OIE assess and publish in a separate list the rinderpest status of non-OIE Members in accordance with the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Code. However, to be recognised as free from rinderpest, specific conditions apply to the obligations of the Veterinary Services of countries or territories not yet Members of the OIE,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as free from rinderpest, according to the provisions of Chapter 8.12. of the Terrestrial Code:
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afganistán</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Korea (Rep. of)</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Albania</td>
<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Dominican Rep.</td>
<td>Lesotho</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Belize</td>
<td>Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia</td>
<td>Malta</td>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
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<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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2. The Director General publish the following list of non-OIE Members recognised as free from rinderpest according to the provisions of Chapter 8.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

- Cook Islands
- Niue
- Samoa
- Timor Leste
- Dominica
- Palau
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Marshall Islands
- Palestinian Auton. Territories
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Vatican
- Nauru

3. Members and non-Members not yet recognised free from rinderpest in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* take the necessary measures to obtain rinderpest free status and submit their dossier to the OIE as soon as possible.

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50 Excluding Kosovo administered by the United Nations.
4. In accordance with the current provisions on rinderpest in the *Terrestrial Code* that shall remain applicable until the adoption of future revisions thereto in the context of global eradication of rinderpest, each Member maintains its recognised rinderpest free status provided that the Delegate submits, during the month of November of each year, a letter to the Director General of the OIE which includes the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* for that disease, for confirming the maintenance of the recognized disease status.

AND

5. The Delegates of Members and competent authorities of non-OIE Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if rinderpest occurs in their countries.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 17

Recognition of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Disease Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 71st General Session, the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Member countries and zones, recognised as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code),

2. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status for certain diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of disease status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

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

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as free from CBPP according to the provisions of the Chapter 11.9. of the Terrestrial Code:

   Australia     India     Switzerland
   Botswana      Portugal  United States of America

AND

2. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if CBPP occurs in their countries.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 18

Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Members

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 67th General Session the OIE International Committee established a procedure for annually updating a list of Members, categorised by their Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code),

2. During the 76th General Session, the OIE adopted Resolution No. XXII, which specified and updated the procedure for Members to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of status of certain diseases,

3. During the 76th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XXIII, which specified the financial implications for Members applying for evaluation of official recognition or re-instatement of a BSE risk status to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE in the evaluation process,

4. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Members. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of a Member disease status based on inaccurate information, changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Headquarters, subsequent to the time of declaration of the BSE risk status.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.6. of the Terrestrial Code:

   Argentina     India     Peru
   Australia     New Zealand Singapore
   Chile         Norway     Sweden
   Finland       Paraguay   Uruguay
   Iceland
2. The Director General publish the following list of Members recognised as having a controlled BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*:

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AND

3. The Delegates of these Members will immediately notify the Headquarters if BSE occurs in their countries or their territories.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 19

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 ninth meeting in November 2009 and drafted a work programme for 2010. It also proposed some minor amendments to its Terms of Reference and Modus operandi;

2. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimising food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a Guide to Good Farming Practices. The text has been finalised and will be published in cooperation with FAO in English, French and Spanish;

3. The Working Group has reviewed the revised Terrestrial and Aquatic Code chapters on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed and a draft text on control of such hazards in heat-treated petfood;

4. The Working Group has reviewed a discussion paper by Dr Knight-Jones on priority pathogens for standard setting by OIE and recommended that it be sent to OIE Members for comment prior to making a decision on which pathogens should be given priority for standard setting in OIE;

5. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by both organisations are consistent and take a ‘whole food chain’ approach to food safety;

6. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation between the OIE and the FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, zoonotic diseases and related issues.

THE ASSEMBLY

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, with the amended Terms of Reference shown in Annex VIII to the report of the ninth meeting of the Working Group.

2. The participation of high level FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be maintained, to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.

3. The 2010 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE’s activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, with provision of the resources needed to address the identified priorities.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 20

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide;

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and trade policy dimensions;

3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme;

4. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004 and 2008 and confirmed the OIE’s international leadership role in animal welfare;

5. Animal welfare standards (seven chapters to date) were adopted starting at the 2005 and subsequent General Assemblies and are regularly updated;


7. An expansion of the mandate of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission to cover, inter alia, aquatic animal welfare, has been adopted by OIE Members;

8. A new standard on laboratory animal welfare has been proposed for adoption by OIE Members;

9. Work is underway on the development of new animal welfare standards on animal welfare in livestock production systems, with broiler chickens and beef cattle production systems being addressed first;

10. An OIE Resolution providing in principle support for the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare was adopted at the 2007 General Session;

11. The Director General confirmed OIE policy on the establishment of “twinning” relationships between OIE Collaborating Centres, in a letter sent to delegates on 16 March 2009;

12. The Director General requested that Delegates establish, under their overall supervision, animal welfare focal points, in a letter dated 24th March 2009;

13. The active involvement of all OIE Members is essential to the successful global implementation of the OIE animal welfare mandate;

14. Regional animal welfare strategies, and associated implementation plans, make a major contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide.
THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Animal Welfare Working Group to advise him, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions, on OIE priorities and proposed activities in the field of animal welfare.

2. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2010/2011 work programmes be the basis for the OIE's activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.

3. Delegates take steps to ensure their nominated national animal welfare focal points participate in regional training programmes.

4. Within the framework of an agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non governmental organisations, the private sector and with other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.

5. Veterinary Services of each Member take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, the possible need to strengthen the regulatory framework for animal welfare.

6. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to play an active role in raising awareness of the OIE animal welfare role, with active involvement of Working Group members from their respective regions.

7. The OIE Headquarters and the Animal Welfare Working Group continue to give priority to effective and transparent consultation in implementing the OIE animal welfare work programme.

8. Delegates continue to take appropriate steps to implement the Recommendations of the Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Cairo from 19-22 October 2008.

9. The Director General continues to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE's International Leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.

10. OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be encouraged to identify “twinning” opportunities in accordance with OIE policy.

11. Further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.

12. The Director General takes steps to ensure that animal welfare performance criteria are included in the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) tool.

13. The Director General takes steps to ensure that animal welfare is included in the OIE Veterinary Legislation initiative.

14. The Director General continues to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 21

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 February 2010 report of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Appendices III to XXV of Document 78 SG/12/CS4 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members.

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the Aquatic Code proposed in Appendices III to XXV of Document 78 SG/12/CS4 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

   In Annex XXI, Disinfected eggs – Article 10.4.X. point 2a), Article 10.5.X. point 2a), Article 10.9.X. point 2a), be amended as follows:

   a) the eggs should be disinfected prior to importing, according to the methods described in Chapter 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Manual (under study) or those specified by the Competent Authority of the importing country; and

2. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the Aquatic Code.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 22

Amendments to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The present content of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code), which is the result of modifications made by the OIE World Assembly during previous General Sessions;

2. The necessity to update the Terrestrial Code in accordance with recommendations in the February 2010 report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission) (Document 78 SG/12/CS1 B), after consultation with the Delegates of the Members;

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the Terrestrial Code proposed in Annexes IV, VI, IX, XII, XVI, XVII, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV, XXVII, XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV and XXXVI of Document 78 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic.

2. To adopt the updates to the Terrestrial Code proposed in Annexes III, V, VII, VIII, X, XI, XIII, XIV, XV, XVII, XIX, XX, XXVI, XXVIII, XXIX and XXXV of Document 78 SG/12/CS1 B in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic, with the following modifications:

2.1. In Annex III (Chapter 15.6.)
   a) retain the Chapter 15.6. texts of 2009 edition of the OIE Terrestrial Code and add “(under study)” in Title.

2.2. In Annex V (Chapter 1.2.)
   a) In Point 5. of Article 1.2.3.

add “Teschovirus encephalomyelitis (under study)” in an alphabetical order.

2.3. In Annex VII (Chapter 1.5.)
   a) In Article 1.5.1.

delete “additional” between “surveillance with” and “advice”.

2.4. In Annex VIII (Chapter 1.6.)
   a) In Article 1.6.1.

in Spanish version only, replace “declaración” between “La OIE no publica la” and “de la situación sanitaria” with “auto-declaración”.

78 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2010
2.5. In Annex X (Chapter 3.1. and 3.2.)

a) In Point 6 of Article 3.1.2

replace “a fundamental element of quality as it” with “prerequisite to”

in French version only, replace “preuves” between “type de” and “lorsqu’ils” by “elements”

b) In Point 1 of Article 3.2.2.

replace “and regulations” between “veterinary legislation” and “functional capabilities” with “, regulatory frameworks and”

c) In Point 1 of Article 3.2.5.

insert “always” between “This core should” and “include veterinarians”.

2.6. In Annex XI (Chapter 4.2.)

a) In Point 5. c), iii) of Article 4.2.3. Title.

replace “Events including movements” with “Other events”.

2.7. In Annex XIII (Chapter 4.6. and 4.7.)

a) In Point 1. of Article 4.6.3.

insert new Point 1. g) as below and renumber points as appropriate.

“g) Scrapie – comply with Article 14.9.8 if the animals do not originate from a scrapie free country or zone as defined in Article 14.9.3.”

b) In Point 1. of Article 4.7.14.

replace “The IETS has categorised” in the beginning with “Based on the conclusions of the HASAC of the IETS,”.

insert “are categorised” between “pathogenic agents” and “into four categories”.

2.8. In Annex XIV (Chapter 4.12.)

a) In Point 10 of Article 4.12.6.

delete “The process produces no environmental pollutants but yields renewable energy from bio-methane and thermal energy, as well as mineral and protein end-products suitable as fertilizers for soil remediation and animal feed additives.” and “(prions)”.

2.9. In Annex XV (Chapter 5.1. and 5.2.)

a) In Article 5.1.1.

delete “There should only be one signing veterinarian for one certificate.”.
b) In Article 5.2.1.
   add “certifying” between “signed by a” and “veterinarian”.

c) In Point 2. of Article 5.2.2.
   remove “authorised by the Veterinary Authority”

2.10. In Annex XVIII (Chapter 6.7.)
   a) In Article 6.7.1.
      replace “, controlling and preventing” with “and controlling” between “for treating” and “infectious diseases”.

2.11. In Annex XIX (Chapter 7.5. and 7.X.)
   a) In Point 2 of Article 7.5.2.
      add “(under study)” at the end.
   b) In Preamble of Chapter 7.X.
      insert “and interventions” after “Key events”
   c) In Article 7.X.1.
      modify the definition as follows:
      “Euthanasia
      means the act of inducing death using a method that causes rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress to the animal”.
   d) In Point 10 of Article 7.X.3.
      delete two times “vertebrate”.
   e) In Point 3 of Article 7.X.4.
      replace “Animal care and use programme review” by “Ethical evaluation”.

2.12. In Annex XX (Chapter 8.1.)
   a) In Article 8.1.4., 8.1.5. and 8.1.8.
      insert “movement” before “restriction”.
   b) In Article 8.1.10.
      delete “or be subjected to an industrial process demonstrated to be of equivalent efficacy” at the end of Point 2 and add new paragraph “Other industrial process demonstrating equivalent efficacy is also acceptable.” as a separate paragraph at the end.
2.13. In Annex XXVI (Chapter 10.4.)
   a) In Point 1 and 2 of Article 10.4.20.
      delete “NAI or” between “free from” and “HPNAI”.

   a) In Point 3 of Article 11.6.3. and Point 3 of Article 11.6.4..
      delete all “through feed of other mammalian origin” between “cross contamination” and “, that”.
   b) In Article 11.6.14.
      go back to the existing text of 2009 edition of the OIE Terrestrial Code.

2.15. In Annex XXIX (Chapter 11.7.)
   a) delete “or gamma interferon test” and “or gamma interferon tests” throughout the chapter.

2.16. In Annex XXXV (Chapter 14.9.)
   a) In Point 2. b) of Article 14.9.3..
      replace “0.01%” with “0.1%” between “at a prevalence rate exceeding” and “and no case of scrapie”.

3. To ask the Director General to publish the adopted texts in a revised edition of the Terrestrial Code with appropriate numbering and formatting.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 23

Adoption of two draft chapters for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual), like the Aquatic Animal Health Code, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards related to aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,

2. A revised edition of the printed version of the Aquatic Manual is published approximately every three years. It is the intention of the OIE, represented by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the OIE International Committee, the Web version of the Aquatic Manual will be updated on an annual basis,

3. Members 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. All chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Members and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To adopt the new and the updated draft chapters of the Aquatic Manual.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 24

Adoption of seventeen draft chapters for the
Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual), like the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, is an important contribution to the international harmonisation of sanitary standards of terrestrial animals and animal products,

2. A revised edition of the printed version of the Terrestrial Manual is published approximately every four years. It is the intention of the OIE, represented by the Biological Standards Commission that, following approval of changes by the International Committee, the Web version of the Terrestrial Manual will be updated on an annual basis,

3. Members have been asked for the contributions of their specialists for the proposed seventeen revised chapters of the Terrestrial Manual before they are finalised by the Biological Standards Commission,

4. All chapters for the revised edition have been sent to Members, and the Biological Standards Commission will address any pending comments,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES

To adopt the seventeen updated chapters of the Terrestrial Manual.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
RESOLUTION No. 25

Destruction, storage and confinement of rinderpest virus containing material and other actions required in view of global eradication of rinderpest

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The 77th General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health adopted in May 2009 Resolution No. 27 “Storage and confinement of virulent rinderpest virus isolates and live vaccine stocks in view of the goal of global eradication of rinderpest”,

2. The OIE and FAO have established a Joint Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication, which met in December 2009 and in April 2010 and is expected to produce its final report by early 2011, to provide necessary advice to the Directors-General of OIE and FAO ,

3. The Joint OIE/FAO Committee on Global Rinderpest Eradication, with the assistance from the Biological Standards Commission, has finalised draft guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration,

4. The 79th World Assembly of Delegates in May 2011 and the 37th FAO Conference in June 2011 may be in a position to endorse a joint OIE/FAO declaration on global rinderpest eradication and adopt a resolution to which the guidelines for rinderpest virus sequestration would be appended,

5. A global inventory on all existing rinderpest virus containing materials including vaccine stocks and the facilities holding such stocks and any movement of such materials will be established and maintained by the OIE and FAO and will constitute an essential tool for overseeing and coordinating the ongoing process of rinderpest virus sequestration,

6. The Scientific Commission on Animal Diseases at its meeting in March 2010 acknowledged and supported the proposal for a review of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code) in order to reflect the actions that need to be taken in the post rinderpest eradication period,

THE ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES THAT

1. OIE Members and non-OIE Members urgently respond, if they have not yet done so, to the questionnaire on rinderpest virus repositories distributed by the OIE and FAO in February 2010, after having conducted a thorough survey within their countries and territories.

2. Members and non-Members destroy, under the supervision of the Veterinary Authority, rinderpest containing materials or assure the storage and use of these materials in a biosecure facility in their country or, where applicable, assure the transfer to a laboratory in another country complying with the standards of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.
3. The Scientific Commission on Animal Diseases and the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission proceed with revisions to relevant Chapters of the Terrestrial Code to adapt the latter to the new environment being created by global eradication of rinderpest.

4. The Biological Standards Commission revises relevant Chapters in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals to adapt the latter to the new environment being created by global eradication of rinderpest.

5. The Director General, in coordination with the FAO, takes actions required for enabling a declaration of global rinderpest eradication in May 2011 if necessary conditions are met.

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(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
CONSIDERING THAT

1. OIE Members adopted, at the 76th General Session in 2008, Resolution No. XXXII "Implications of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products";

2. The World Trade Organization (WTO), under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), formally recognises the OIE as the reference organisation for establishing international standards on animal diseases, including zoonoses;

3. In areas not covered by the SPS Agreement, the OIE international standards could be considered as a basis for national technical regulations under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;

4. The OIE Members and the international community at large recognise the OIE as the organisation responsible for setting standards for animal health (including zoonoses), animal production food safety and animal welfare, with the objective of providing a scientific basis for safe international trade in animals and animal products and improving animal health and welfare worldwide;

5. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates has adopted and continues to adopt international standards covering animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety;

6. While private standards can be beneficial in promoting good practice and supporting producers to meet public standards, it is of major concern to OIE Members that some private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare relating to animal products have the potential to conflict with OIE standards;

7. Private sanitary standards have the potential to create doubts or confusion on the part of consumers regarding the safety of foods that meet official standards;

8. The OIE has signed official Agreements and works in close collaboration with the international industry organisations such as International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Dairy Federation (IDF), International Meat Secretariat (IMS), International Egg Commission (IEC), International Poultry Council (IPC) and Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE);

9. Formal linkages and channels of communication between private standard setting organisations and the OIE have so far been limited and could be strengthened.
THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS

1. That standards for sanitary safety, which are covered by the WTO SPS Agreement, and animal welfare standards should be addressed separately;

2. To reaffirm the standards published by the OIE in the field of animal health, including zoonoses, as the official guarantees for safe international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade and promoting the prevention and control of animal diseases worldwide;

3. That for sanitary safety, because the mandate of the international standard setting organisations is clearly recognised under the WTO SPS Agreement, the role of private standards should be limited to supporting the implementation of official standards;

4. To promote the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards as reference standards that apply globally;

5. That the Director General continue undertaking relevant activities to further strengthen the OIE’s activities in standard setting for animal health, including zoonotic diseases, and animal welfare and speed up work on new animal welfare standards;

6. To continue to implement and reinforce capacity building programmes to help Members to implement the OIE standards;

7. That the Director General continue to provide advice on the steps that may be available to advocate that private animal health and animal welfare standards, where used, are consistent with and do not conflict with those of the OIE;

8. That the Director General maintain close cooperation on sanitary standards with relevant international organisations, notably the WTO and the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, to establish a transparent framework for dealing with private sanitary standards that affect international trade within the WTO;

9. That the Director General maintain and strengthen appropriate links and dialogue with relevant global private standard setting bodies and global private industry organisations with the aim to allow compatibility of private standards with OIE standards while ensuring communications with national governments and consumers;

10. To encourage global private standard setting bodies to promote the use of official standards as benchmarks against which private standards are referenced for international trade in animals and animal products;

11. To encourage global private standard setting bodies to strengthen or develop transparent mechanisms and to work towards increased harmonisation with public standards and transparency of private standards.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
Recommendations

of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2009

endorsed by the International Committee
of the OIE on 27 May 2010
10th Conference of the 
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East 
Doha, Qatar, 25-29 October 2009 

Recommendation No. 1: Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic 

Recommendation No. 2: An approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis
Recommendation No. 1

Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Laboratory diagnostic capacity is a critical factor of the governance of Veterinary Services for allowing an early detection and rapid response to terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, to prevent the spread of such diseases, as well as to reduce public health risks when referring to zoonoses, food safety and environmental biosecurity;

2. OIE Member Countries have obligations to comply with the OIE standards and guidelines in the field of veterinary laboratories as well as in the field of diagnostic tests;

3. The developing countries need the assessment and the continuous support to improve their laboratory capacities;

4. The OIE implements a Global Programme of Strengthening Veterinary Services, as well as the OIE Twinning Programme for assisting laboratories on a regional needs basis;

5. It is important to provide National Veterinary Laboratories with appropriate and sufficient resources (facilities and equipments, trained staff, structure, budget) to develop their tasks;

6. It is important to share accurate information between national, regional and international laboratory networks, in regards to field strain isolates of relevant diseases;

7. Biosafety and biosecurity measures prevent both spreading of pathogen agents to the environment as well as contamination to laboratory staff;

8. It is necessary for national laboratories to establish and apply SOPs;

9. The permanent inter-laboratory proficiency tests ensure the accuracy and quality of laboratory diagnosis;

10. Some specific expertise within the region is requested for helping countries to better prevent, control or eradicate some relevant diseases and to build up expertise within the region;

11. Veterinary laboratories are part of the Veterinary Services;

12. Human resources training are important to continuing education of laboratory staff;

13. Laboratory capacity could represent a limiting factor in surveillance and control of animal diseases;
14. It is necessary to improve the diagnostic capabilities of laboratories of the region through encouraging and strengthening the use of molecular basis techniques in diagnosis of infectious agents.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. All veterinary laboratories comply with the OIE standards and guidelines for veterinary laboratories included in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals; the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals; and the handbook “OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories: Infectious Diseases”;

2. OIE Member Countries of the Middle East Region assess permanently their laboratory capacities needs with the OIE PVS Process (OIE PVS evaluation, OIE-PVS Gap Analysis, and OIE PVS Follow-Up missions) being the general basis of such an assessment. Accordingly national Governments provide the necessary support and resources to national laboratories to carry out their tasks;

3. When feasible, potential Reference Laboratory candidates in the Region be identified to be part of the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme, assisted by an existing OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre, for relevant animal diseases, based on regional needs;

4. Countries of the region be encouraged to establish BSL3 biosecurity facilities in their Laboratories, when necessary for dealing with relevant infectious agents, as well as their staff be permanently trained and aware of all matters related to biosecurity and biosafety;

5. National laboratories from the region be encouraged to cooperate with other laboratories and other bodies by exchanging information on diagnostic tests, field strain isolates, as well as on experience in harmonization of standard procedures, including the development and implementation of inter-laboratory proficiency tests;

6. Banks of strains of relevant pathogens be established within the region, including local field isolates from different countries as well as the reference strains;

7. Veterinary Services in member Countries of the region establish and follow clear procedures for continuous reporting their veterinary diagnostic results to comply with their obligations to the OIE on animal diseases notification;

8. Veterinary Services exchange consultation with laboratories and take into account laboratory capacity and competence when designing their animal disease surveillance and control programmes.

9. Laboratories of the region improve their diagnostic capabilities by strengthening the use of molecular basis techniques in diagnosis of infectious agents;

10. The OIE continue its permanent work on further developing international standards on laboratory diagnostic tests and vaccine production for prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, and for ensuring safe trade and laboratory biosecurity, as well as on supporting its Members on laboratory capabilities.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 October 2009 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
Recommendation No. 2

An approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Zoonotic animal diseases including brucellosis remain a serious obstacle to public health, social and economic progress, food security and food safety in Middle Eastern countries and especially those countries where appropriate prevention and control measures are not taken on time;

2. Effective collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in the spirit of “One World, one Health” concept (OWOH), both at national and regional levels, is an important factor for succeeding in controlling zoonoses, including Brucellosis;

3. Good governance of Veterinary Services complying with global standards on quality allows effective detection and control of brucellosis at it’s sources, in the animal population thereby minimizing exposure to the human population;

4. The OIE developed different tools such as OIE-PVS evaluation, OIE-PVS Gap analysis, OIE-PVS follow up, Laboratories twining and modernisation of legislation to help members to improve Veterinary governance;

5. Compliance with OIE Standards in regards to antigens, reagents and tests used for surveillance and diagnostic purposes is a key factor to achieve objectives of any Brucellosis Control or Eradication Program;

6. Adequate integrated medical and veterinary epidemiological surveillance system for brucellosis, which allows monitoring of the prevalence and incidence of infection at individual and herd level, the incidence of human infection and relevant activities performed by the veterinary services is a key factor to succeed on preventing, controlling or eradicating the disease irrespective of the strategy chosen;

7. It is necessary for the laboratories involved in the Brucellosis Control or eradication programme to participate regularly to inter-laboratory proficiency testing and to use different standardised diagnostic antigens for Brucellosis having different sensitivities;

8. It is necessary to understand the local and regional differences in animal husbandry practices, social customs, infrastructure, and the epidemiological pattern of the disease for Middle Eastern countries to know their sanitary situation as well as to exchange relevant epidemiological information through effective regional epidemi-surveillance networks;

9. Sustainable surveillance networks and diagnostic capacity are crucial for achieving an effective prevention and control of the disease;

10. Vaccination against brucellosis in relevant species, using vaccines complying with OIE Standards, is a key factor for ensuring the necessary immunity of targeted animal population in endemic countries;
11. Vaccination is not broadly applied nor consistently monitored in all Middle Eastern countries and available vaccines are not often adapted to field constraints; also Appropriate sanitary control measures against brucellosis, such as isolation and slaughter of infected animals when possible are not consistently applied in all countries;

12. Some preventive measures to minimize public health risks, such as consumption of heated milk from infected herds could be better implemented within the region;

13. It is necessary to have a national central co-ordination structure to follow up all activities, including vaccination campaigns, the surveillance, the evaluation of data and the re-planning of the programme;

14. It is important to use appropriate veterinary information and reporting systems in relation to the management of a long-term control campaign;

15. The implementation of permanent awareness campaigns directed to groups at risk including farmers and consumers and close collaboration between public health and animal health services will allow effective management of brucellosis risk.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continues its support to Members for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the OIE-PVS Gap Analysis and follow up as well as their complementary supporting projects such as the sanitary legislation model and laboratory twining programme, for improving the control of brucellosis, as well as other animal diseases;

2. With the support of relevant global and regional organisations, Member Countries establish at both regional and national levels, adequate cooperation mechanisms between the animal health and public health sectors, to improve the management of the disease at the animal-human interface by focusing on control at the animal source;

3. The OIE as well as other global and regional organisations encourage and support Member Countries to further develop research and studies to get a clearer understanding of the impact of brucellosis in animal and humans, both at public and animal health levels as well as on livestock production, taking into account all relevant factors which influence the Control Programme, such as animal husbandry practices, social customs, infrastructure, and the epidemiological pattern of the disease;

4. Member countries adapt their infrastructures to implement adequate strategies to control and eradicate Brucellosis, including, when relevant, vaccination of susceptible species, using vaccines which comply with OIE standards;

5. Any national Strategies to prevent, control and eradicate Brucellosis, consider the establishment of a proper epidosiosurveillance system, capable to monitor the prevalence and incidence of infection at individual and herd level, the incidence of human infection and the support to the activities performed by the veterinary services. Such surveillance should also include the use of antigens, reagents and laboratory diagnostic tests, complying with OIE international standards;
6. Member Countries establish sustainable regional epidemiological networks, with the support of relevant international and regional organisations, to have a better knowledge of the brucellosis situation of each country, as well as to share all relevant sanitary information between different countries;

7. Member Countries continue to improve their national disease reporting systems to accomplish their obligation in notifying the occurrence of brucellosis to the OIE through WAHIS;

8. Additional candidate laboratories be identified in the Middle East to enter into Twinning projects for brucellosis with existing OIE Reference Laboratories, to enlarge the availability of and access to expertise in the region and to support Middle Eastern countries for better preventing and controlling brucellosis;

9. National laboratories of Middle Eastern countries participate regularly to inter-laboratory proficiency testing for Brucellosis diagnostic at regional and global levels;

10. Governments be encouraged and sensitised to support brucellosis prevention and control programmes in relevant species, by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) which allow proper implementation of relevant preventive and controlling measures, including among others cooperation with farmers (including their financial contribution), vaccination of susceptible species when relevant as well as culling of infected animals when possible;

11. OIE Reference Laboratories on Brucellosis, as well as other relevant research organisations develop further research and investigations to improve the diagnostic tests and vaccines quality, including their thermostable property for their use in relevant species under specific conditions;

12. Member Countries with the support of relevant global and regional organisations implement awareness campaigns addressed to all sectors, including regional, national, municipal and field level, with the involvement of Ministries of Health and Veterinary authorities with a specific focus on the importance of the control of brucellosis for both animals and humans, encouraging the implementation of basic preventive measures in regards to public health, such as the consumption of heat treated milk when produced in infected herds;

13. The OIE analyse the potential development of a specific programme for evaluation of Veterinary Laboratories complementarily to the OIE PVS programme.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 29 October 2009 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
Recommendation No. 1: Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1

Recommendation No. 2: The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China
Recommendation No. 1

Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Zoonotic animal diseases, including Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, remain a serious threat for food security and public health, social and economic progress and especially for Members where capacity is inadequate to apply appropriate prevention and control measures;

2. HPAI H5N1 virus strains have persisted in domestic poultry for 12 years and antigenic variants have been generated;

3. Most Members in the region have instituted a compensation mechanism in the event where a stamping-out policy was applied. This mechanism encourages timely notification of the occurrence of disease outbreaks and/or detection of infection;

4. It is necessary to understand the local and regional differences in animal husbandry practices, social customs, infrastructure, and the epidemiological pattern of the disease for OIE Members of Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region to better address risks of occurrence and spread of influenza viruses within the region;

5. The exchanging of relevant epidemiological information through effective regional surveillance networks is important;

6. Vaccination against HPAI H5N1, using vaccines complying with OIE Standards, and in accordance with the guidelines for the application of a vaccination strategy developed jointly by the OIE and FAO, is a relevant complementary measure in specific situations to prevent and control the disease. In these cases vaccination should be used in addition to, not instead of stamping out;

7. Vaccines directed to HPAI H5N1 are being used by several Members in Asia;

8. There is a need for a vaccination exit strategy to be included within the national policies on control of HPAI H5N1, based on appropriate risk evaluation, surveillance and the promotion of early detection and rapid response capacity of the country;

9. The OIE alone and jointly with FAO, WHO and WTO has issued clear statements, in regard to the pandemic H1N1 A/Influenza;

10. An FAO-OIE document “A Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza” has been developed promoting multisectoral approach to controlling zoonosis, including HPAI, and targeting disease source;
11. A multiagency FAO-OIE-WHO-UNICEF document supported by UNSIC and World Bank has been published: “Contributing to “One World, One Health” A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface”;

12. FAO-OIE GF-TADs support a regional approach to control transboundary animal diseases (TAD) including zoonoses such as HPAI;

13. Effective collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in the spirit of the “One World, One Health” concept (OWOH), both at national and regional levels, is an important factor for succeeding in controlling zoonoses, including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 while controlling the disease at its animal source remains under the full responsibility of the Veterinary Services;

14. Good governance of Veterinary Services complying with global standards on quality allows effective early detection and control of HPAI H5N1 at its source in the animal population and thereby minimizing exposure to the human population;

15. The OIE developed different tools such as OIE-PVS evaluation, OIE-PVS Gap analysis, OIE-PVS follow up missions, laboratory twinning, modernisation of legislation and capacity building of national focal points to help Members to improve veterinary governance;

16. There exist some ongoing or planned projects within the region, funded by several Members and donors, aimed to strengthen Veterinary Services and preventing, controlling or eradicating emerging diseases;

17. Compliance with OIE Standards in respect of the quality of antigens, reagents and tests used for surveillance and diagnostic purposes, is a key factor to achieve the objectives of any animal disease control or eradication Program;

18. The OIE has developed a document endorsed by FAO and other major partners such as key donors on “Ensuring Good Governance to Address Emerging and Re-emerging Animal Disease Threats: Supporting the Veterinary Service of Developing Countries to Meet International Standards on Quality”;

19. Comprehensive and sustainable surveillance networks and diagnostic capacity are crucial for achieving an effective prevention and control of the disease;

20. It is important to use appropriate information and reporting systems in support of the effective implementation of a long-term control strategy;

21. The joint OIE and FAO world scientific network for the control of animal influenza, (OFFLU), provides technical assistance and expertise to support OIE Members in the diagnosis, surveillance and control of animal influenza;

22. The OIE has developed the Laboratory Twinning concept aimed to improve diagnostic capacity and to promote the excellence of veterinary scientific community on a Regional basis;

23. The OIE has recently published a Scientific and Technical Review dedicated entirely to Avian Influenza;
24. The Members in the region have responded on a questionnaire developed by the rapporteur to reflect on the current situation of development of influenza, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1 to guide the formulation of these recommendations.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The OIE continue its support to Members for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the OIE-PVS Gap Analysis and follow up as well as their complementary supporting projects such as legislation update, the laboratory twining programme and capacity building of national focal points, for improving the control of animal influenzas, and other animal diseases and promoting Veterinary public health;

2. Members review their Veterinary Services policies where necessary to implement adequate strategies to prevent the occurrence and spread of animal influenzas particularly HPAI H5N1, including, when relevant, a stamping-out policy complemented in specific situations by vaccination of susceptible species, using vaccines which comply with OIE standards and adopting an exit strategy. Such strategies should be in compliance with the OIE/FAO Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, as developed jointly. Vaccination should always be used in addition to, and not instead of stamping out;

3. Any national strategy to prevent, control and eradicate HPAI H5N1, should consider the establishment of a proper surveillance system, including the coverage of the whole territory at risk by well trained veterinarians and para-professionals working under the control of veterinarians, and the use of laboratory diagnostic tests complying with OIE international standards;

4. OIE Members continue to improve their disease reporting system to accomplish their obligation in notifying the occurrence of avian influenza to the OIE through WAHIS;

5. Additional candidate laboratories be identified within the region to enter where relevant, into twining projects for avian influenza with existing OIE Reference Laboratories to enlarge the availability of and access to expertise in the region;

6. Governments be encouraged and sensitised by the OIE to support animal influenza surveillance programmes, and when relevant, prevention and control activities in pigs and other relevant species, by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) which will allow proper implementation of relevant preventive and control measures;

7. Donors continue to further support programmes including vaccine banks and support to Good Veterinary Governance within the region to prevent the occurrence and spread of emerging diseases in developing countries;

8. OIE Members make full and timely use for the prevention, control and mitigation of influenza and other emerging or re-emerging diseases, of the cooperation programmes made available to them by donors, in particular the new Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases Programme for Asia that will run from January 2010 to end 2013, and other similar Programmes;
9. OIE Members who benefitted from grants under the World Bank-administered multidonor trust fund Avian and Human Influenza Facility, accelerate disbursement of the resources offered by this instrument;

10. The joint OIE and FAO worldwide scientific network for the control of animal influenza, (OFFLU), as well as other relevant research organisations, conduct further research and investigations to improve the tools and strategies as well as develop certain standards and guidelines for preventing and controlling animal influenza. Surveillance of influenza in swine is important in the Members where H5N1 influenza virus is still circulating;

11. The OIE continue its work and further develop and up-date standards for prevention and control of animal influenzas;

12. In the H1N1 2009 pandemic context the statements made by the OIE including the document “Questions and answers”, and the other statements made jointly with FAO, WHO and WTO be used by Veterinary Services of the region as key communication tools with policy makers and the public;

13. With the support of relevant global and regional organisations, OIE Members establish at both regional and national levels, adequate cooperation mechanisms between the animal health, public health and other relevant sectors, to improve the management of the biological risks at the animal-human interface by focusing on pathogen control at the animal source using veterinary skills and the multiagency document “Contributing to One World, One Health* A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal–Human–Ecosystems Interface” as a reference guiding document.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 20 November 2009 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
Recommendation No. 2

The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases, including the example of China

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Competition, race and show equestrian events are of major and significant social and economic importance;

2. Large numbers of equine animals are moved both internationally and within countries for these specific events;

3. There is a need to ensure that horses movement does not pose a health risk within or between OIE Members;

4. OIE only has official disease status recognition procedures for foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and the OIE is looking for developing conditions for official recognition for freedom of specific equine diseases starting with African horse sickness and glanders;

5. OIE Members can self-declare freedom from specific diseases if they meet the relevant requirements of the OIE Terrestrial Code, and there are not yet Terrestrial Code provisions for self freedom declaration for a group of several equine diseases that are listed by OIE;

6. It is feasible to develop equine diseases free zones and self declaration procedures for specific events based on experiences such as the Equestrian Olympics and Para-olympics and Asian Games;

7. Certification with strategic testing for infectious equine diseases (for example, testing for equine influenza) is a key management tool to support safe horse movements;

8. Diagnostic testing and vaccination when relevant should be in line with methods described by the OIE Manual for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines;

9. Effective Veterinary Services are essential to support and guarantee animal health within and between countries.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS TO:

1. Encourage host OIE Members to self declare zonal freedom from relevant equine diseases for specific situations such as the Olympics and Asian games and, where relevant, in accordance with the disease specific provisions of the Terrestrial Code;
2. Agree that rigor needs to apply to such situation and that host OIE Members need to ensure a high degree of compliance by both veterinary services and the private sector with OIE standards including zoning and compartmentalization;

3. The OIE to provide Expert Missions to support Members in establishing equine disease free zones (EDFZ) upon the request and financial support of host Members;

4. The OIE to support the development of a high quality document/publication to provide technical advice and assistance to Members proposing to establish EDFZs;

5. To note that the generic Model Passport for International Movements of Competition Horses as established within the Chapter 5.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Code provides a most useful reference document; and to support its revision in due course and in the light of experience;

6. Reinforce the need for OIE Members’ participation in the OIE PVS Programme and related schemes;

7. Encourage Members involved in equestrian events to monitor and survey the health of their equine population.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 20 November 2009 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2010)
Reports

of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 78th General Session
in Paris, 24 May 2010
NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

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 World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.
REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, 24 May 2010

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 107 Delegates and observers from 41 Members of the Commission and 1 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 7 international and/ regional organisations:


Observer countries/territories: France

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, CEBEVIRHA\textsuperscript{51}, ECOWAS\textsuperscript{52}, FAO, PANVAC\textsuperscript{53}, SADC\textsuperscript{54}, WAEMU\textsuperscript{55}, WB\textsuperscript{56}

The meeting was chaired by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), President of the Commission, supported by Dr Abdoulay Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated electronically in advance as well as during the meeting.

2. Council update

Dr Rachid Bouguedour, member of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Algeria, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

\textsuperscript{51} CEBEVIRHA: Commission économique du bétail, de la viande et des ressources halieutiques (Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources)
\textsuperscript{52} ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
\textsuperscript{53} PANVAC: Pan African Vaccine Control
\textsuperscript{54} SADC: Southern African Development Community
\textsuperscript{55} WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union
\textsuperscript{56} WB: World Bank
Dr Bouguedour referred to the candidature of Dr Bernard Vallat for the election of Director General, which was unanimously supported.

3. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Olaho-Mukani, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged them to promptly settle their arrears.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Olaho Mukani, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa highlighting that the voice of Africa is now stronger thanks to the support of the OIE Headquarters, the OIE Regional Representation and Sub Regional Representations, AU IBAR and the RECs.

He also introduced new Delegates of the region and welcomed them to the Commission.

The report was approved.

5. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) of Bamako

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa accomplished during 2009 as well as the financial and human resources situation of the Representation.

Among the activities developed in the region he highlighted, the BTSF programme covering activities in 53 African countries; capacity building within the framework of the SPS Agreement; OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis, as well as the signature of an agreement between the OIE and the WAEMU.

He commented on the successful launch of activities in the new OIE Sub Regional Representations in Tunis and Kenya.

Dr Niang listed the core activities of the Representation such as implementation and support to the RAHC, the participation in the reactivation and operation of RESEPI in West and central Africa and the establishment of RESOLAB.

Regarding the RAHC in Bamako he commented on the positive development of the work carried out by the OIE, FAO and IBAR.

He commented on the fruitful collaboration between the regional Representation and the OIE’s partners, including FAO (GF-TADs programme), AU-IBAR (ALive programme), SADC and ECOWAS.

Dr Niang briefly mentioned the objectives of the GF-TADs Africa and the principal activities developed in order to fight against major animal diseases including zoonoses.

He also mentioned the audit training visit from the OIE Headquarters to Bamako and Tunis at the beginning of 2010.

The report was approved.

Dr Mtei commented that the OIE Sub Regional Representation for Southern Africa Development Community (OIE SRR SA) covers 15 OIE member countries from this region, including Seychelles which has recently become a Member of the OIE, and has, during the four years of existence, accomplished significant activities such as:

- Setting up a fully functional office environment;
- Improved national disease surveillance systems and reporting;
- OIE PVS Evaluations;
- OIE Twinning programmes;
- Numerous capacity building activities in the form of training seminars, workshops and conferences for national veterinary services personnel and stakeholders.

He mentioned the positive outcome of an independent evaluation of the SADC-EU Grant Contribution Agreement with OIE through which an action was constituted to establish the OIE SRR-SA.

He commented on the key work of the OIE SRR SA in launching and updating the OIE Africa website: www.rr-africa.oie.int which serves as an excellent way of sharing useful information and documentation on OIE activities in Africa.

Dr Mtei thanked the Government of Botswana, the SADC Secretariat (Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) for their support and encouragement to the OIE SRR-SA as well as the voluntary contributions that it receives from the European Commission and the French Cooperation.

Dr Mtei informed the participants that the OIE SRR SA is heavily involved in capacity building and networking of the OIE Focal Points through resources made available by the EU under the BTSF. The OIE SRR SA also benefits from the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund to carry out OIE capacity building activities. Other avenues for mobilizing resources are being explored to implement the 5th OIE Strategic Plan running from 2011 – 2015 including the upcoming USAID-funded Emerging Pandemic Threats project, the ongoing regional indicative programme of the (10th) EDF (EU) for the SADC region and voluntary contributions from the African continent to carry out OIE activities in Africa.

Finally Dr Mtei mentioned the recruitment of Dr Neo Mapitse from Botswana as the new Deputy OIE Sub Regional Representative for Southern Africa since 1st August 2010.

The report was approved by the Commission.

7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis

Dr Kechrid, OIE Regional Representative for North Africa, informed the participants about the activities and work programme of the Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa inaugurated on January 2010 to establish and to serve the OIE Members in the Sub-Region, i.e. Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, in cooperation with the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and the Arab-Maghreb Union (AMU). Egypt is also associated in certain activities related to the GF-TADs Platform, the Regional Animal Health Centre and the REMESA Project, in collaboration with FAO.
The various activities carried out during the first year of the Sub-Regional Representation were:

- to set up the office;
- to help Members improve the utilization of WAHIS in collaboration with the OIE Animal Health Information Department;
- to continue the implementation of the OIE-PVS Pathway in all countries of the AMU;
- to take part in events and conferences organized by the OIE;
- to support the preparation of the OIE twinning programmes.

Dr Kechrid thanked the Tunisian government and particularly the Ministry of Agriculture as well as, the bilateral and multilateral partners such as Italy, the European Commission, donors of the OIE World fund and France for the support to the establishment of the office.

Finally, he commented on the first World Conference on veterinary legislation which will take place in Djerba, Tunisia, from 7 to 9 December 2010.

8. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa

Dr Masiga started his presentation mentioning the advancement of negotiations with the Government of Kenya regarding the host of the Sub Regional Representation.

He informed the participants that, in the meantime the office is hosted by AU-IBAR in the AU premises. The office set up and all administrative procedures are successfully ongoing.

He stated that a communication has been sent to the CVOs of the sub-region informing them about the establishment of the office. Also, contacts have been made with IGAD and EAC, regarding agreement with OIE, and draft agreements have been prepared accordingly.

The Representative of the SRR has undertaken the following missions:

- CVOs training seminar in Gaborone (March 2010)
- Focal point training in Wildlife Diseases in Arusha (March 2010)
- IRCM meeting in Nairobi (March 2010)
- GF-TAD, SPINAP, ALIVE meetings in Addis Ababa (April 2010)
- USAID-EPT meeting in Kampala (April 2010)
- CVOs and Ministers ‘biannual’ meetings Entebbe (May 2010)

9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session:

   Bees and Fish health, an important contribution to food security
10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda

The following technical item, without questionnaire, was selected for the 19th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda:

Main Pathologies of camels, Breeding of camels, constraints, benefits and perspectives.

11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011

Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda, confirmed his country’s invitation to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission in Kigali from 15 to 18 February 2011 (to be confirmed soon).

The government of Rwanda has already established an organising committee for the preparation of this Conference.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission that a mission to Rwanda for a preparatory meeting is planned and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Olaho-Mukani informed participants that the two Vice Presidents must be elected because Dr Douda Bangoura must leave his current position as Delegate of Guinea and Vice President of the Commission because he was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister and the Delegate of Mauritania got a promotion. On the other hand, due to his retirement soon, Dr Olaho-Mukani will have to be replaced.

Dr Berhe Gebreegziabher, Delegate of Ethiopia, was nominated as President of the Commission, Dr Saley Mahamadou, Delegate of Niger, as 1st Vice President and Dr Mohammed Abdel Razig Abdel Aziz, Delegate of Sudan, as 2nd Vice President.

13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Margaret Phiri, representative of FAO, informed the participants that the World Bank, FAO and OIE have drafted a final report: “Integrated National Action Program (INAP) on Avian and Human Influenza in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons for the Future - Project Completion Report (March 2010)” (currently examined by AU-IBAR for final comments). The associated programs and projects were required to prioritize animal health activities, to consider the danger of spread of infection to humans, potential pandemic spread, and the socio-economic impacts for all stakeholders.

Dr Phiri commented that joint rapid assessments missions (JRAM) were launched in early 2007 by the ALive Secretariat with objective of providing technical assistance to Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries to:

- Assess their current avian and human influenza (AHI) prevention and response capacity

- Develop a national medium term integrated programme for the prevention and control of AHI and the implementation of the OIE guidelines for the strengthening of the veterinary services
- Develop a financing plan to implement the above programme and identify funding gaps thought OIE PVS-GAP Analysis.

- Provide Governments with a fund raising and monitoring tool for AHI.

Finally she mentioned that a total of 73 experts were involved:

- 30 AH specialists (FAO/12; OIE/12; IBAR/6)
- 11 Human health specialists
- 10 Operation specialists
- 10 Communication experts
- 12 Financial Analysts

14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region

Dr Daniel Bourzat, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Bourzat also described in detail the specific status of the Africa Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 45 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 41 missions have been done and 31 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.

- As of the 17 May 2010, 27 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 14 missions have been done and 10 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors.

- As of the 17 May 2010, 15 Legislation missions have been requested and 5 missions have been done.

15. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars

Dr Daniel Bourzat reported on the activities planned under the OIE/EC programme BTSF in Africa, financed by the European Commission.
He commented that, the program has funded OIE PVS evaluation missions and PVS Gap Analysis as well as legislation missions and the laboratory twinning programme in the region.

Dr Bourzat explained that activities are focused mainly on the training of delegates and OIE focal points. He also mentioned the high rate of participation in such seminars as well as the very positive feedback, encouraging the continuation of this successful Programme.

He concluded that during this year the evolution of the program was rich in learning and an excellent opportunity to set up the proceedings.

16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning

Dr Lea Knopf from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Finally, Dr Knopf encouraged Delegates of the three countries that are not yet officially recognised as free of Rinderpest to do their best to get this recognition. She also invited all countries of the region to answer the questionnaire on Rinderpest Virus Stocks sent by the OIE Headquarters.

17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. A list of countries, which have submitted their reports but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation, was also provided.

Dr Berlingieri finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

18. Communication issues

Maria Zampaglione, Head of the Communication Unit, reminded participants of the capacity building activities of the OIE in terms of communication. She mentioned the successful outcome of the OIE seminar on communication that was organised in Gaborone, Botswana in September 2009 for the English speaking African countries. The seminar was a real success. Ms Zampaglione also stressed the recommendation that media training sessions on relevant animal health issues should be organised on a regular basis by the national Veterinary Services, with the assistance of the OIE.

Ms Zampaglione took the opportunity to inform participants that a seminar on Communication will be organised for French speaking African countries in Morocco on 7-8 October 2010. The exact location still needs to be confirmed with the OIE Delegate of Morocco.

19. Update on ALive activities

Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR informed the participants that the ALive Secretariat, now housed by AU-IBAR, has finalised the strategy for the platform and an action plan for the 3 coming years, which were adopted by the Executive Committee.
The major programme for the coming years is the project on “governance of veterinary services”. This project, implemented in partnership with the RECs, OIE and FAO, will cover the 47 African ACP countries. It will support capacity building in the animal health area, by (i) conducting advocacy and awareness raising, (ii) supporting policy, strategy and legislation formulation, and (iii) building capacities for their implementation.

20. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **AU-IBAR**

  Dr Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU-IBAR commented on the activities of the organisation and informed that during the last year, AU-IBAR has drafted its new strategic plan for the period 2010-2014. The new strategy marks a significant shift in IBAR approach by taking better into account the drivers, challenges and opportunities for the African Animal resources sector (Globalization, Climate Change, re-emerging diseases...), and by shifting from a thematic approach to a programmatic one.

  The “new AU-IBAR” is now organized in six strategic programmes which are: (1) TADs and zoonoses (2) Natural Resources Management (3) investment & Competitiveness (4) Standards & Regulations (5) Knowledge Management (6) Policy & Capacity Building.

- **CEBEVIRHA**

  Mr Bouba Khalidou, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation.

  He recalled that this is now a specialised institution of CEMAC in charge of promoting economic and social development in the sub-region in the field of livestock and fisheries.

  He informed the participants that the PER which is the French acronym for “Regional Economic Programme” is the answer to CEMAC to alleviate poverty and for the improvement of economical situation.

  Five pillars for growth have been identified: including Agro-industry, livestock and Fisheries. Among the six regional economic poles the agro-industrial poles of savannas and the continental fishing pole are managed by CEBEVIRHA.

  The fundamental objective is to contribute to the reinforcement of food security in the sub-region through the development of these two technological poles.

  Finally Mr Bouba Khalidou mentioned that a special transboundary economic zone should be created in order to attract livestock breeders, traders, small and medium enterprises in order to facilitate trade and value livestock products and to limit the increase of meat cost.

- **WAEMU**

  Dr Issoufo Dare, representative of WAEMU, informed participants about the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) activities.

  Dr Issoufo Dare indicated that 20 market authorisation applications for veterinary medicines are now processed by its administration.
He mentioned that WAEMU has initiated a new strategic plan and several programs to improve animal health and livestock production. These programs are mainly focused on:
Harmonization of veterinary medicine legislations and inspection of veterinary medicines;
capacity building of Veterinary Services and free movement of veterinarians

- **ECOWAS**

  Dr Vivian Iwar, representative of ECOWAS, reminder that ECOWAS is a regional grouping of 15 member countries.

  She explained that ECOWAS is developing an animal health policy/strategic plan as well as supporting the regional laboratories and the epidemi-surveillance units and harmonized SPS regulation and will support member states to implement sensitization activities in order to disseminate this information for understanding of the issues at the local level.

  She also stated that ECOWAS is at an advanced stage of the implementation of the ECOWAP/CAADP process with 13 Member States that have signed their contracts plus the signing of the regional contract with stakeholders and partners. There is a component for livestock value chains of meat, dairy and poultry. ECOWAS is presently at the level of developing livestock plans.

  Dr Iwar commented that ECOWAS supported the celebration of the level of developing livestock plans as well as the celebration of the world veterinary day this year with the Nigerian veterinary medical association on the One World One Health theme. ECOWAS continues to collaborate with its partners, particularly AU-IBAR on several programs including IRCM, PAN-SPSO etc, and with the EU/AUC on BTSF.

  Finally, Dr Iwar said that with the support of ECOWAS Member States, of which 14 are OIE members, ECOWAS would like to benefit from an OIE Sub-Regional coordinator for the ECOWAS region.

- **SADC**

  Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, made several comments supporting the compartment concept and the work regarding Commodity – Based Trade, which the OIE has carried out.

  Additionally, Dr Hulman mentioned that SADC Member states does not agree with the proposal to delete “Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)” of pigs from the OIE list of diseases.

  Finally he stated that taking into consideration that SADC Member States are still included in the category: “undetermined BSE risk” for trade in deboned muscle meat and the OIE should, if possible, revise the code concerning surveillance and tests for BSE in order to prove freedom from the disease.

21. Other matters

  Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.
Vet 2011 slogan is «Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet»: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security, food safety and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian..., among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site www.vet2011.org. Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

The Delegate of Ghana informed about the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference that will be host in his country in March 2011.

The meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Paris, Monday 24 May 2010

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
2. Council update (Dr Rachid Bouguedour)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Bamako (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
6. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa and on the Regional Animal Health Centre of Gaborone (Dr Bonaventure Mtei)
7. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for North Africa and on the Regional Animal Health centre of Tunis (Dr Faouzi Kechrid)
8. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa (Dr Walter Masiga)
9. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
10. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in 2011 in Rwanda. (Dr A. Bouna Niang)
11. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Rwanda in February 2011 (Dr Niaing and Dr Theogen Rutagwenda, Delegate of Rwanda).
12. Election of a President and the Vice-Presidents for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa. (Dr William Olaho-Mukani)
13. Update on the INAP and GF-TADs mechanisms. (Dr Margaret Phiri)
14. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
15. OIE/EC BTSF Project in Africa including focal point seminars (Dr Daniel Bourzat)
16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and Laboratory twinning (Dr Lea Knopf)
17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Francesco Berlingieri)
18. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)

19. Update on ALive activities (AU-IBAR)

20. Presentations from regional Organisations in Africa that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
   - African Union - Interaffenic Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
   - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
   - Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources in CEMAC (CEBEVIRHA)
   - Economic Community of west African states (ECOWAS)
   - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)

21. Other matters
REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, 24 May 2010

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 92 Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations.

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

International/regional organisations: ALA\(^\text{57}\), CAN\(^\text{58}\), CVP, CaribVET\(^\text{59}\), EU\(^\text{60}\), FAO, IDB\(^\text{61}\), IFAH\(^\text{62}\), IICA\(^\text{63}\), OIRSA\(^\text{64}\), PAHO-PAANAFTOSA\(^\text{65}\).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, and seconded by Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez (Cuba), Vice-President of the Regional Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, and expressed his support for the natural disasters in Haiti and Chile, which was endorsed by all the members of the Regional Commission. He also congratulated Dr Emerio Serrano for the Gold Medal, given by the OIE as recognition for its professional trajectory.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

At the request of the Delegate of Panama, the proposal to hold the OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture in Panama was posted on the agenda for the meeting, given in the Appendix. Afterwards the Agenda was unanimously adopted and the annexes mentioned in the agenda were circulated to all participants on paper and in electronic form prior to the meeting.

\(^{57}\) ALA: Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)
\(^{58}\) CAN: Andean Community
\(^{59}\) CaribVET: Caribbean Animal Health Network
\(^{60}\) EU: European Union
\(^{61}\) IDB: International Development Bank
\(^{62}\) IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health
\(^{63}\) IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
\(^{64}\) OIRSA: International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health
\(^{65}\) PAHO: Pan American Health Organization / PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center
2. **Contributions of Members to the OIE**

Dr Brian Evans, member of the Council, reported that the number of Members with outstanding contributions was a matter of concern and asked the Delegates of countries in arrears to do their utmost to ensure that these contributions were paid to the OIE. He added that, while the Council was aware of the current economic difficulties facing countries, their failure to pay contributions impacts significantly on the budget of the OIE and the Regional Representations. He stated that three countries in the Americas owed more than two years of contributions but that none had lost their voting or other rights.

3. **Council update**

Dr Brian Evans, member of the Council and Delegate of Canada, reported on the most relevant matters discussed at Council meetings.

Dr Evans spoke of the election of the Director General and mentioned Dr Bernard Vallat’s candidature, which was given unanimous support.

Dr Evans also encouraged Members to increase their level of contributions because, at present, 25% of the funding for OIE activities comes from ordinary contributions from Members and 75% from extraordinary contributions.

4. **Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, Delegate of Brazil and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, presented a summary of the Regional Commission’s activities.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza commended the excellent coordination being achieved as a result of meetings between the Bureau and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas to discuss and plan activities.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza also said that the Regional Commission had sent a set of comments and proposals for inclusion in the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan, which had been tabled for discussion and adoption by the Assembly during this General Session.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza proposed that the region’s activities in 2011 should focus on such aspects as continuing and strengthening training for OIE focal points, and continuing the work of the various Regional Committees such as the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (IAC-AAH) and any others that might be appointed in the future.

He proposed that the Regional Commission should adopt the decision to establish a Regional Committee for Animal Welfare at the Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Santiago de Chile, from 29 June to 1 July 2010. He also proposed that the Regional Commission should adopt the decision to establish a Network of Veterinary Service Laboratories of the Americas. Both proposals were adopted unanimously.

5. **Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including focal-point seminars**

Dr Luis O Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and the Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).
Dr Barcos presented the 2010-2011 programme, which focused on continuing and strengthening training activities for OIE focal points and continuing with the work of the Regional Committees, the cost-benefit studies and the coordination of GF-TADs activities in the Americas.

The report and work programme were approved.

6. Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates in May 2012

The Regional Commission proposed that the following Technical Item be discussed at the 80th General Session of the OIE Assembly (based on a prior questionnaire sent to Member Countries):

The sustainability of extensive livestock production and its relationship with the environment and climate change, analysed on a scientific basis.

7. Organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010

Dr Carlos Correa described the practicalities of organising the next Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas. He also detailed a few important points concerning Uruguay and logistics for the conference.

8. Proposed technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010

The Regional Commission proposed to include the following Technical Item (without questionnaire):

OIE Strategy for the control and eradication of foot and mouth disease at regional and global levels.

Dr Gideon Bruckner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission, and a person to be appointed by PAHO-PANAPHTOSA were proposed as speakers.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission

The Regional Commission decided unanimously to nominate Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles, Delegate of Guatemala, as Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission.

10. GF-TADs

Dr Luis Barcos reported on the activities of GF-TADs in the Americas, which had held a meeting in Buenos Aires in December 2009 at which the mechanisms for coordinating the activities of all international organisations operating in the Americas were strengthened. At the December meeting, each organization had presented its action plan and satisfactory coordination of activities in the Americas was achieved.
11. Update on missions to the region on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-Gap Analysis and legislation

Dr José Joaquín Oreamuno reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He went on to explain the four-stage PVS process: (i) the PVS evaluation of a country’s Veterinary Services (referred to as the “diagnosis”) is a qualitative evaluation to ascertain the performance of Veterinary Services and their compliance with OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (the “prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative economic study of the needs and priorities stated by the country itself; (iii) stage three comprises a variety of possible technical missions/activities (the “treatment”) in order to guarantee good governance of the country’s Veterinary Services; and (iv) to complete the OIE process, regular follow-up missions on the PVS evaluation are made to monitor how the situation evolves and improvements achieved after implementing the measures taken to strengthen the Veterinary Services.

Dr Oreamuno pointed out some special features of the OIE PVS process, such as: the voluntary nature of each stage; a harmonised approach by means of standardised procedures; and confidentiality of the results, which are the exclusive property of each country, although the OIE does encourage each country to share their reports with organisations that have an agreement with the OIE and with donors, if necessary to complete the process.

In addition to presenting the Programme’s current status at global level, Dr Oreamuno detailed the specific status of the Americas on 17 May 2010.

- Nineteen OIE PVS Missions had been requested, 17 PVS Missions had been carried out and 15 reports were available.
- Eight OIE PVS Gap Analysis Missions had been requested, two PVS Gap Analysis Missions had been carried out and one report was available.
- No Legislation Mission has been requested.

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning

Following a brief review from Dr Brian Evans on the joint application for appointment as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Aquatic Animal Epidemiology and Risk Assessment from the Centre for Aquatic Health Science of the Atlantic Veterinary College (University of Prince Edward Island), Canada and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo, the application was approved unanimously.

Dr Kate Glynn, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented a summary of the activities and current status of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. Collaborating Centres nominated by the Regional Commissions would be proposed for adoption by the 78th OIE Assembly, together with new applications for OIE Reference Laboratories. For information, Members were shown a transparency with the list of diseases for which there was still no OIE Reference Laboratory. An update of the procedure and current state of laboratory twinning projects was also presented.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the region

Dr Mariela Varas, Chargée de Mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the status of weekly and annual reports from countries/territories in the region in 2009. She mentioned the countries/territories of the region that had still not submitted all or some of their reports, and urged them to submit the reports as soon as possible.
Dr Varas also provided a list of countries in the region that had submitted their reports but were still awaiting responses prior to finalising and validating the reports.

Dr Varas concluded by stressing the importance of countries sending regular information to the OIE.

14. Proposal for the improvement of OIE procedures for the declaration of the disease status of countries

Following an exchange of views concerning OIE procedures for studying each country’s applications for official disease status recognition, the Regional Commission proposed that an evaluation should be made of these procedures with a view to improving them. This should include giving consideration to the possibility of consulting the applicant country prior to sending the country’s proposal to the Member Countries for comments, in case the status decided upon were to differ from the status requested.

The Delegate of Colombia suggested that OIE Members should respect official OIE declarations on disease status and not return to request information after the OIE had made its declaration.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

15. Proposal for the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas proposed that two new diseases should be included in the list of diseases for which the OIE officially recognises the disease status: classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Regional Commission considers them to be diseases with a heavy impact on international trade and believes that Member Countries, especially the poorest ones, would benefit from this OIE work and, furthermore, there is sufficient scientific knowledge to do so.

The proposal was approved unanimously.

A member of the delegation of Colombia suggested that OIE Members should respect OIE official recognitions regarding sanitary status of countries and to avoid the request of supplementary information, once the OIE has officially recognized a sanitary status.

16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language

Dr Mara González reported on OIE activities relating to the OIE Steering Committee for promoting the correct use of the Spanish language in veterinary scientific and technical matters in animal health and related scientific fields. She said that updating of the Terrestrial Manual was complete and that work was continuing to develop a multilingual terminology database to serve as a useful consultation tool for OIE translators. She also stated that the cooperation agreement with the Kingdom of Spain had been renewed, under which it would continue to provide financial support for the work on the correct use of the Spanish language, adopting a speedier approach in line with the updating and development of OIE international standards.

17. Communication issues

Ms Maria Zampaglione (Lic.), Head of the OIE Communication Unit, reminded participants that capacity-building activities in communication-related aspects was one of the important points in the Fifth OIE Strategic Plan, which Delegates would be adopting during this week.

The regional seminar on communication held in the Americas in 2007 was a very important step in the OIE’s communication activities. The seminar had recommended the OIE to set up an Ad Hoc group on Communication.
Lic. Maria Zampaglione summarised some of the Ad Hoc Group’s recommendations, in particular those to raise the awareness of senior government officials on the importance of proper communication to an appropriate target group on the most important animal health aspects.

National communication plans relating to animal diseases, including zoonoses, do not tend to include animal health-policy aspects.

For coherent disease prevention and response, it is very important for comprehensive communication to be established, for example for diseases like H5N1 avian influenza and foot and mouth disease.

18. Presentations from regional organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:

- **Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO)**
  
  Dr Otorino Cosivi presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives, structure, main activities and mechanisms used, as well as its alliances and partnerships with international, regional and subregional organisations.

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**
  
  Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA’s Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities being conducted by the IICA in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level and highlighted the training activities for Veterinary Services.

- **International Regional Organization for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)**
  
  Dr Abelardo de Gracia presented the activities of OIRSA, in particular those aimed at building the capacity of the region’s Veterinary Services and the regional gap analysis project in conjunction with the OIE, based on the OIE-PVS evaluations and PVS Gap Analysis conducted in countries of the region. He also detailed the most important activities that OIRSA had carried out jointly with the OIE.

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**
  
  Dr Eduardo Echaniz, Technical Secretary of the CVP, representing CVP President, Dr Jorge Amaya, described the Committee’s activities, which related chiefly to improving the region’s foot and mouth disease status. He also reported on the development and online uploading of the CVP website.

- **General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN)**
  
  Dr Oscar Domínguez Falcón described the activities of the Andean Community, in particular the regional programme to improve foot and mouth disease control being implemented jointly with FAO, with donations from Italy and Spain.

- **CaribVET**
  
  Dr Max Millen presented CaribVET and asked the OIE to sign an agreement to reinforce their joint work. This agreement would need to be signed with CaribVET, which is a network composed by Chief Veterinary Officers of the Caribbean Countries. The proposal was approved unanimously.
• FAAO

Dr Julio Pinto, from FAO Rome, presented the most relevant FAO activities in the region and referred in particular to the foot and mouth disease activities being conducted in the Andean region thanks to donations from Spain and Italy. He also referred to the status of classical swine fever control and eradication activities in Central and South America.

• IDB

Dr Yann Brenner, informed on the activities of the IDB in the region, in particular on the programme for the reinforcement of the Veterinary services of Central America and the Caribbean.

19. Other matters

• Venue for the 21st OIE Regional Conference for the Americas

Barbados was proposed and unanimously approved. It was decided that the conference would be held from 19 to 23 November 2012. Dr Trotman, Delegate of Barbados, reported that the decision was subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Barbados, and that further information would be provided at the next Regional Conference in Uruguay.

• OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture

Panama reported that it had decided to propose to the OIE the venue for holding the OIE Global Conference on Aquaculture: The Contribution of Aquaculture Health activities to Food Safety (Panama, 28-30 June 2011), for which it had committed the necessary financial and logistical resources in accordance with OIE requirements.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

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.../ Appendix
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

Paris, Monday, 24 May 2010

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Brian Evans).

3. Council update (Dr Carlos Correa Messuti).

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America including focal-point seminars (Dr Luis Barcos).

6. Proposed technical item (with questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2012 (Dr Luis Barcos).

7. Organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 16 to 19 November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos y Dr Carlos Correa).

8. Proposed technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Montevideo, Uruguay) in November 2010 (Dr Luis Barcos).

9. Election of the Secretary General of the Bureau of the Regional Commission (Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza).

10. GF-TADs (Dr Luis Barcos).

11. Update on OIE-PVS evaluation, PVS-Gap Analysis and legislation missions in the region (Dr José Joaquín Oreamuno).

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning

   - Joint application for appointment as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Aquatic Animal Epidemiology and Risk Assessment from the Centre for Aquatic Health Science of the Atlantic Veterinary College (University of Prince Edward Island), Canada and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo. (Dr Kate Glynn)

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the region (Dr Mariela Varas).

14. Proposal for the improvement of OIE procedures for the declaration of the disease status of countries (Dr Carlos Correa).
15. Proposal for the inclusion of classical swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza on the list of OIE official recognition of animal disease status (Dr Luis Barcos).

16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language (Dr Fernando Crespo y Dr Mara González).

17. Communication issues (Ms Maria Zampaglione)

18. Presentations from regional organisations in the Americas that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:

- Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- International Regional Organisation for Animal and Plant Health (OIRSA)
- Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
- General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN)
- Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)
- Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

19. Other matters.
REPORT OF THE MEETING 
OF THE 
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA 

Paris, 24 May 2010

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:15 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 participants including Delegates and observers from 25 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, P.R. China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Rep Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam.

Observer countries/territories: Canada, France, Hong Kong

International/regional organisations: EuFMD, FAO, IFAH, SCP

At the request of Dr Zhongqiu Zhang (China), Vice-President, the meeting was chaired by Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia), Secretary General. Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan), President of the Regional Commission and Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines), Vice-President were not present at the meeting, their apologies were conveyed by the Chairman.

Dr Sen Sovann welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted except for a number of small amendments concerning the names of presenters. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated electronically in advance as well as during the meeting.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Sen Sovann reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle any existing arrears.

SCP: Secretariat of the Pacific Community
3. Council update

Dr Tenzin Dendhup, member of the Council and Delegate of Bhutan, reported on matters discussed at the Council. He noted that very few comments were received from the Region regarding the 5th Strategic Plan.

He informed the participants about the election procedure for the Director General of the OIE on the following day and about the discussion on the Basic Text with no major concerns except for the “member country and territory” issue. Dr Tenzin Dendhun suggested that Dr Zhang express the support of all the Delegates of the Region to the current Director General during the Tuesday morning election.

4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Zhang presented the report on the activities of the Commission on behalf of Dr Kawshima, President.

In particular, he presented the recommendations issued at the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission regarding the two technical items presented:

- “Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1”
- “The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases including the example of China”.

The Delegate from India requested clarification on issues related to equine disease free zone. Dr Gardner Murray, former President of the Regional Commission and former Delegate of Australia, explained the past discussion between the OIE and China in preparation of the Asian Game and clarified that China must has a procedure and make a self-declaration for safe movement of horses. He also suggested that such an arrangement would be relevant to other events.

The report was accepted.

5. Progress of the regional activities for the new OIE strategic plan

Dr Shimohira, on behalf of Dr Kawashima, gave a comprehensive presentation on the new OIE strategic plan. Since the OIE developed its draft 5th Strategic Plan, and following the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, China in November 2009, the Regional Commission started to establish a Regional Strategic Plan.

Considering the challenges faced by the Region in terms of human and animal population, the diversity of environments, cultures, political systems and economic situations and animal disease status, the Regional Strategic Plan will be developed through the following procedures:

- The President of the Regional Commission will set up a small Working Group which consists of the Bureau of the Commission, Members wishing to contribute and the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. They will hold a meeting to draft the Plan.
- The draft will be circulated and comments from Members will be gathered.
- The final draft will be considered approved as the Regional Strategic Plan for Asia and the Pacific.

The Delegate from Iran reminded the participants that his country was now part of the Region and therefore should receive the draft Regional Strategic Plan.

Dr Caroll, the Delegate of Australia to the OIE, congratulated the work already done under the mandate of Dr Kawashima.
6. **Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific**

Dr Itsuo Shimohira succeeded Dr Terruhide Fujita on 1 January 2010 as the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. He gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation.

He described the extensive activities and wide-ranging programmes managed by the Regional Representation. He referred particularly to activities related to specific animal diseases, such as aquatic animal diseases, HPAI, FMD, Brucellosis and BSE, and good governance of the Veterinary Services.

Dr Shimohira also presented the priorities of regional activities on animal health improvement; on strengthening Veterinary Services compliance with OIE International Standards; on capacity building, in particular in the area of legislation, diagnosis and surveillance.

For 2010, OIE Asia-Pacific plans for further regional activities will include OIE Focal Points Training Workshops on Wildlife and on Food Safety, together with many other regional meetings/workshops planned for the control of HPAI, Brucellosis, FMD, Prion diseases, Blue tongue and Feed safety.

The Delegate from India suggested the need to consider social aspects in planning capacity building activities. He also highlighted the importance of surveillance in wild birds. Dr Shimohira appreciated the suggestion.

A participant from Hong Kong appreciated the surveillance activities of the Regional Representation.

7. **Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries**

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asian countries, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Sub-Representation.

In particular, he presented the three programmes managed by the Sub-Regional Representation:

- The South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease (SEAFMD) Campaign continues to implement the programme based on the 2020 Roadmap. The main strategy pursued is a progressive zoning approach. The activities implemented include studies on detailed cross-border animal movement, on the distribution of FMD outbreaks and on the quantification of economic benefits of the AusAID support to the SEAFMD campaign from 1997 to 2009; various trainings, in particular on outbreak investigation; and organisation of important meetings such as the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South East Asia held in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 15-19 March 2010.

- The three year OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services (PSVS) to combat avian influenza and other transboundary animal diseases in South-East Asia continued throughout 2009. The most significant activity was the AusAID mid-term independent progress report that identified that the programme should be refocused on OIE PVS initiatives, including PVS Gap Analysis. Other activities included the organisation of Sub-Regional Workshops and Seminars on various topics.
such as animal health communication, veterinary legislation, governance and emergency preparedness and response and OIE standards for Veterinary Services. This programme also provided, in collaboration with AAHL in Australia, capacity building in HPAI laboratory diagnosis with a focus on Quality Assurance and Proficiency Testing.

- The Highly Pathogenic Emerging and Re-Emerging Animal Diseases (HPED) Programme was signed in December 2009. This new European Union Regional Cooperation Programme has the following key objective: “Strengthening Veterinary Services in Asia, Regional Vaccine Bank and Capacity Building for surveillance, early detection and eradication of highly pathogenic emerging and re-emerging animal diseases.”

The report was accepted without comments.

8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012

Dr Bayvel from New Zealand, proposed the following technical item based on the outcomes of the meeting in Bangkok, its coherence with the 5th OIE strategic plan, the existence of three collaborating centres supporting the Animal Welfare area. The survey title proposed was “A study of Animal welfare training and research activities and needs within the five OIE regions”.

This proposal was accepted without comments.

9. Presentation of Vet 2011 initiative

Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.

Vet 2011 slogan is « Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet »: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security, food safety and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian, among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site www.vet2011.org. Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.
10. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Shanghai, P.R. China from 16 to 20 November 2009

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the outcomes of the discussions related to the following two technical items:

- Technical Item I (with questionnaire): “Influenza development, including H1N1, surveillance and post-vaccination monitoring of H5N1” presented by Dr Hiroshi Kida, The Research Center for Zoonosis Control and Graduate school of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University. The main recommendations were related to the surveillance of influenza in swine in countries where H5N1 influenza virus is still circulating and to considering vaccination as a complementary activity to the stamping out policy.

- Technical Item II (without questionnaire): “The development of disease-free zones for equine diseases including the example of China”, presented by Dr Gardner Murray, Special Advisor of OIE with complementary information regarding the establishment of the Equine Disease Free Zone (EDFZ) for 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou in PR China. The main recommendations were related to the self-declaration of zone freedom from relevant equine diseases for specific situations in accordance with the disease specific provisions of the Terrestrial Code. The OIE will provide Expert Missions to support Members in establishing equine disease free zones (EDFZ) upon the request and financial support of host Members.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

11. Outcome of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, P.R. China on 16 November 2009

Dr Itsuo Shimohira presented the outcomes of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, P.R. China on 16 November 2009, attended by 110 participants from 24 OIE Members. The purpose of this seminar was to improve the awareness of all Members from the Region regarding the OIE Global Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services, including such activities as Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool as well as complementary steps, such as the PVS Gap Analysis and the PVS Follow-Up missions.

The main recommendations of the Seminar were related to the implementation of National PVS Pathways, the identification of candidate laboratories for twinning projects and the identification of the OIE National Focal Points

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

12. Outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Laos) from 15 to 19 March 2010

Dr Abila started by presenting the actual situation of FMD outbreaks in the different sub-regions.

He then presented the outcomes of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Lao PDR) from 15 to 19 March 2010. One of the highlights of the meeting was the confirmation of support to China’s application to be an official member of SEAFMD. The programme should therefore be named “The South East Asia and China FMD Campaign”.

78 GS/FR – PARIS, May 2010
The main recommendations were related to international coordination and support; programme management, resources and funding; public awareness and communication; disease surveillance, diagnosis reporting and control; policy, legislation and standards to support disease control and zone establishment; regional research and technology transfer; livestock sector development including private sector integration; monitoring and evaluation.

The main challenges concern cattle and buffalo movement. Some critical points were identified at the border between different countries, which clearly match FMD outbreaks.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting.

Dr Abila finally presented the 2010-2011 activities of the Sub-Regional Representation.

On this occasion, the Delegate from Japan and South Korea updated the recent outbreak of FMD in these countries.

Dr Juan Lubroth supported the risk analysis approach in the SEAFMD road map and posed specific questions on public-private partnerships and vaccination coverage. Dr Abila clarified the ongoing review of the vaccination campaign implemented to the ASEAN region.


On behalf of Dr Gardner Murray, Dr David Bayvel, president of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare provided a comprehensive report on the key issues arising from a workshop held in Bangkok from 28-29 April 2010 which considered the Regional Animal Welfare Implementation Plan (RAWS-IP) and future direction. The workshop followed a recommendation of the Regional Commission Conference in Shanghai in November, 2009, which endorsed the RAWS-IP.

Dr Bayvell put forward recommendations from the workshop on future coordination, representation and funding. He also welcomed the designation of OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point and their training in Bangkok from 28-29 April 2010.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from the RAWS-IP Workshop.

14. General aspects on public (OIE) and private standards

Following the Resolutions of the 76th OIE General Session, an ad hoc group on private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare was convened in June 2009 to examine the current, problems, overlapping and possible benefits presented by private standards.

Dr Yamato Atagi, Deputy Head of the International Trade department at the OIE, presented the outcomes of the work of the ad hoc group presented to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission in February 2010. Noting the information presented on the OIE website which is updated regularly and the current discussion at the SPS committee, he recommended to improve the coordination among representatives in the relevant forum in each OIE Member.

15. Update on OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services in the region including PSVS programme activities

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative of South-East Asia, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS
mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

He highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Abila also described in detail the specific status of the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 16 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 13 missions have been done and 11 reports have been made available to OIE partners and donors
- As of the 17 May 2010, 10 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 1 missions have been done and 1 report has been made available to OIE partners and donors
- As of the 17 May 2010, 3 Legislation missions have been requested and 3 missions have been done

16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories and update on Laboratory twinning

Dr Yong Joo Kim, chargé de mission at the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories (34 in Asia) and Collaborating Centres (7 in Asia). The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Dr Kim also informed the following application for a new collaboration centre: OIE Collaboration Centre for Diagnosis and Control of Animal Disease and Related Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia: National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) and National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL), Japan.

The Regional Commission supports the proposal of OIE collaborating centre and reference laboratories (including application from NIAH and NVAL from Japan)

17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Alessandro Ripani, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. A list of countries, that have submitted their report but are still waiting for answers before finalisation and validation, was also provided. Dr Ripani finally emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.
18. Progress of GF-TADs in the region

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the activities of the GF-TADs Programme in the region. In particular, he presented the generic and regional recommendations raised during the Sub-regional meetings for South Asiatic Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in June 2009; and for ASEAN in December 2009.

The Third Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs was convened in Tokyo, Japan on 23-24 July 2009. The Meeting recognized the GF-TADs as a unique coordinating mechanism which adds significant value to global and regional approaches to TADs and Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) control. Several important recommendations emerged from the meeting which will serve as guidelines for further improvement of TADs control in the Region.

Dr Shimohira also presented the planned activities for 2010, including the 4th Regional Steering Committee Meeting to be organised in July 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr Sovann welcomed the collaboration of FAO and OIE on this issue.

19. Presentation from regional organisations in Asia, the Far-East and Oceania that have signed an official agreement with the OIE

Dr Ken Cokanasiga from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) gave a comprehensive report on the organisation, the context and the activities of the SPC. He also presented the animal health status of the pacific region highlighting that the region is free from major animal diseases.

No representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) or the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) were present.

20. Other matters

Iran proposed to settle a new OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Iran based in Teheran for Central Asia. The Regional Commission suggested that this proposal be passed to the Director General for consideration.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

.../Appendix
Appendix

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

Paris, 24 May 2010

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Bureau of the Regional Commission)
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Bureau of the Regional Commission)
3. Council update (Dr Tenzin Dhendur)
4. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Zhang, Vice-president in the Bureau of the Regional Commission)
5. Progress of the regional activities for the new OIE strategic plan (Dr Shimohira, Bureau of the Regional Commission)
6. Report on the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
7. Report on the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including launching of HPED Programme (Dr Ronello Abila)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
9. Presentation of Vet 2011 initiative (Dr Joseph Domenech)
10. Recommendations of the 26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Shanghai, P.R. China from 16 to 20 November 2009 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
11. Outcome of the OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services held in Shanghai, People’s Republic of China on 16 November 2009. (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
12. Outcome of the 16th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Vientiane (Laos) from 15 to 19 March 2010.(Dr Ronello Abila)
13. Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Implementation plan (Dr David Bayvell)
14. General aspects on OIE private and public standards (Dr Yamato Atagi)
15. Update on the OIE PVS Pathway for efficient Veterinary Services in the region including PSVS programme activities (Dr Ronello Abila)
16. Proposal of OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories (Including the application from NIAH and NVAL from Japan) and update on Laboratory twinning (Dr Yong Joo Kim)
17. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Alessandro Ripani)
18. Progress of GF-TADs in the Region (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
19. Presentations from regional Organisations in Asia, the Far East and Oceania that have signed an official agreement with the OIE Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
20. Other matters
REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 24 May 2010

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 111 Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission and representatives from 6 international/regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Armenia, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

Observer countries/territories: None

International/regional organisations: EC67, EU Council Secretariat68, FAO, FAO-EUFMD69, FESASS70, IFAP.

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 and Dr Nihat Padkil (Turkey), Secretary General.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, President of the Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, reported that Members of this region regularly paid their contributions. He also commended Members of Europe providing additional voluntary contributions to the OIE.

67 EC: European Commission
68 EU Council Secretariat: European Union Council Secretariat
69 EUFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease
70 FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security
3. **Council update**

Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro, Vice President of the Council, presented an update on the work of the Council. He informed the participants that the Council met three times since the last General Session, in October 2009, February 2010 and May 2010. The topics addressed included the preparation of the 5th OIE Strategic Plan and the approval of the OIE annual budget. The proposal of the DG to freeze Members’ contributions to the OIE due to the global financial crisis was accepted by the Council. Other topics included the proposals of new Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, future issues of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review, the election of the DG to be held during this General Session (GS), OIE awards and the review of the DG’s report on activities.

4. **Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Prof. Nikola T. Belev, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe. He started by expressing his sadness for the death of the former CVO of Ukraine and past Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe last February, Dr Petro Verbitskiy. He then mentioned the meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in September 2009 where implementation of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010) and preparation of the 5th one, amendments of OIE basic texts, as well as some technical issues -animal welfare, education, food safety, notification of diseases among others- were discussed.

He mentioned his official visits to the Government authorities and Parliament in Russia, Bulgaria, France, Ukraine and Serbia.

5. **Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe**

Prof. Nikola T. Belev continued with the presentation of the objectives, staff, and activities carried out by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (RR) from May 2009 until May 2010.; the implementation of the capacity building programme including the training of focal points for animal welfare and for wildlife (the training for aquatic animals focal points had to be postponed in November). Besides, a project targeting 9 CIS countries, managed by the IZS A&M ‘G.Caporale’, OIE Collaborating Centre, was launched in March 2010. The RR was also involved in various meetings, namely the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Europe, EUFMD Executive Committees and West Eurasia FMD control, and TAIEX workshops. The programme for the end of 2010 includes the organisation of the next Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe in Kazakhstan, as well as training workshops for new Delegates and focal points (aquatic animals and veterinary products). The RR will maintain continuous contact with the media and communicate on OIE priorities at a high political level.

The Commission accepted the reports.

The Delegate from Norway thanked Prof. Belev for having sent in advance his presentation and took this opportunity to inform the Commission that the Norwegian Reference Laboratory on Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) would organise an international workshop on diagnosing and handling ISA from 13 to 15 September 2010 in Oslo and invited all interested persons to participate.
6. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation (SRR) in Brussels from May 2009 until May 2010. The SRR supported the RR in all its regional capacity building activities. The regional website has been continuously updated and provides all relevant information pertaining to OIE Regional activities as well as key international information, some of which are available in Russian, namely the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE-PVS Tool and the OIE guidelines on veterinary legislation. An important part of SRR activities were devoted to the representation of the OIE in various technical meetings. With regard to the European Union, the SRR has been, in particular, involved in the work on the new EU Animal Health Strategy, participating as stakeholder in the Animal Health Advisory Committee and some Working Groups; attended the Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel meetings of EFSA; participated in training activities such as those of BTSF and TAIEX; and communicated on OIE activities during the EU Vet Week. The RsR maintained its activities in the frame of the OIE programme on good governance, carrying out Gap Analysis missions and working on the outcome of PVS evaluations in a region. It was also involved in a CMC mission. Besides, the SRR continued to manage the 4-year project financed by the EC, aiming at developing the informatic prototype for the new Animal Disease Information System of the EU (ADIS). This activity will be pursued.

The Commission accepted the report.

7. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012

Two technical items were proposed on:

1) “trends in the distribution of responsibilities and in the collaboration between private sector and veterinary authorities on disease prevention and control” by the Delegate from Denmark, and

2) “is there a role for the OIE in facilitating greater co-ordination of research effort on animal health and welfare at the global level and getting more efficient use of already generated evidence?” by the Delegate of UK

Technical item 1 was accepted by the Regional Commission to be presented to the Assembly for consideration.

8. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010

Two technical items were proposed on:

1) “Early detection and contingency plans for African Swine Fever” by the Delegate from Spain, and

2) “Strategies for controlling bovine tuberculosis (Mycobacterium bovis) infection in multiple domestic and wild animal species including the application of vaccination” by the Delegate of UK.

The proposed technical item 1 was accepted by the Regional Commission.
9. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010

This topic was not addressed as Dr Akhmetzhan Akievich Sultanov, Delegate of Kazakhstan, was not present at the meeting.

10. GF-TADs

Dr Bernard Van Goethem, Head of Animal Health and Welfare Directorate of DG Sanco presented the situation regarding the GF-TADs (Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases) activities in Europe, starting by recalling the outcome of the 3d Regional Steering Committee (SC) that was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels on 24 and 25 February 2010. He commented that great steps had been taken since 2005 and that most of the provisions of the recommendations of the two previous SC held on 13-14 October 2005 and 18 December 2007 had been addressed. He informed the participants that the situation and activities regarding priority diseases in the region had been presented by the EC, FAO and the OIE during the meeting; Members of the Steering Committee have also been designated for a period of four years. He recalled that all new initiatives, whether regional or sub-regional, like the Western Balkans or Black Sea initiatives, were to be developed under the umbrella of the GF-TADs for Europe. He presented the content of the recommendations endorsed by the SC on i) Governance Mechanisms of GF-TADs for Europe, referring among others to the new Terms of Reference of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for Europe and ii) Enhancing prevention and control of priority diseases in Europe. They will be presented for validation to the Global Steering Committee of GF-TADs in September 2010. He added that a meeting would be held in the margin of the OIE General Session in order to start working on a regional action plan.

He concluded by emphasising that control of classical swine fever and rabies were possible and that particular efforts should be made regarding these diseases in the region.

The Delegate of Austria, in his position of President of the EUFMD Commission, proposed to hold discussions on Western Balkan countries during the GS as there would be an interest for those countries and the European region as a whole to benefit from the experience and structure of EUFMD. Dr Van Goethem mentioned that this should be possible.

11. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-Gap Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region

Dr Caroline Planté reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, based on the use of the OIE-PVS tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. She explained that the PVS Pathway is organised in four steps: (i) the PVS evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of one country, known as “the diagnosis”, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance and the compliance of VS with the OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”) is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists in a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE also provides, regular PVS Follow-up evaluation missions aimed at continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements achieved after the implementation of strengthening measures taken.

She highlighted some particularities of the OIE-PVS Pathway such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; the confidentiality of the outcomes which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.
Besides showing the current state of play of the Programme at global level, Dr Planté also described in detail the specific status of the European Region:

- As of 17 May 2010, 12 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 12 missions have been done and 7 reports have been made available to donors and OIE partners;

- As of 17 May 2010, 5 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 3 missions have been done and 3 reports have been made available to donors and OIE partners;

- As of 17 May 2010, 3 Legislation missions have been requested and 1 mission has been done.

12. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on Laboratory Twinning

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an update on OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres at global and regional levels as well as the situation regarding Laboratory Twinnings. Out of 186 Ref. Labs and 35 Cd. Centres present in the world in 2009, 93 and 15 are respectively located in Europe in 19 countries. She recalled that the Laboratory Twinning programme started in 2006 and that 3 Twinnings with European Candidate Laboratories had been implemented on: AI (completed), rabies and brucellosis (underway). She underlined that the greatest contribution to the OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme had been made by OIE Reference Laboratories in the European region, the United Kingdom (6), Italy (5), and Germany (2) accounting for the largest contribution within Europe.

She then presented the joint application from Canada and Norway for a Collaborating Centre (CC), to be proposed for adoption by the Assembly on:

- Aquatic Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Atlantic Veterinary College Centre for Aquatic Health Science, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada and Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo).

The proposal was accepted by the Regional Commission.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Simona Forcella, from the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2009 for countries/territories in the region and pointed out those that had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. She also informed the participants about the WAHIS Wild web application. Dr Forcella finally emphasised the importance for countries/territories to submit sanitary information on a regular basis to the OIE.

Dr Paddy Rogan commented that as some countries faced difficulties in completing their reports, they should take advantage of the GS to solve some problems. He stressed the fact that the due to the increasing visibility of the OIE, in particular the sanitary situation provided through the WAHID website, any incorrect information would be reflected broadly and would affect the credibility of the whole system.

The Delegate from Denmark commented that the extension of WAHIS for wildlife was very valid and epidemiologically justified but still had some shortcomings which needed to be addressed such as the inability to report on the absence of susceptible wild species and reporting on the absence of occurrence of diseases in wildlife when present in domestic
animals. This was supported by the Delegate from the Netherlands. The Delegate from the UK added that gathering information on wildlife from various structures was challenging. Dr Rogan concluded by proposing that the Regional Commission should ask the OIE to review the ‘WAHIS Wild’ system after being in operation for one year.

14. Presentation from regional Organisations in Europe that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC)**

  Dr Bernard Van Goethem highlighted the main activities of the EC linked with the OIE, mentioning the ADIS (Animal Disease Information System) project, the financial support given to the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, the BTSF programme for Africa (for which OIE activities account for 5 million Euros), the EU Vet Week (recalling the topics of this year 2010 on identification and traceability along the food chain, to be held on 14 and 15 June with more than 500 participants expected), the Vet Year 2011, the regular support to various OIE activities (around 1 million Euro per year) and the involvement of EC experts in OIE regular work, giving the example of Dr Howard Batho who just received a Meritorious Award.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

.../Appendix
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Paris, 24 May 2010

Agenda

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
4. Council update (Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro)
5. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
6. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
7. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Caroline Planté)
8. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2012 (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
9. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 24th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Kazakhstan from 20 to 24 September 2010. (Prof. Nikola T. Belev)
10. Organisation of the next Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe in Kazakhstan (Dr Nikola T. Belev and Dr Akhmetzhan Akievich Sultanov, Delegate of Kazakhstan)
11. GF-TADs (Dr Bernard Van Goethem)
12. OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS-GAP Analysis and Legislation missions update in the region (Dr Caroline Planté)
13. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on Laboratory Twinning
   Joint application for designation of OIE Collaborating Centres for Aquatic Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (Atlantic Veterinary College Centre for Aquatic Health Science, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada and Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo)
   (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel)
14. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Dr Simona Forcella)
15. Presentations from regional Organisations in Europe that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
   • European Commission (EC)
16. Other matters
The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 24 May 2010 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 38 Delegates, observers from 17 Members of the Commission, 1 observer and 4 international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen

Observers: Merial

International/Regional organisations: AOAD\textsuperscript{71}, FAO, ICFAW\textsuperscript{72}, IFAH

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Ali Al Sahmi (Oman), Vice-President, and Dr Ziad Namour (Syria), Secretary.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from some countries are a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East

The President of the Commission underlined the close collaboration that exists between the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation based in Beirut. He reminded the meeting of the Terms of Reference of the OIE Regional Commissions, adopted during the 74th OIE General Session in May 2006 (Resolution XVIII). He stressed the importance of increasing collaboration at regional level.

\textsuperscript{71} AOAD: Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
\textsuperscript{72} ICFAW: International Council for Farm Animal Welfare
He mentioned that last year the Regional Commission organised its Conference in Doha, Qatar, and clarified that the recommendations of this Conference would be presented for final adoption later at the Assembly. He also stated that an update of the regional animal health situation was presented and discussed, according to countries six monthly reports and the animal health reports prepared for the Conference, and that, as part of the democratic process on which the OIE is based, the draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan of the organisation was also discussed.

The President, thanked countries holding regional conferences, seminars or workshops last year: Lebanon, Cyprus, Qatar, Syria, Kuwait, Tanzania and Oman.

4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities implemented over the last year. He reminded the Regional Commission of the themes, conclusions and recommendations of the technical workshops that had taken place, which had focused on the main issues affecting the region.

He mentioned that activities were particularly focused on encouraging Members to improve their Veterinary Services by using the OIE PVS process, on promoting the capacity building of Veterinary Services and on strengthening collaboration with international and regional organisations and agencies in order to implement programmes for the surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses.

He noted that in 2010/2011 staff training will be a large part of the programme of the OIE Regional Representation and will mainly focus on the training of national OIE focal points.

He also said that as well as this specific training, networks of OIE focal points are being set up on the website of the Regional Representation.

Dr Yehia also reported that cooperation and collaboration with FAO through the Regional Animal Health Centre will also be strengthened to implement adapted and concerted regional strategies to control animal disease in the region.

He also informed the meeting that the translation into Arabic of all documents of importance will continue in order to make this information more accessible to all Members.

The report on the activities and work programme of the Regional Representation were adopted by the Regional Commission.

Dr Ahmed El Edrissi (FAO) described the activities and programmes that have been implemented or will be implemented by the FAO in the region and he described in detail those activities that had been developed in collaboration with the OIE through the OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centre, within the framework of the GF-TADs.

5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 80th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates to be held in May 2012.

The OIE Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire for Members) to be included in the agenda of the 80th General Session:

“Extension programmes dedicated to the activities of Veterinary Services”.
6. **Election of a Member of the Council and a Vice-President of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

The Regional Commission proposed Dr Mohammad Elgarhy, newly appointed OIE Delegate of Egypt, as first Vice-President.

7. **Recommendations of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October 2009**

Dr Ziad Namour (Syria), secretary of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, reported that the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October, was attended by participants from a large number of Middle Eastern countries and Regional and International Organizations.

He then presented the Conference recommendations related to the two technical items that had been discussed, namely, the capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region and an approach to developing coordinated and harmonised actions for the control of brucellosis.

Recommendations were adopted by the Regional Commission.

8. **Update on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions in the region**

Dr Pierre Primot, from the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, reported on the status of the OIE Global Programme for Strengthening Veterinary Services, which is based on the use of the OIE-PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services. He explained the PVS Pathway, which is organised in four steps: (i) the first stage is the PVS Evaluation of the Veterinary Services (VS) of a country; this is known as “the diagnosis” and it, is a qualitative assessment to determine the performance of VS and their compliance with OIE international standards on quality; (ii) the second step is the PVS Gap Analysis (“the prescription”); this analysis is based on the outcomes of the PVS mission and is a quantitative assessment of needs and priorities, as established by the country itself; (iii) the third step consists of a range of possible technical missions / activities (“the treatment”) to ensure the good governance of the VS of the country; and (iv) to complete the process the OIE regularly carries out PVS Follow-up evaluation missions with the aim of continuously monitoring the evolution of the situation and improvements made since the implementation of strengthening measures.

Dr Primot highlighted some of the features of the OIE-PVS Pathway, such as the voluntary basis of each step; the harmonised approach through standardised procedures; and the confidentiality of the outcomes, which are the countries’ exclusive property, although the OIE encourages all countries to allow their reports to be shared with OIE partners and donors to complete the process.

Besides describing the PVS programme and the progress made at global level, Dr Primot also described in detail the specific status of the Middle East Region:

- As of the 17 May 2010, 12 OIE PVS missions have been requested; 10 missions have been completed and 3 reports have been made available for donors;
- As of the 17 May 2010, 2 PVS Gap Analysis missions have been requested; 2 missions have been completed and 1 report has been made available for donors;
- As of the 17 May 2010, 4 Legislation missions have been requested and 2 missions have been completed.
9. Proposal for new OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories – Update on laboratory twinning

Dr Keith Hamilton, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department presented an overview of the activities, current status and global distribution of the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. The Regional Commission was provided with future projections of the number of Laboratories and Centres, should the Assembly adopt all the new proposals during this General Session. A slide showing the list of diseases for which there is not yet an OIE Reference Laboratory was included. The Commission was updated on the current status of the OIE Twinning Programme, along with an analysis of current trends.

Several issues were raised during the discussion that followed Dr Hamilton’s presentation, many of which related to the eligibility of laboratories, the feasibility of pre-assessment missions and ongoing programmes in the region.

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the situation on six-monthly and annual reporting for 2009 of countries/territories in the region. He pointed out those countries which have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. He also provided a list of countries that have submitted reports which lack some information but which will be finalised and validated as soon as this information is provided. Dr Ben Jebara finally emphasized the importance of countries/territories submitting animal health information to the OIE on a regular basis.

Answering questions of the attendees, Dr Ben Jebara also clarified the procedures for transmitting the results of OIE Reference Laboratories.

11. Communication issues

Ms Zampaglione thanked those who had attended the seminar on communication which was held in Muscat, Oman, on 20-22 April 2010. She particularly acknowledged the support of the Government of Oman and that of the OIE RR for the Middle East in the organisation of the seminar. She apologised for not having been able to attend the Seminar in person; she had been unable to travel because of air traffic problems at that time.

She said that communication is a major strategic issue for the OIE, as highlighted in the 5th Strategic Plan that has been put forward for adoption by Delegates at the end of the General Session.

She also re-emphasized the role of communication in augmenting and improving the effectiveness of prevention activities, preparedness, early detection, rapid response, and recovery phases of animal disease occurrences. She concluded by stating that there is a need to ensure that strategic communication is integrated into veterinary infrastructure and policy response at country level, and that private sector and international support for this be obtained where required.

12. Presentation from regional Organisations in the Middle East that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

Dr Enaam M. El Sanousi explained that AOAD is a specialised Arab organisation, operating in the field of agricultural development, which aims to develop natural and environmental resources for the plant, animal and fisheries sectors. Arab summits have followed up on the important regional and international developments which have enabled the achievement of sustainable Arab agricultural improvement. Accordingly, these summits have called upon the organisation to carry out the following assignments: (i) Preparation of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy for the Upcoming Two Decades 2005-2025, which was
prepared and then endorsed by the Riyadh Arab Summit in 2007 and (ii) the launching of the Arab Emergency Food Security Program by the Economic, Developmental and Social Summit which was held in Riyadh during January 2009. The main developmental work plans, programmes and activities of AOAD are directed by these strategies.

13. Other matters

- Dr Joseph Domenech, Vice President of the Vet 2011 Animation and Coordination Committee, presented Vet 2011 which is the celebration of the 250 years anniversary of the creation of the first Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, by the King Louis XV. This was also the establishment of the veterinary profession and of the veterinary sciences. Claude Bourgelat, the first director of this school, was the first person to demonstrate the similarities between the animal and human “machineries” and therefore to develop the “One Health” concept. He published his findings in the Diderot’s Encyclopedia of Sciences in 1755 and this was the beginning of comparative medicine.

Vet 2011 slogan is « Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet »: veterinarians play indeed a very important role in animal health, human health, food security and environment. Vet 2011 will be most important communication and promotion campaign on veterinary profession ever undertaken on such a scale. Numerous events will be organized by the National Vet 2011 Committees all over the world.

Vet 2011 is led by an Executive Council, Dr B Vallat, being its president, and by an Animation and Coordination Committee, chaired by Professor J-F Chary. Vet 2011 was established by seven founding institutions (first of all the OIE), joined later by associated members (World Veterinary Association, several Veterinary Associations – African, European, Euro-Arab, Asian, South and Central American PANVET, American, Australian, New Zealand, South Africa, Canadian, Brazilian, Australian, among other) and Institutional partners among them FAO and the European Commission as well as business partners such as Merial and Pfizer. 268 corresponding members from 78 countries are registered to date. 17 National Committees have been established to date.

All necessary information is available on the web site www.vet2011.org. Anyone interested and ready to join Vet 2011 including all veterinarians who want to organize a Vet 2011 event in his/her country can contact the president of the Animation and Coordination Committee.

- Dr Ghazi Yehia informed the attendees that a specific mission will be conducted by the OIE to assess the situation of glanders in the region and suggested that a dedicated meeting to tackle this issue be organised with the support of the equestrian federation of the Middle East.

The meeting ended at 6.00 p.m.
Appendix

MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Paris, 24 May 2010

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East and the Regional Animal Health Centre of Beirut (Dr Ghazi Yehia)

5. Proposal of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be included in the Agenda of the 80th General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates to be held in May 2012. (Dr G. Yehia)

6. Election of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)

7. Recommendations of the 10th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 to 29 October 2009 (Dr Ziad Namour)

8. Update on OIE-PVS evaluations, PVS Gap Analysis and Legislation missions in the region (Dr Pierre Primot)

9. Proposal for new OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. Update on laboratory twinning (Dr François Diaz)

10. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region. (Dr Karim Ben Jebara)

11. Communication issues (Maria Zampaglione)

12. Presentations from regional Organisations in the Middle East that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
   - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

13. Other matters
Organisation Mondiale de la santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal