OIE GUIDELINES FOR VETERINARY LEGISLATION

J.-L. Duby
General Inspector in Animal and public Health, 251 rue de Vaugirard 75015, Paris, France

The experience gains during the OIE - PVS exercise has shown the current disparity of the situation of the veterinary services in the world as regards their organisation and their missions.

One of the main issues in the acceptance of the Veterinary Services as a global public good is the necessity to establish a clear definition of their tasks, responsibilities and powers.

Veterinary legislation is the real answer to this need, because all modern systems are based on written law. Its application is highly variable but it can be assumed that the overall trend is at least in appearance, towards a state of law.

The OIE has stimulated the Member countries, demands concerning the support to the development of veterinary legislation and responded with a few missions conducted in Cambodia, Madagascar and Guinea Bissau. Following the evaluation and lessons learned from these missions, the setting up of a project group was proposed to pursue a relevant and sustainable action remaining inside the duties and responsibilities of the OIE.

This project group aims to define useful guidelines representing reasonable targets for the Member countries taking account of the variability of their legal system. These guidelines should give to each country concerned a strategic frame concerning the action of the veterinary services in terms of activities and duration. The veterinary medicinal products are part of the domain covered by these guidelines.

The OIE through the project group may assist the Member countries providing for specific working groups, seminars on the methods governing the legal aspects in the veterinary domain. The OIE may also provide for specific assessment mission on home veterinary legislation (definition missions) in the Member countries already submitted to a PVS exercise.