



Organisation
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE
TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
Paris, 13–22 September 2011**

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 13 to 22 September 2011.

The members of the Commission are listed in Annex I and the agenda adopted is in Annex II.

The Commission reviewed the documents identified in the agenda, addressing comments that Member Countries had submitted by 6 August 2011 and amended texts in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by double underline and strikethrough and may be found in the Annexes to the report. In Annexes XVIII (Model certificate for dogs and cats), XXI (Bee diseases), XXIV (African horse sickness) and XXVII (Classical swine fever), the amendments made at this meeting (September 2011) are shown with a coloured highlight to distinguish them from those made prior to the 79th OIE General Session in May 2011.

Member Countries should note that, unless stated otherwise, texts submitted for comment may be proposed for adoption at the 80th OIE General Session in May 2012. Depending on the comments received on each text, the Commission will identify the texts proposed for adoption in May 2012 in the report of its February 2012 meeting.

The Commission strongly encourages Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments on this report. It would be very helpful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Proposed deletions should be indicated in 'strikethrough' and proposed additions with 'double underline'. Member Countries should not use the automatic 'track-change' function provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the process of collating Member Countries' submissions into the Commission's working documents. Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters **by 13 January 2012** to be considered at the February 2012 meeting of the Commission.

In light of the fact that the next meeting of the ad hoc Group (AHG) on antimicrobial resistance will take place on 13–15 December 2011, Member Countries wishing to submit their comments on Chapter 6.9. (Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine) for the timely attention of the AHG are encouraged to submit their comments to OIE Headquarters by no later than 12 December 2011. The Commission noted that the background of the revision of this chapter was detailed in the report of the meeting of the AHG, attached as an annex to the report of the meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) held on 29 August–2 September 2011. The Commission will review all comments, including those submitted by 12 December and by the deadline of 13 January 2012, at its February meeting.

All comments should be sent to the OIE International Trade Department at: trade.dept@oie.int.

A. Meeting with the Director General

The Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, welcomed all members of the Commission and thanked them for their dedicated work on behalf of the OIE. A short discussion was held on the following important issues.

1. Disease specific chapters

Dr Alejandro Thiermann informed the Director General that several disease specific chapters had been reviewed by the Commission and some extensive revisions made for the sake of clarity and consistency with other chapters in the *Code*. In particular, the Commission had spent considerable time reviewing the revised chapters on brucellosis, rabies, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants and trichinellosis.

2. Generic checklist on the application of compartments

Dr Vallat was informed that the Commission had asked the SCAD to ensure that the recommendations in the generic checklist do not paraphrase or exceed the provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* (notably Chapters 4.3. and 4.4.) as this could lead to confusion about the standards that apply.

3. Bee diseases

It was agreed that the revisions to the chapters on bee diseases should be considered as a priority. Prof. Stuart MacDiarmid drew to Dr Vallat's attention the fact that some bee species may be considered as invasive species, and suggested that this issue be addressed when the OIE undertakes the development of guidelines on risk assessment for invasiveness of animal species. Dr Vallat strongly supported the request.

4. Classical swine fever and official disease recognition

In discussion with Dr Vallat, it was agreed that the development of a basis for official disease recognition in relation to new diseases presents significant challenges, especially in view of the need to include provisions for wildlife. With reference to classical swine fever (CSF), it was agreed that the earliest date for proposing the adoption of text providing a basis for official recognition of free status would be 2013. Taking into account the planned revision of the chapters on viral diseases of pigs (CSF, African swine fever [ASF], swine vesicular disease [SVD]), it would be impossible to finalise the basis for official recognition of CSF status sooner.

Nevertheless, a slightly revised version of the chapter on CSF was drafted and proposed to Member Countries to take into account discussions at the last General Session on the definition of cases.

5. Veterinary legislation

Prof. Ahmed Mustafa Hassan reminded Dr Vallat of the need to adopt a standard on veterinary legislation in the *Code*: this may not be a priority for the more developed OIE Member Countries but there is a pressing need for developing countries to modernise their veterinary legislation and a standard adopted by the OIE would represent an important support to these countries in this endeavour. Dr Vallat supported the statement expressing the need of the majority of OIE Member Countries.

6. Future development of the *Terrestrial Code* to address wildlife

Dr Vallat noted that the Commission would inform Members of the proposed future development of the *Terrestrial Code* to address issues relevant to diseases in wildlife, and seek their comments.

7. Chapter 8.5. (Foot and mouth disease)

The Commission noted that SCAD is planning to undertake a complete review of Chapter 8.5, with a particular focus on surveillance and case definition, and to reconsider the listing of the susceptible host species, limiting 'susceptible wildlife species' to those of epidemiological significance. The Commission recommended that this review be prioritised.

8. Other

The Commission also urged the Director General to consider aligning the procedures used by other OIE departments in assisting *ad hoc* Groups and Specialist Commissions with those, very efficient, used by the International Trade Department.

B. Adoption of the agenda

The adopted agenda is at Annex II.

C. Discussion between the Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Etienne Bonbon briefed the Commission on the outcome of a meeting that he and Dr Sarah Kahn, Head of the International Trade Department, held with the SCAD, which covered the following points:

- revision of SVD and CSF chapters and OIE official recognition of CSF status
- revision of disease listing criteria chapter
- new checklist for application of compartmentalisation
- revision of African horse sickness chapter
- revision of peste des petits ruminants chapter
- restructuring of the disease chapters by pathogen name
- future work on safe commodities
- OIE draft policy on wildlife
- revision of rinderpest chapter
- new draft chapter on *Brucella* spp.
- revision of rabies chapter
- future work on invasive alien species
- coordination of dates of next meeting.

D. OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code revision

Item 1 Member comments – general matters

Comments were received from the European Union, Japan and South Africa.

The Commission noted that the issue raised by the European Union was outside the scope of this Commission and that any action to differentiate the standards that are binding with respect to international trade and those that are not binding could only be addressed by the OIE Council.

The Commission noted that South Africa had again made submissions on the chapters on animal welfare and biosecurity, topics that should be the subject of guidelines outside the *Code* rather than official standards, according to South Africa. The Commission noted that these comments had already been considered and not accepted, as was reflected by the adoption of the standards and the 5th OIE Strategic Plan by the World Assembly.

In response to the comments of Japan, the Commission noted that the International Trade Department had drafted a document explaining the OIE procedures for standard setting within the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes*. This document would be distributed to Members for information and, eventually, placed on the OIE website. At a later date, if considered appropriate by the OIE Council, these procedures could be transferred within the official framework governing the OIE's activities.

In relation to the question from Japan on how new work is accepted into the work programme, the Commission recalled that meeting reports normally contain its work programme, which is updated at least annually. The Commission strongly encouraged Members to review and, if appropriate, send comments to the Commission on the work programme.

The Commission noted that Prof. MacDiarmid would make a presentation on the topic of OIE standard setting at the Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania (27th Conference in Teheran, 19–23 November 2011).

The draft document prepared by the OIE International Trade Department is attached as Annex XIX for information of OIE Members.

Item 2 Horizontal issues

a) Restructuring of Volume 2

The Commission discussed the proposal received from the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, to restructure Volume 2 of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission considered that there could be merit in renaming the disease chapters to reflect the causal agent of the disease (e.g. 'Rinderpest' to be renamed 'Infection with rinderpest virus'), as this would help to avoid problems of multiple names for certain diseases and resulting translation issues. However, this should be undertaken at the time a chapter is revised, i.e. the entire *Code* to be addressed over time.

The Commission also hesitated to modify the overall structure of Volume II at this time. It noted that the inclusion of wildlife species in disease chapters may have the result that diseases currently listed under a specific host family will in future need to be considered as diseases of multiple species. However, the OIE has not yet been able to fully address the inclusion of wildlife in the *Terrestrial Code*; this work is ongoing.

The Commission decided that it would be preferable to wait for a better understanding of the wildlife issue before undertaking a major restructure of the *Terrestrial Code* and, meanwhile, invited comments from Members on any need to restructure the *Code*.

b) Proposed OIE policy on wildlife

The Commission discussed this topic in the context of the future development of the *Terrestrial Code*. In summary, it was considered that disease notification obligations should continue to be stated in Chapter 1.1. For each listed disease, the provisions applicable to wildlife species will be set out in the disease specific chapters. Such provisions will be applied with priority to those wildlife species identified as epidemiologically significant.

The proposed policy was provided to OIE Members for comment (Annex XXX).

c) Role of Veterinary Services in the detention of wild animals in import quarantine

Time constraints led the Commission to decide to address this matter at its meeting in February 2012.

- d) Proposal to draft a horizontal chapter on safe commodities

Dr Kahn advised the Commission of the International Trade Department's view with the support of the Director General that a new chapter on the OIE policy and approach to the establishment of 'safe commodities' should be developed, to help to resolve confusion on the part of Members. The proposal was to make provision for an expert to develop a supporting document and then to reconvene the *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products ('commodities'), which would be asked to develop a new text for consideration of the Commission and OIE Members.

Item 3 Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, the European Union, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Sanitary Information Department, joined the Commission for the discussion on this item.

Following Member comments and with the support of the SCAD, the Commission replaced 'disease' with 'disease and infection' throughout the chapter as appropriate. This provides for infections that generally do not cause disease in animals (such as trichinellosis, salmonellosis).

The Commission disagreed with the European Union's recommendation to include a reference to the 'conditions for disease free status' that are quoted in individual disease chapters, on the basis that such provisions would not exist prior to the listing of the disease.

Based on the rationale provided by several Members and supported by the SCAD, the Commission proposed to delete the following text in Sub-point (ii) of Article 1.2.1.:

OIE annual reports indicate that a number of countries with susceptible populations have reported absence of the pathogen for several consecutive years (based on the animal health surveillance information notified in WAHIS).

To address the comments of several Members, the Commission added 'Natural' to 'Transmission to humans has been proven' i.e. 'natural transmission...'

In response to Members' comments, the Commission replaced 'production losses' by 'morbidity or mortality' and replaced 'excepting the situation where there is an efficient and affordable vaccine...' with a reference to effective prevention and control measures.

The Commission simplified the layout of the entire chapter to make it clearer, noting that, by convention, use of a numeric list (points 1, 2, 3, ...) means that the points on the list are considered as cumulative and not as alternatives.

The revised chapter is attached as Annex III for Member comments.

Item 4 Risk assessment – modification of terminology

The Commission discussed a recommendation from a Commission member, based on the internationally accepted practice of referring to an 'entry assessment' rather than a 'release assessment' and to harmonise with the terminology used in the revised OIE *Handbook on Import Risk Analysis*. The Commission made several amendments to the text in Chapter 2.1. and proposed that, should Members agree to this modification, the same amendment would be made in other parts of the *Terrestrial Code* (i.e. Chapters 1.6., 6.10. and 11.5.)

The revised chapter is attached as Annex IV for Member comments.

Item 5 Support for Veterinary Services

a) Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

Comments were received from Norway, the United States of America (supported by Canada) and the Comité Veterinario Permanente del Conosur (CVP).

The Commission did not agree with a Member's comment that a new article on animal welfare is needed, the current references to animal welfare in the chapter being sufficient and consistent with the definition of Veterinary Authority. The Commission noted the recommendation of Members that the OIE should proceed to address the issue of competence of aquatic animal professionals and referred the comments for consideration by the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education at its next meeting (January 2012).

In response to the CVP's comment, the Commission deleted the words 'such as the Chief Veterinary Officer' in Point 4 of Article 3.2.12.

The Commission added a new Point 8 in this article, as follows:

'Evaluation of mechanisms for coordination between the Veterinary Authority and the Veterinary Statutory Body.

The exact mechanisms will vary according to the national governance system.'

b) Communication (Chapter 3.3.)

Comments were received from the European Union.

The Commission agreed with the recommendation to modify the definition of 'crisis communication' in Article 3.3.3. and modified the text to the extent deemed appropriate.

The Commission also agreed to modify Points 4 a) and b) of Article 3.3.4.

c) Revised draft new Chapter 3.4. (Veterinary legislation)

The Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group, which had held a first meeting on 5–7 July 2011, had done a very good job in addressing substantial comments from Members. Comments had been provided in February 2011 (by Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America) and in May 2011 (by Canada, Chile, the European Union, Guatemala, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America).

The Commission noted that although some Members had opposed the inclusion of the draft chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*, many comments had indicated that Members were awaiting the further development of the text, which could be generally accepted by, and useful for Member Countries.

The Commission provided the revised Chapters 3.2. and 3.3. together with Chapter 3.4. as a clean text to Members for comment in Annex V. The report of the *ad hoc* Group is attached as Annex XXXI for information of Members.

Item 6 Zoning and compartmentalisation

a) Application of compartmentalisation (Chapter 4.4.)

At the General Session in May 2011, a comment was received from Algeria requesting clarification of the need to report an outbreak of disease when it occurred outside a compartment.

The Commission confirmed that Article 4.4.7. addresses notification of disease events occurring within compartments that are the subject of bilateral agreement between trading partners and confirmed that it is not necessary to inform a trading partner about an outbreak of disease outside a compartment. However, the requirements for notification to the OIE should **always** be respected.

b) Generic checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation

Noting that the Generic Checklist had been provided by SCAD as a support for Members wishing to implement compartmentalisation and that the document was not intended as a standard in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Commission reviewed the document.

The Commission asked the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to ensure that the provisions in the Checklist are consistent with those found in the *Terrestrial Code* and that they do not paraphrase or exceed the provisions found in the *Code*.

To illustrate its concerns, the Commission noted that Point 5 (Emergency Response and Notification) extends the obligations of Members beyond those currently provided in Chapter 4.4.

The Commission noted that many points in the Checklist are couched as ‘the Veterinary Authority should...’. The Commission noted that this presentation in the ‘active voice’ has the effect of giving the Veterinary Authority direct responsibility for matters that are not clearly the responsibility of the Veterinary Authority in the *Terrestrial Code* (e.g. the responsibility for raising awareness of industry, as stated in Section 2 c).

Item 7 Semen and embryos (Chapters 4.6. and 4.7.)

a) Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.6.)

Comments were received from Australia.

A recommended modification to Point 1 e) of Article 4.6.2. was not accepted by the Commission because it noted that Articles 8.3.10. and 8.3.11. set out the conditions for semen collection whereas Article 4.6.2. deals with animals entering an artificial insemination centre. Points 2 b) (i) and (ii) of Article 4.6.2. were amended for clarification, as suggested.

In Point 3 of Article 4.6.7., the Commission deleted the text in the footnote (“The ICAR international standards on straws are contained in Recording Guidelines – Appendices to the international agreement of recording practices. The text of this document is available at the following web site: www.icar.org”) because footnotes are not normally used in the *Terrestrial Code*.

b) Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.7.)

Comments were received from the European Union.

The Commission changed the title of this chapter from ‘...horses’ to ‘...equids’ because the chapter applied to equids other than horses.

Following Members’ comments, the Commission removed all references to International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) categorisation of diseases not listed by the OIE, on the basis that such diseases are not the subject of recommendations in the *Code*. In addition, the Commission deleted the text in two footnotes (referring to the IETS) because footnotes are not normally used in the *Code*.

The revised Chapters 4.6. and 4.7. are attached as Annex VI for Member comments.

Item 8 Salmonellosis

- a) Biosecurity procedures in poultry production (Chapter 6.4.)

Comments were received from Canada and Egypt.

The Commission deleted the first sentence in Article 6.4.1., on the basis that the foreword to the *Code*, as revised in 2011, clearly identifies that the *Code* provides recommendations on disease detection, prevention and control, as well as trade measures. A Member's comments on Sub-point b) in Article 6.4.4., and Sub-point 1 f) in Article 6.4.5. were not considered to improve the text and were not, therefore, accepted.

A Member's comment on Article 6.4.6. was accepted and the text amended as appropriate.

The revised chapter is attached as Annex VII for Member comments.

- b) Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry (Chapter 6.5.)

Comments were received from Canada and the European Union.

The Commission agreed with a Member that there is no intention in the *Code* to require the implementation of a culling policy. However, the Commission did not see a need to modify the text as proposed by the Member, as it considered that the text was sufficiently clear on this point.

The Commission noted a comment made by Members to the effect that 'bacteriostatic or bactericidal agents' exclude the use of antimicrobial agents but did not make any changes to the text.

The Commission considered that heat treatment and/or the addition of bacteriostatic/bactericidal treatments should be considered, regardless of whether the feed has been tested and found to be positive. No modification was made to this text in response to a Member's comment.

- c) Cross reference to Chapter 6.4. in Article 13.2.13.

The Commission noted that the fumigation of rabbit pelts is addressed in Article 13.2.13. with a cross reference to the provisions of Chapter 6.4. The Commission deleted the cross reference because the relevant provision in Chapter 6.4. had been deleted. The Commission also asked the OIE International Trade Department to ascertain what treatments are used for commercial purposes, to facilitate obtaining expert opinion on this topic.

The revised chapter is attached as Annex VIII for Member comments.

Item 9 Antimicrobial resistance

- a) Update of Chapter 6.7. (Harmonisation of AMR surveillance and monitoring programmes)
 b) Update of Chapter 6.8. (Monitoring of antimicrobial use in animal husbandry)
 c) Update of Chapter 6.9. (Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents)

The Commission did not have time to review the extensive comments of Members, which had largely been addressed by the *ad hoc* Group. The Commission decided to provide the revised Chapter 6.9. to Members for comment and to review Member comments on all three chapters at its meeting in February 2012.

The revised Chapter 6.9. was provided to Members for comment (Annex IX).

Item 10 Animal welfare

a) Use of animals in research and education (Chapter 7.8.)

Comments were received from Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.

The Commission commended the high quality work undertaken by this *ad hoc* Group and, noting that no further meeting of the Group was scheduled soon, expressed its kind appreciation for the contribution made by all Group members.

The Commission examined Members' comments and the text amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group. The Commission supported the proposed amendment to the preamble and amended the text accordingly.

The Commission discussed in detail the draft new Article 7.8.10. on the transportation of laboratory animals. Dr Kahn explained that airlines and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) had raised with the OIE the difficulties they face in continuing to transport laboratory animals, in the face of strong criticism from certain NGOs. The OIE had agreed to consider developing a standard specifically addressing the transportation of animals for research use, noting that these animals differ in several respects from livestock and pets, which have been the primary focus of the OIE transport standards to date. Noting that both terrestrial and aquatic animals used in research may be transported, Dr Kahn informed the Commission that the new text would also be provided to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission at its next meeting, with a view to including some appropriate reference in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*.

The Commission agreed to introduce the draft new Article 7.8.10. and made some text modifications to avoid duplication with other parts of the *Terrestrial Code* and to focus on specific issues relating to transportation of laboratory animals.

The Commission noted that the proposed definition of 'Laboratory Animal', for inclusion in the Glossary, excluded animals used for education purposes. Dr Kahn explained that because animals traded internationally are used primarily for research purposes while animals for education purposes are mainly traded domestically, the *ad hoc* Group had recommended that the two groups be dealt with separately.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex X.

b) Model health certificate for laboratory animals (New draft Chapter 5.13.)

The Commission reviewed the text drafted by the *ad hoc* Group on the Use of Animals in Research and Education. The Commission made some amendments to align the model certificate with the amended draft Article 7.8.10.

The proposed draft chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XI.

c) Discussion paper on electronic certification systems

The Commission noted a paper developed by the *ad hoc* Group on the Use of Animals in Research and Education, recommending that the OIE champion the use of electronic health certification, with the possibility of using laboratory animals as a pilot project. The Group considered that the use of electronic certification could help to solve many practical problems and would therefore help to support the airlines in their capacity to continue shipping animals for use in scientific research.

The Commission noted that the issue of electronic certification systems had been raised previously and that some OIE Members were already using these systems for international trade in animal products. Dr Bonbon noted that the European Union's TRACES system would also, in future, enable the use of electronic certification for trade in live animals within the European Union. Prof. MacDiarmid noted New Zealand's view that electronic certification systems were preferable to paper-based systems from a security and anti-fraud perspective.

The Commission provided the Discussion paper on Electronic Certification to Members for information in Annex XXXII.

d) Animal welfare and livestock production systems – guiding principles (Draft new article 7.1.4.)

Taking into account Members' comments on the draft new chapter on welfare and broiler production systems, and the discussion at the OIE 79th General Session in May 2011, the Commission endorsed the proposal of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) to draft a new Article 7.1.4. setting out 'guiding principles' in relation to animal welfare in livestock production systems. The Commission decided to invite Member comments on this draft text, to help guide the further development of the draft chapter on broiler chicken production systems.

The revised Chapter 7.1. is attached for Member comments in Annex XII.

e) Draft new chapter on animal welfare and beef cattle production systems

The Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group on beef cattle had held two meetings since the last review by the Commission of the draft chapter on animal welfare and beef cattle production systems.

The Commission noted that the text on beef cattle had attracted less adverse comment from Members than the draft text on broiler chickens. As the *ad hoc* Group had been able to address virtually all Members' comments, the Commission decided to send the text to Members for another round of comments, with a view to possible adoption of a new chapter in May 2012.

The Commission modified the text to improve clarity and to eliminate some detail that it considered to be superfluous or repetitive. For example, references to body condition scores and an explanation of the functions of colostrum were deleted, as such details were not considered necessary.

Although some concerns were raised regarding the relevance of a detailed (and incomplete) table on castration methods in a *Code* standard, the Commission decided to ask Members to advise on the need to retain this part of the text. The reference to the necessity to contact a veterinarian for advice on pain reduction was removed from the boxes in the table and inserted at the beginning of the text, since it was agreed that this recommendation applied in all cases.

In Point 3 i) of Article 7.X.5., the Commission deleted the phrase 'Whenever possible pasture should be provided', as pasture is not included in the definition of intensive systems. In Point 3 j) of the same article, 'euthanasia' was replaced by 'humane killing' for consistency with the rest of the text.

The draft new chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XIII.

f) Discussion paper on religious slaughter

Dr Kahn explained to the Commission that the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) at its annual meeting in June 2011 had discussed public concern about cruel practices during religious slaughter of cattle exported from Australia. Prof. Hassan Aidaros and Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (members of the AWWG) had taken the initiative to draft a paper that could be used by the OIE in raising awareness of the provisions in the Quran for protecting animals against cruel practices.

The Commission reviewed the discussion paper and noted its conclusion that there is no conflict between OIE standards and the teachings of the Quran. The Commission noted that the discussion paper would be presented at the Regional Conference of Middle East in October 2011.

The discussion paper is attached in Annex XXXIII for information of Members.

g) Welfare of working animals – proposed new work

Dr Varas briefed the Commission on the meeting organised by the FAO in collaboration with The Brooke in June 2011. Dr Varas noted that participants at this meeting had encouraged the OIE to develop international standards on the welfare of working animals.

Prof. Hassan commented that working animals play an important societal and economic role in some developing countries and that the proposal should be given positive consideration.

Noting that the OIE AWWG supported the priority of this new work, the Commission invited OIE Members to express their views.

h) Stray dog population control (Chapter 7.7.)

Comments were received from the European Union.

The Commission did not consider it necessary to modify the text in response to comments on Article 7.7.4., as this text is consistent with the definition of Veterinary Authority in Chapters 3.1 and 3.2.

i) Request for clarification of standards for poultry stunning (Article 7.5.7.)

The Commission noted advice from the OIE AWWG with respect to a request from Thailand for clarification of the recommendations in Chapter 7.5. for the electrical stunning of poultry slaughtered according to religious requirements i.e. where the stunning should not be lethal.

The Member provided a scientific submission on the method used to stun poultry in Thailand, with a view to satisfying animal welfare, religious slaughter and meat quality requirements. The AWWG had reviewed and supported this submission, noting that:

‘there is provision in Chapter 7.5. for stunning using a lower current than that recommended in the tables in Point 3 (b) of Article 7.5.7. However, this provision appeared to be in conflict with the title of the tables, which refer to ‘minimum current’.

The AWWG concluded that:

‘The current that is used can be modified (beyond the examples in the tables), provided there is good science based data that demonstrates that the current, waveform and frequency combination produces an effective stun as indicated by either:

- i) no normal rhythmic breathing, corneal reflex or eye blinking at any stage following the delivery of the current, or
- ii) an epileptiform electroencephalogram.’

The Commission noted that this chapter, as drafted, is overly complex and detailed, leading to the type of problem that had been identified by the Member. In the longer term, the Commission considered that the entire chapter should be redrafted with the objective of providing a much clearer and simpler text, with excessive detail removed from the *Code* and relevant matters dealt with in an advisory document on the OIE website.

In the short term, to resolve the inconsistency identified by the Member, the Code Commission decided to delete the second table in Article 7.5.7. Point 3 (b) and to relocate the table entitled ‘Stunning poultry with 50 Hz frequency current’.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in XIV.

j) Member comments on Chapters 7.3., 7.5. and 7.6.

Apart from the comment discussed in Point i) above, the Commission did not have time to review Members’ comments on these chapters and therefore decided to consider them at the meeting in February 2012.

The reports of the *ad hoc* Groups on Laboratory Animal Welfare and on Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production System as well as the report of the AWWG are attached at Annex XXXIV for information of Members.

Item 11 Aujeszky's disease (Chapter 8.2.)

Comments were received from the European Union and the United States of America.

As also done for CSF, the Commission amended the text to provide for the recently adopted definitions of wild captive, feral and wild pigs.

Noting that Chapter 2.1.2. of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* makes reference to the existence of gene deleted vaccines, the use of which can provide a basis for differentiation between vaccinated and naturally infected pigs, the Commission introduced new text into Article 8.2.4. Point 1 b) Sub-point (ii) making it clear that vaccination as part of a DIVA strategy need not impede attainment of country or zone freedom. The Commission noted that this modification was consistent with the modifications made to the chapter on CSF.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XV.

Item 12 Bluetongue (Chapter 8.3.)

Comments were received from Australia and the European Union.

Following Members' comments, the Commission reviewed and modified Article 8.3.15. dealing with "vector protected establishment". Another comment from a Member was forwarded to the SCAD for review and advice.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XVI.

Item 13 Zoonotic parasites

a) Revised Chapter 8.13.

The Commission appreciated the work done by the *ad hoc* Group to address the extensive comments provided by Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, Norway and the United States of America.

The Commission also noted and supported the collaboration between OIE and Codex Alimentarius Commission experts in understanding and clarifying their work plans leading to joint approaches to complementary standards.

The Commission noted that the revised text had been provided as a clean text because it had been extensively modified.

To clarify the source of milk products in Article 8.13.2., the Commission added the words 'of equids'.

In Article 8.13.6., the Commission deleted text in Point 3 ('with a sample size providing at least 95% confidence of detecting *Trichinella*') because the statement was meaningless in the absence of a specified target prevalence.

The Commission made some additional amendments to improve clarity.

The revised chapter, as a clean text, is attached for Member comments in Annex XVII.

b) Other matters arising from the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic Parasites

Dr Gillian Mylrea, Deputy Head of the OIE International Trade Department, reported that the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic Parasites had not had enough time to address Member comments on the revised Chapter 8.4. on Echinococcosis. A meeting of the *ad hoc* Group to address Member comments and, if there was time, to draft a new chapter on the listed parasite *Taenia solium* (porcine cysticercosis), was tentatively planned to take place in December 2011.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group is attached as Annex XXXV for information of Members.

Item 14 Foot and mouth disease

a) Chapter 8.5.

Comments were received from Australia and the European Union, and from the Comité Veterinario permanente del Conosur (CVP).

The Commission decided not to act on Member comments, for the moment, in view of the fact that SCAD is planning to undertake a complete review of the chapter, with a particular focus on surveillance and case definition, and to reconsider the listing of the susceptible host species, limiting 'susceptible wildlife species' to those of epidemiological significance. The Commission urged the Director General to prioritise this review.

The Commission noted that the title of the chapter should be changed to 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus'.

On Article 8.5.41., the Commission considered that a recommendation of Members regarding the use of saturated brine could be supported and referred this request, with supporting scientific papers, to SCAD.

In response to a Member's request, the Commission advised that it had sighted a report on virus inactivation in beef casings that was due to be published in Elsevier's International Journal of Food Microbiology. The Commission was satisfied with the scientific rationale presented in this report. It undertook to report the precise bibliographic details to OIE Members once the study had been published.

b) Request of a Member for clarification regarding the vaccination of zoo animals

The Commission considered that the matter raised by the Member was addressed in the *Terrestrial Code* and that vaccination of zoo animals would have an impact on the FMD free status of the country. However, noting that there may be valuable populations of animals in zoos and that the protection and preservation of these animals may be warranted, the Commission considered that it might be appropriate for the OIE to reconsider these *Code* provisions.

This request was forwarded to SCAD for scientific advice.

Item 15 Rabies

a) Chapter 8.10.

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America.

The revised chapter had been circulated for Member comments after the Commission meeting in September 2010. At its meeting in February 2011, the Commission decided to refer Member comments submitted to SCAD and to the *ad hoc* Group on Rabies.

The Commission discussed the revised chapter at length, taking into account the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and the SCAD's comments on these recommendations, and made several modifications to the text, with the objective of clarifying and simplifying the text.

In Article 8.10.1., the aim of the chapter was clarified in line with the comments of Members and of the *ad hoc* Group, to clarify the objective of protecting both animal health and public health against rabies.

In response to a comment from a Member country, and taking into account the *ad hoc* Group's advice about current virus taxonomy, the Commission defined rabies, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, as 'a disease caused by the *rabies* virus species of the Genus *Lyssavirus*', in line with the case definition and the nomenclature of the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses (see <http://www.ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp?version=2009&bhcp=1>).

The Commission agreed that, globally, dogs should be recognised as the most common source of exposure of human to rabies virus.

In response to comments from several Members, the Commission confirmed that humans were excluded from rabies cases for the purpose of determining the status of a country in the *Terrestrial Code*. For the purposes of this discussion, the Commission clarified the relationship between animals and humans. Although humans are mammals, the measures contained in the *Terrestrial Code* are not generally relevant to humans. In the case of zoonotic diseases and infection of animals, the chapters contain provisions relevant to preventing infection in humans, as done in this chapter. The statement in Sub-point 6 of Article 8.10.2. was strengthened, i.e. ‘an imported human case of rabies does not affect the rabies free status’.

In response to a Member’s comments on the issue of racoons, the Commission noted that these animals are members of the Order Carnivora and, therefore, are covered in relevant articles.

In response to a Member’s question about the modification of the infection period to ten days, the Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group had provided the scientific justification:

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. Compendium of animal rabies prevention and control, 2006. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 2007, 230, 833–40.

NIEZGODA M., BRIGGS D.J., SHADDOCK J., DREESEN D.W. & RUPPRECHT C.E. (1997). Pathogenesis of experimentally induced rabies in domestic ferrets. *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, 58, 1327–31.

TEPSUMETHANON V., LUMLERTDACHA B., MITMOONPITAK C., SITPRIJA V., MESLIN F.X. & WILDE H. (2004). Survival of naturally infected rabid dogs and cats. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 39, 278–80.

The Commission considered that Members should implement programmes for control of stray dog populations notably to control rabies and therefore replaced ‘are encouraged to’ by ‘should’.

In Article 8.10.2., the Commission discussed a comment of Members to the effect that the *Terrestrial Code* should make recommendations on the conduct of surveillance programmes and on rabies vaccination campaigns in dogs. The Commission agreed that this would be useful to take steps to address that request in future.

The Commission noted a Member’s comment concerning the importation of racoons and modified the reference to regulatory measures to address the importation of ‘animals’ rather than ‘dogs, cats’ as previously written.

The Commission did not agree with a proposal of the *ad hoc* Group that an ‘imported case with no evidence of secondary transmission should not affect the rabies free status’ and deleted this proposed amendment.

In Sub-point 5 of Article 8.10.2., ‘reservoir species’ was replaced by ‘species in the Orders Carnivora or Chiroptera’, on the basis that the concept of a reservoir species was not needed in this chapter.

Following several Members’ comments, the Commission deleted Articles 8.10.3. and 8.10.6.

Following Members’ comments, the Commission decided to group the recommendations for the importation of domestic ruminants, equids, camelids and suids from countries considered infected with rabies within a single article (Article 8.10.8.) and, therefore, deleted Article 8.10.9.

Articles 11 and 13 were deleted, as the measures for importation of captive wild animals, including captive non-human primates, could be addressed in Article 8.10.12.; the Commission therefore modified the title of Article 8.10.12., by adding the word ‘wildlife’ to the title. This defined term covers feral animals, captive wild animals and wild animals.

The recommendation of a Member to develop a new Article 14 on the carriage of dogs, cats and ferrets on international shipping was not accepted, as the Commission considered that the provisions of Article 7 should apply and that any specific provisions that may be applied to international shipping in ports are for decision by each Veterinary Authority, having regard to national circumstances.

- b) Revised model certificate for dogs and cats originating from rabies infected countries (Chapter 5.11.)

Comments were received from Canada, the European Union and the United States of America.

Following Members’ comments and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group, the Commission modified the title of this chapter and made several text amendments. Noting the recommendation of a Member to clarify the role and responsibility of private and official veterinarians, for the purposes of this certificate, the Commission made some appropriate amendments.

The revised chapters are attached for Member comments in Annex XVIII.

Item 16 Rinderpest

Drs Kazuaki Miyagishima and Lea Knopf (OIE Scientific and Technical Department) joined the Commission for a brief discussion on this item.

Dr Miyagishima explained that as this is the first global eradication of an animal disease and there are no precedents in the animal health world, the OIE had held meetings with the World Health Organization (WHO) to learn from experience in the management of global smallpox eradication.

The Commission noted that, with the declaration of global freedom from rinderpest, the existing Chapter 8.12. is no longer relevant. After discussion, the Commission decided to suspend the chapter, remove it from the *Terrestrial Code*, and keep the current text as an electronic file, in case it is necessary in future to reinstate part or all of this text. Dr Kahn confirmed that, in case of need, the suspended Chapter 8.12. could be replaced in the *Terrestrial Code* very quickly.

The Commission reviewed the draft new Chapter 8.12. provided by the SCAD and made several amendments for improved clarity.

The chapter is attached as a clean text for Member comments in Annex XIX.

Item 17 Vesicular stomatitis

Comments were provided by the European Union.

The Commission agreed with the recommendation and modified Article 8.15.6. accordingly.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XX.

Item 18 Review of chapters on bee diseases

- a) Hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries (Chapter 4.14.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Canada, the European Union, Jamaica, New Zealand, Switzerland and Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA).

b) Bee diseases (Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. inclusive).

Comments on Chapter 9.1. were received from the European Union, Jamaica and New Zealand.

Comments on Chapter 9.2. were received from the European Union, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Comments on Chapter 9.3. were received from the European Union, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Comments on Chapter 9.4. were received from Canada, the European Union, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Comments on Chapter 9.5. were received from Canada, the European Union, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Comments on Chapter 9.6. were received from Argentina, the European Union, Jamaica and New Zealand.

Mr Francois Diaz joined the Commission for the discussion on bee diseases. Mr Diaz outlined the process followed by the *ad hoc* Group. He indicated that it had been possible to address most of the Member comments, but he highlighted two points on which the *ad hoc* Group sought advice or confirmation from the Commission. Due to lack of time, the *ad hoc* Group had not been able to address the comments on Chapters 9.2. and 9.3. These texts would be addressed at the Group's next meeting.

The Commission endorsed the work of the *ad hoc* Group and supported the new title and proposed amendments for Chapter 4.14. and proposed amendments for the disease-specific Chapters 9.1., 9.4., 9.5. and 9.6. The Commission also modified the chapter names to reflect the decision on renaming as 'Infection (or infestation) with...'

The Commission noted the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group that OIE Members should be advised of the risks presented by the entry of non-indigenous bees into new geographic areas. The Commission considered that this issue could be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group that would be convened to draft guidelines on assessing the risk of animal invasiveness (see Item 31).

The Commission provided the revised Chapter 4.14. and revised Chapters 9.1., 9.4., 9.5. and 9.6. for Member comments (Annex XXI). Text modifications made by the Commission at this meeting are shown with highlighting.

Item 19 Brucellosis

The Commission acknowledged the important work undertaken by the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis to produce a new chapter on brucellosis, entitled Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*'.

Noting the comments of the SCAD, the Commission made extensive revisions to the text to improve clarity, remove conflicting advice and ensure consistency with other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The new chapter was presented as a 'clean' document (i.e. without showing amendments to the original text of Chapter 11.3.) as it would have been too difficult to read and understand a 'marked up' text.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XXII .

Item 20 Bovine tuberculosis

a) Bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 11.6.)

The Commission reviewed the comments from Australia and an international expert, together with the comment from Mexico in Feb 2011. The Commission referred all comments to SCAD with a particular focus on the need to identify wildlife host species of epidemiological significance; the need for more stringent surveillance requirements for a free compartment; and the extension of the period for testing to support a claim for disease freedom.

The SCAD was also asked that, when reviewing this chapter, a list of epidemiologically relevant wildlife host species should be established and the names of several animal species should be corrected.

The Commission agreed to send a revised text to Members once these points had been reviewed by the SCAD.

b) Bovine tuberculosis in farmed cervidae (Chapter 11.7.)

The Commission requested that SCAD consider combining this chapter with Chapter 11.6., to reflect the agreed approach in the *Terrestrial Code*, with a focus on the pathogen rather than the host.

Item 21 Enzootic bovine leucosis (Chapter 11.9.)

A comment was received from Australia.

The Commission did not accept the rationale provided for modifying the approach to an EBL-free compartment.

Item 22 Lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.12.)

Comments were provided by Australia and, at the 79th OIE General Session, by Gabon.

Based on the nomenclature of the International Committee of Taxonomy of Viruses (see <http://www.ictvonline.org/virusTaxonomy.asp?version=2009&bhcp=1>) the Commission renamed the chapter: 'Infection with *lumpy skin disease virus*'.

The Commission amended Articles 11.12.8. and 11.12.10., as recommended by a Member, based on the following scientific references:

IRONS P.C., TUPPURAINEN E.S.M. & VENTER E.H. (2005). Excretion of lumpy skin disease virus in bull semen. *Theriogenology*, 63, 1290–1297.

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES. (2008c). Lumpy skin disease. *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, 1-9. <http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mmanual/A_00030.htm> Accessed 25-2-2008c.

OSUAGWUH U.I., BAGLA V., VENTER E.H., ANNANDALE C.H. & IRONS P.C. (2007). Absence of lumpy skin disease virus in semen of vaccinated bulls following vaccination and subsequent experimental infection. *Vaccine*, 25, 2238–2243.

WEISS K.E. (1968). Lumpy skin disease virus. *Virology Monographs*, 3, 111–131.

The revised chapter is attached for Member comments in Annex XXIII.

Item 23 Equine diseases

a) African horse sickness (Chapter 12.1.)

Following Members' comments, which were endorsed by SCAD, the Commission modified Article 12.1.2. on the duration of vector surveillance, thereby aligning this text with that in the chapter on bluetongue.

The Commission agreed with the SCAD that Members' comments proposing modifications to the text on the containment zone in Article 12.1.4.bis should not be accepted, because factors such as vector biology and geography must be taken into account.

In response to Members' comments, SCAD proposed to redraft Article 12.1.4.tris on regaining free status, making the requirements for resubmission of a dossier consistent with Article 12.1.2.

The Commission replaced the term 'equines' with 'equids' throughout the chapter because the latter is a noun, while the former is an adjective.

Article 12.1.7. was modified, following Members' comments and the advice of SCAD, making this text consistent with Chapter 8.3.

Point 5 of Article 12.1.13. was modified to clarify the purpose of vector surveillance.

The Commission provided for Member comment a document provided by the SCAD, i.e. a draft questionnaire (Article 1.6.6.bis) on the procedures for 1) self declaration and 2) official recognition by the OIE.

Following Members' comments on Article 1.6.6bis., regarding reference to PVS evaluations and follow-up actions, the Commission decided not to modify the text, as it gives the opportunity to those countries who have participated in this non-compulsory evaluation to document the follow-up actions that they have taken.

The revised Chapters 12.1. and 1.6. are presented for Member comments in Annex XXIV. Amendments made by the Commission at this meeting are shown with highlighting.

b) Equine influenza (Chapter 12.6.)

Following Members' comments, the Commission made some amendments to the text.

c) Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 12.9.)

The term 'equines' was replaced by 'equids' throughout the chapter.

Following Members' comments on the recommendations for the importation of uncastrated males and semen, the Commission redrafted paragraph 2 of Article 12.9.2. and paragraph 1 of Article 12.9.4. In response to a Member's comments, and in order to avoid duplication of text, the Commission redrafted Article 12.9.3.

The revised Chapters 12.6. and 12.9. are attached in Annex XXV for Member comments.

Item 24 Peste des petits ruminants (Chapter 14.8.)

The Commission received a revised Chapter, based on the work of an *ad hoc* Group which met on 14–16 June 2011. The Commission noted the advice of the Group that this disease is spreading in many regions of the world and the historical problems with diagnosis of the peste des petits ruminants (PPR) virus. On the basis that sensitive and specific diagnostic tests are now available, the Commission endorsed the Group's recommendation that countries should make efforts to carry out surveillance and reporting in line with OIE obligations and that the OIE should consider the development of a global PPR strategy.

The Commission renamed the chapter as ‘Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus’ and made several amendments to the text to improve clarity and consistency with other *Terrestrial Code* chapters. The revised chapter is presented as a clean text (i.e. amendments to the original text are not shown) because the extensive changes made to the original text would make it very difficult follow in a ‘marked up’ document.

The revised chapter is attached in Annex XXVI for Member comments.

Item 25 Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.2.)

Comments were received from the European Union, the United States of America and (from the 79th General Session) Niger.

The Commission noted that the SCAD is continuing to revise Chapter 15.2., in light of the development of procedures for official recognition of CSF free status. However, noting that Members had requested that the Commission bring the chapter up to date with respect to the definitions of wild, feral and captive wild animal, the Commission accordingly modified the chapter to reflect the definitions.

The Commission noted the comment of Niger, regarding the risk of discriminating against countries with ASF based on the *Terrestrial Code*’s treatment of CSF in wild pigs. The Commission noted that there are some epidemiological differences between the two diseases, asked the SCAD to address this concern when it makes a revision of the swine disease chapters.

The Commission modified Article 15.2.21.bis, in response to an European Union’s comment requesting that provision be made for the use of saturated brine with the same concentration of phosphate supplemented salt as specified in the article (which refers to dry salt).

The Commission referred Member comments on surveillance to SCAD for consideration.

The revised chapter is attached in Annex XXVII for Member comments. Text modifications made by the Commission at this meeting are shown with highlighting.

Item 26 Swine vesicular disease (Chapter 15.4.)

Comments were received from Canada, the People’s Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The Commission noted advice from SCAD that it is reviewing Chapter 15.2. and other chapters on viral diseases of pigs to ensure harmonisation of text relevant to the wildlife/domestic animal interface. In addition, SCAD noted that the listing of SVD would need to be reviewed in light of the eventual adoption of revised OIE disease listing criteria.

The Commission did not do any work on Chapter 15.4. pending the SCAD review. However, the Commission did send to SCAD supporting scientific references provided by a member of the Commission on the inactivation of SVD virus and ASF virus in swine casings, for consideration in the eventual review of the chapter.

Item 27 Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education

Drs Bonbon and Kahn updated the Commission on the work of the *ad hoc* Group. All comments provided by Members had been thoroughly discussed and addressed at the 2–4 August 2011 meeting of the Group. The Commission endorsed the finalised document ‘Minimum Competencies expected of Day 1 Veterinary Graduates to assure Delivery of High-Quality National Veterinary Services’ and noted that this document was not intended for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. Rather, it would be placed on the OIE website under the rubric ‘Support to OIE Members’.

The Commission invited Members to advise on what, if any, additional references to veterinary education they wish to see included in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education is at Annex XXXVI.

E. OTHER ISSUES

Item 28 Commission work programme

The Commission reviewed and updated its work programme.

The Commission encouraged Members to comment on and/or endorse the revised work programme, with a focus on proposals for the development of new standards or guidelines.

The revised work programme is attached for Member comments in XXVIII.

Item 29 Risk analysis on wildlife disease

Prof. MacDiarmid provided an update in relation to the work of a group of wildlife experts under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), which is drafting a book 'Guide to Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis'.

Prof. MacDiarmid is a member of the Editorial Group. It was agreed by consensus that the methodology adopted for wildlife disease risk analysis and the terminology used should be fully compatible with those in the *Terrestrial Code*. A member of the editorial group is planning to visit the OIE to meet with the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases in October 2011.

The Director General of the OIE has agreed to provide some financial support for publication of the Guide, the publication of which is planned for early 2012.

The Commission commended this valuable initiative.

Item 30 Invasive alien species

Dr Kahn briefed the Commission on the discussions that had taken place between the Secretariats of the OIE and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), regarding 'gaps in the coverage by international standards of risks associated with animals that may be invasive'.

The OIE International Trade Department had contributed to the briefing provided by the Secretariat of the CBD to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on "Invasive Alien Species: proposals on ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food." At its meeting in November 2011, the SBSTTA will consider a recommendation that:

'Encourages the World Trade Organization, its standard-setting organizations and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) to further address the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, as live (fishing) bait and live food'.

More information, including a copy of the relevant briefing to SBSTTA, may be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/sbstta15/review/>

Noting that the OIE has the necessary international scientific expertise to provide guidance on scientific risk assessment pertaining to animals, and that at least one OIE Member had published an assessment in which the OIE methodology had been applied to an invasive species, the Commission asked the Director General to consider convening a group of experts to undertake a brainstorming meeting, with the following terms of reference:

'To consider guidance for OIE Members on the conduct of import risk analysis as a means to assess the risks to ecosystems presented by invasive animal species.'

Item 31 Veterinary products

Dr Suzanne Munstermann (OIE Scientific and Technical Department) joined the Commission for this item. She made reference to the requests of Member Countries in the Americas for the OIE to undertake the development of standards pertaining to the prudent use of veterinary products and to labelling. Dr Munstermann noted that in general the main areas of concern of the countries of the Comité de las Américas de Medicamentos Veterinarios (CAMEVET, of the Americas region) relate to: (1) standards for the approval of facilities for the manufacture of veterinary products; (2) standards for regulatory approval (registration) of veterinary products; and (3) pharmacovigilance for veterinary products 4) labelling of veterinary products.

Dr Munstermann explained that the OIE had asked the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) to establish a mechanism to work with regional organisations as one way of addressing these concerns. CAMEVET and some other regional organisations, including l'Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest-africaine (UEMOA) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), have been invited to the VICH Outreaching meeting, which will be held in Tokyo in November 2011.

The Commission considered that the CAMEVET request represented a large area of work that is not, currently, on the Commission's work programme. It also noted that the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines may be a more appropriate place for these standards, as they relate to the activities of veterinary laboratories.

The Commission noted that an OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance will be held in Paris on 13–15 March 2013 and that this would provide an opportunity for OIE Members to discuss these important issues.

Item 32 Standards for the importation of samples of animal products – request from SSAFE

The Commission reviewed a letter from the President of the organisation 'Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere' (SSAFE) requesting that the OIE develop an international process to import and export research samples containing products of animal origin. The proposal was in the context of samples used for analysis, trials, sensory evaluation and benchmarking.

The Commission considered that it was for countries to decide on the measures to be applied when importing samples and that many different administrative models exist. It did not agree that this was an appropriate area for the establishment of OIE standards.

Item 33 Epizootic haemorrhagic disease – new chapter

The Commission noted that the SCAD had provided a draft new chapter on epizootic haemorrhagic disease based on the work of an *ad hoc* Group that held its first meeting on 15–16 March 2011. Having insufficient time to address this issue, the Commission referred it to the meeting in February 2012.

Item 34 Revision of Chapter 6.11. Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates

The Commission noted that the SCAD had provided a revision of Chapter 6.11. Having insufficient time to address this issue, the Commission referred it to the meeting in February 2012.

Item 35 Inactivation of African swine fever virus and swine vesicular disease virus in swine casings

Prof. MacDiarmid provided scientific papers on virus inactivation by phosphate supplemented salt in experimental model for natural casings, which had been published recently.

WIERINGA-JELSMA TINKA, WIJNKER JORIS J., ZIJLSTRA-WILLEMS ESTHER M., DEKKER ALDO, STOCKHOFE-ZURWIJEDEN NORBERT, MAAS RIKS & WISSELINK HENK J. Virus inactivation by salt (NaCl) and phosphate supplemented salt in a 3D collagen matrix model for natural sausage casings, *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, 2011, 148, 128–134.

Prof. MacDiarmid explained that research supported the efficacy of the treatment using saturated solution of either salt or phosphate supplemented salt at a certain temperature to inactivate ASF virus and of phosphate supplemented salt to inactivate SVD virus in natural casings.

The papers were referred to SCAD.

Item 36 Proposed dates for meetings in 2012

The Commission noted the planned dates for SCAD meetings in 2012 and accordingly planned to hold its meetings on 14–23 February and 3–13 September 2012.

.../Annexes