



REPORT OF THE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS

Paris, 10 September 2010

The OIE hosted a meeting with selected private standard setting organisations with a global scope. The participants in the meeting are listed at [Appendix I](#). The adopted Agenda is at [Appendix II](#) and the adopted terms of reference in [Appendix III](#).

The following documents were distributed electronically to the participants prior to the meeting:

- OIE Resolution No. 26, 78th General Session, May 2010
- Technical Item General Session 2010 *'The private sector's point of view on the use of public and private standards'*
- Report of meeting of ad hoc Group on Private Standards, February 2010
- Extract of the report of the Codex Alimentarius Commission June 2010.

1. Welcome (Dr Vallat, Dr Correa Messuti)

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, the current President of the OIE and the Chair of the meeting, welcomed all participants and thanked them for their participation to discuss this important topic. He gave a brief summary of the history of the topic of private standards and reminded the participants of the differences in opinion between developed and developing countries. Especially in SPS context these differences become clear.

Dr Bernard Vallat joined the meeting and welcomed the participants also. He updated the meeting on the last developments in the OIE: the presentation of *'the private sector's point of view on the use of public and private standards'* and the adoption of resolution 26 during the OIE General Session 2010. He recalled the differences between sanitary safety and animal welfare standards in the context of international trade and the SPS agreement.

Dr Vallat asked the participants to follow up the recommendations of the February meeting and explore the possibilities of agreements between the OIE and GlobalGAP and between OIE and GFSI. He explained that there exist formal procedures within the OIE that should be followed before an agreement can be signed. First the board of the OIE should be consulted and as a second step the General assembly should also endorse the agreement. He asked the participants if they could help the OIE identifying other relevant global organisations in the field of private standards dealing with international trade, sanitary safety and animal welfare.

2. Update on recent developments – OIE (Sarah Kahn)

Dr Kahn, head of the International Trade Department also highlighted the differences between international and private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare. She informed the participants that OIE Members still have concerns about private standards but some of them recognize that at the same time private standards can create benefits. She underlined the importance of communication, which was recognised also in the last OIE resolution on private standards.

Annex XXXVII (contd)**3. 4. & 5. Update on recent developments – GlobalGAP, – GFSI, – SSAFE and European Union**

The participants of the meeting, Professor Urlings of GlobalGAP, Mrs Catherine Francois of GFSI, Mr Jean Francois Legrand of SSAFE and Mrs Sylvie Coulon of the European Commission introduced themselves briefly and referred for an extensive description of the activities of their organisations to the report of the previous February meeting.

6. 7. Discussion of next steps and future work

The chair of the meeting, Dr Correa Messuti proposed to take the OIE resolution 26, 2010 as a starting point of the discussion. The other participants agreed.

Professor Urlings explained that GlobalGAP developed several additional standards. Mrs. Coulon asked what exactly an additional standard is. Professor Urlings explained that an additional standard means a standard that is based on international standards and on science. He added that GlobalGAP focuses on safety issues (safe for human consumption, environment and animal welfare). Mrs. Francois stated that in this context animal welfare is considered by the private sector as a competitive issue, unlike food safety. She explained that her organisation is only working on food safety and that GFSI is applying for an observer status with Codex at the moment. Dr Correa Messuti underlined that for animal health the OIE standards are the only international reference.

Mrs. Francois considered that there was a need for clear and uniform definitions of concepts used in relation to private standards. She estimated that ten years ago there were about 200 private standards. Now there are many more. She also asked the OIE about the Resolution considerations 6 and 7, which state that some private standards potentially conflict with OIE standards or create doubts or confusions on the part of consumers. Dr Correa Messuti explained that there are private standards that exceed international standards, for example in relation to BSE and listeriosis. One of the reasons for diverging official and private standards could be a lack of communication between the private sector and government. Mr. Legrand confirmed and added that sometimes the developments in industry go faster than in governments. Mrs. Coulon agreed that there should be an ongoing communication between private sector and government.

Professor Urlings explained that GlobalGAP has regional working groups to develop regional interpretations for the GlobalGAP standards. In his view, OIE and GlobalGAP standards are complementary. The OIE sets international standards directed to governments and GlobalGAP focuses on translating international standards into standards that can be used at the farm level. To reduce costs GlobalGAP promotes the use of a 'one stop' certification.

Finally the group discussed potential next steps and suggested the following:

- *Identify relevant global standard setting organisations with which the OIE could strengthen appropriate links*
- *Identifying mechanisms for collaboration.*
- *Define common terminology, define recognised private standard and marketing standard and schemes, official or public sanitary standards, animal welfare standards and the rest (social, environmental)*
- *Giving OIE standards to a working group to translate it into benchmarking requirements (GFSI)*
- *Explore complementarity of OIE and global private standard setting organisations in standard setting and implementation and compliance*
- *We need a communication strategy (identify responsible persons)*
- *Important international certification bodies include: ISO, the International Accreditation Forum, FSSP, IFIA, IIOC*
- *Assess the state of the problem with certification associated costs*
- *Explore collaboration in capacity building*

Annex XXXVII (contd)

- *Working level collaboration in the standard setting process of agricultural practices (GlobalGAP)*
- *Input at advisory board level*
- *Sharing of information for a better transparency*
- *Harmonisation with public standards and possible collaboration at regional level*
- *Aquaculture products, food safety and environmental impact*
- *Continue to pursue the development of official agreements, starting with GlobalGAP and GFSI, using as a starting model the agreement between OIE and SSAFE*

8. Closure

Dr Correa Messuti thanked the participants for their efforts and wished them a safe journey home.

OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS

Friday 10 September 2010

List of participants

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OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Friday 10 September 2010**

Agenda

1. Welcome (Carlos Messuti and Bernard Vallat)
 2. Update on recent developments – OIE (Sarah Kahn)
 3. Update on recent developments - GlobalGAP
 4. Update on recent developments - GFSI
 5. Update on recent developments - SSAFE
 6. Discussion of next steps
 7. Future work
 8. Closure
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Terms of reference

The meeting will discuss possible steps towards the implementation of the Resolution passed at the OIE General Assembly in May 2010, based on the following considerations.

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates has adopted and continues to adopt international standards covering animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety.
2. 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' and OIE Members adopted, at the 78th General Session in 2010, Resolution No.26 'Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare'.
3. 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.
4. GlobalGAP and GFSI are global private standard setting organisations that are involved in setting and implementing private standards.
5. SSAFE is a public private partnership to integrate food safety, animal health and plant health in order to improve public health and wellbeing.
6. SSAFE recognises that respectful dialogue amongst the public, private and academic stakeholders is necessary for continuous improvement within global food systems that serve to nourish the public.
7. 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.
8. Formal linkages and channels of communication between private standard setting organisations and the OIE have so far been limited and could be strengthened.
9. The global private standard setting bodies, such as GFSI and GlobalGAP, are well placed to foster and facilitate collaborative undertakings.

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