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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES

Paris, 31 May 2008

The meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 31 May 2008 following the 76th OIE General Session. Dr Gideon Brückner, Deputy Director General of the OIE welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat and indicated the main purpose of the meeting which was to identify priority issues for the Commission, discuss the draft working schedule for 2008/2009 and identify issues that emanated from the 76th General Session that should be added to the program of activities of the Commission.

The Agenda and List of participants are presented in Appendices I and II.

1. Review of the work plan and activities for the period 2008 to 2009

The Bureau took note of the program of scheduled meetings for the Commission and *ad hoc* Groups for 2008 and 2009. It was noted that following the decision of the Commission to establish a more even spread of meetings to prevent an overloaded program after the summer vacation in Europe, meetings of *ad hoc* Groups have already been scheduled for June and July 2008. It was also noted that a meeting of the Bureau of the Commission might be scheduled for July 2008 pending an application from a Member for evaluation of disease status for foot and mouth disease.

2. Priority issues that was identified for the attention of the Commission following the report of the President of the Commission to the International Committee at the 76th General Session

The Bureau took note of the report of the President of the Commission and the interventions by Member Countries. The Commission, with the assistance of *ad hoc* Groups, will in addition to ongoing activities also address the following newly identified priorities during 2008/2009:

2.1. Consider a holistic approach to raise awareness at the OIE of epidemiological factors that favour the global spread of animal diseases

A background paper from an expert will be requested to assist the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology for discussing this topic. The Commission resolved that climatic changes per se should not be discussed in isolation but in relation to other epidemiological factors.

2.2. Develop a manual for animal health surveillance

This will be discussed in detail by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology during their meeting scheduled for 11 to 12 June 2008. The *ad hoc* Group will be requested to propose an outline for the manual which could be further discussed during the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiological modelling scheduled for August 2008.

2.3. Define criteria to further develop the establishment of networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases

The Commission agreed to invite the Head of the OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease at Pirbright to attend the next meeting of the Commission to give background on the management of the OIE/FAO FMD laboratories network to enable the Commission to finalise its recommendations to the Director General on the way forward for disease specific OIE laboratory networks.

2.4. Develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling for animal diseases

The first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiological modelling will be convened in Fort Collins, USA from 11 to 15 August 2008 to discuss the development of guidelines for the *Terrestrial Code* on epidemiological modelling.

2.5. Identify priority chapters in the Terrestrial Code to be updated in view of new scientific knowledge

Chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* already identified by the Commission are swine vesicular disease, Brucellosis, Trypanosomiasis and the development of a chapter on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

2.6. Plan and participate in the scientific organisation of a global conference on FMD

The Commission took note that the First OIE/FAO Global Conference on foot and mouth disease will be held in Asunción, Paraguay from 24 to 26 June 2009 pending official confirmation by the Delegate of Paraguay of financial support by the Government of Paraguay to partly finance the expenses of the Conference.

2.7. Develop a working procedure to integrate more closely the human/animal/wildlife disease pathogen interface in a scientific approach to the development of standards

The Commission identified this issue as a priority for discussion during its next meeting in September 2008. The role of wildlife on the official status of countries or zones for the purposes of trade and in view of concepts such as compartmentalisation, need to be discussed in detail to provide a scientific basis for future development of OIE standards.

2.8. Follow-up on the South American FMD missions

A tentative date for the week of 16 to 23 November 2008 was identified for a 3rd follow-up mission to South America to assess the implementation of the agreement between the OIE and Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia. The President of the Commission indicated that attempts should be made to definitely include a visit to Bolivia in the itinerary and to focus during the visit on the implementation of control measures within the high surveillance zone bordering these four countries. This date could be modified because the OIE Regional Conference for the Americas is scheduled in Cuba the same week.

2.9. Consider the use of GIS in disease reporting and the performance of non-structural protein tests in mass screening

The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the attempts already made by the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to capture geographical data on country applications for the evaluation of disease status but re-iterated its view for the need to more closely integrate Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in disease reporting by Members to the OIE.

The Commission, in discussing the problems encountered in the application and interpretation of surveillance results related to the presence of non-structural proteins (NSP) for foot and mouth disease concluded that it will be necessary to request the Director General to convene an *ad hoc* Group to specifically discuss and advise the Scientific Commission on the use and interpretation of NSP-tests.

2.10. Establish a procedure for the evaluation of dossiers for the recognition of disease status

The Commission expressed its concern for the failure of countries to timely submit dossiers for evaluation or failure to follow the OIE established procedures for compilation of dossiers. This issue was identified for discussion and recommendations to the Director General during the next meeting of the Commission in September 2008.

3. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 29 September to 1 October 2008 with a possibility of an *ad hoc* meeting at the end of July 2008 pending the application of a Member for the evaluation of foot and mouth disease status.

.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**

Paris, 31 May 2008

Agenda

- 1. Review of the work plan and activities for the period 2008 to 2009**
 - 2. Priority issues that was identified for the attention of the Commission following the report of the President of the Commission to the International Committee at the 76th General Session**
 - 2.1. Consider a holistic approach to raise awareness at the OIE of epidemiological factors that favour the global spread of animal diseases
 - 2.2. Develop a manual for animal health surveillance
 - 2.3. Define criteria to further develop the establishment of networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases
 - 2.4. Develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling for animal diseases
 - 2.5. Identify priority chapters in the Terrestrial Code to be updated in view of new scientific knowledge
 - 2.6. Plan and participate in the scientific organisation of a global conference on FMD
 - 2.7. Develop a working procedure to integrate more closely the human/animal/wildlife disease pathogen interface in a scientific approach to the development of standards
 - 2.8. Follow-up on the South American FMD missions
 - 2.9. Consider the use of GIS in disease reporting and the performance of non-structural protein tests in mass screening
 - 2.10. Establish a procedure for the evaluation of dossiers for the recognition of disease status
 - 3. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**
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**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**

Paris, 31 May 2008

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