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Over 90 of the OIE’s Member Countries, for the most part developing and in-transition countries in all regions of the world, have already invited the OIE to conduct an independent evaluation of their national animal health systems. The OIE conducts these evaluations using its ‘Performance of Veterinary Services’ tool (PVS tool), based on 40 criteria each with 5 levels of quality.

The evaluations conducted so far have revealed a wide variety of shortcomings in the countries visited with respect to the OIE’s international standards of quality. Nevertheless, the overall impression is that the veterinary education curricula in many countries are failing to keep pace with those countries’ requirements in terms of capacity of the Veterinary Services in the fields of animal disease surveillance, including zoonoses, and early detection of infectious disease outbreaks and a rapid response. These requirements – all too often unmet – also include food safety inspection, animal welfare and environmental protection. Furthermore, in addition to technical excellence, veterinarians involved in national animal health systems need a far broader general education to give them a better grasp of the mechanisms of governance at both the national (legislation, chain of command, budget, communication) and international level (Organisations, international standards). Also, in view of the ever increasing threats that represent zoonoses it is of utmost importance that veterinarians ensure a leading role within control strategies in cooperation with all relevant sectors, especially the medical world.

Given that the Veterinary Services, as defined by the OIE, encompass both the public and private sector components of national animal health systems, the whole of the veterinary profession needs to be involved in meeting these requirements, which have such crucial worldwide implications.

The evaluations carried out so far also highlight the considerable need that exists for continuing professional education, to ensure that the relevant know-how of all those involved is constantly updated to keep pace with these new requirements.

It is important therefore to ensure that, at a worldwide level, initial and continuing veterinary education provides everyone with curricula designed to meet the needs of society as a whole, rather than being based solely on the current demands of the labour market, which can vary from one moment to another and from one country to another.

To contribute to this important topic, the OIE has decided to hold a Conference, on 12, 13 and 14 October 2009, and invite the deans of all the world’s veterinary universities and schools (estimated at 500), along with the institutional managers in charge of developing veterinary teaching programmes in Member Countries and Territories, to discuss these issues and agree on a minimum curriculum for all veterinarians, whatever educational establishment in the world provides the initial training. Indeed, it is important to reach a global consensus on what steps can be taken to stop certain countries awarding ‘third-rate’ veterinary diplomas and ensure that these diplomas are delivered on the basis of effective high level know-how that meets societal needs.

Representatives of the various direct beneficiaries of animal health and animal welfare programmes (animal producers, processors, consumers, other non-governmental organisations) will also be welcome at the Conference.

...the overall impression is that the veterinary education curricula in many countries are failing to keep pace with those countries’ requirements in terms of capacity of the Veterinary Services in the fields of animal disease surveillance...’
The question of what mechanisms can be used to monitor the content and quality of training will also be raised during the Conference as the starting point for discussions on which mechanisms to recommend for the future.

I should also like to point out that OIE standards already recognise National Veterinary Statutory Bodies as the institutions responsible for, inter alia, guaranteeing the appropriate level of involvement and quality of veterinarians and veterinary para-veterinarians in national animal health systems. This essential role will be highlighted and explained during the Conference. We fervently hope that the Conference will lead to a shared commitment to work towards a truly global mechanism aimed at stimulating and supervising at a world level the exhaustiveness and quality of initial and continuing veterinary education curricula. Ultimately, this will help all countries of the world to be better prepared to deal with emerging health risks.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Conference!

Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General, OIE
In a rapidly changing world, veterinary education must face new challenges and continually evolve to meet societal demands in the field of food security, food safety, public health and animal welfare. Appropriate education and training have a direct effect on the quality and performance of public and private components of Veterinary Services; therefore, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is considering the issue of initial and continuous veterinary education as part of its commitment to encouraging its Members to strengthen the animal health policies and activities of their national Veterinary Services. Well-educated veterinarians who have received appropriate training will help the OIE to fulfil its global mission: improve animal health worldwide.

Evolving veterinary education for a safer world
This worldwide conference will take place at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris on 12, 13 and 14 October 2009.

The meeting will be an opportunity for deans of veterinary training institutions and key national animal health policy makers from all over the world to exchange views on priorities for the content of academic courses, the main purpose being to reach consensus in order to recommend an updated veterinary curriculum to the international community. This should ensure that future graduates are increasingly able to work in an international environment, applying international standards for disease surveillance, veterinary public health, food safety and animal welfare. The conference will also provide a forum for discussing the involvement of veterinary statutory bodies in the harmonisation of accreditation procedures for veterinary faculties, which would help foster recognition of the importance of veterinary activities for society as a whole at global level.
• P r o v i s i o n a l p r o g r a m m e • P r o v i s i o n a l

OPENING CEREMONY

Day 1
October 12th

Key note presentation:
The need for a global veterinary education to cope with societal needs
Prof. Paul-Pierre PASTORET
OIE presentation film
How to improve animal health worldwide
Dr Bernard VALLAT

Day 2
October 13th

SESSION 1
Prevention/control of transboundary diseases, zoonoses and emerging infections
Chairman: Dr Barry O’NEIL
Rapporteur: Prof. Sira Abdul RAHMAN

Impact of new global context on veterinary education
N.
Transboundary diseases
Dr Juan LUBROTH
Zoonoses: the animal-human interface
Dr Brian EVANS
Wildlife diseases
Dr William B. KARESH

SESSION 2
Early detection, notification and surveillance
Chairman: Dr Zhang ZHONGQIU
Rapporteur: Dr Jean-Luc ANGOT

Surveillance from the farm to the laboratory
Dr Cristobal ZEPEDA
Participatory surveillance
Prof. Arnon SHIMSHONY
Surveillance of OIE listed diseases, diseases of wildlife and rare events
Prof. Claude SAEGERMAN
Appropriate legislation for surveillance
Dr Martial PETITCLERC
**SESSION 3**

**Veterinary public health and ‘Veterinary Services’ concept**

Chairman: Dr Jamil GOMES DE SOUZA  
Rapporteur: Prof. Lars MOE  

‘Veterinary Services’ concept and training of officials  
Dr Véronique BELLEMAIN  

Introduction to veterinary public health  
Prof. Jim SCUDAMORE  

Risk evaluation  
Ir Gil HOUINS  

The role of veterinarians in biomedical research  
Dr Cyril GAY  

One world one health  
Dr Ilaria Capua  

The role of WHO  
Mr Paul GULLY

**SESSION 4**

**Food safety**

Chairman: Prof. Kazuya YAMANOUCHI  
Rapporteur: Prof. Hassan Abdel Aziz AIDAROS  

The role of OIE and Veterinary Services in food safety  
Dr Monique ELOIT  

Foodborne zoonoses  
Dr Stuart SLORACH  

From the pitchfork to the fork  
Mr Michael SCANNELL  

Traceability  
Dr Luis BARCOS

**SESSION 5**

**Animal welfare**

Chairman: N.  
Rapporteur: Prof. Salah HAMMAMI  

Scientific assessment of animal welfare  
Dr David BAYVEL  

Animal pain and OIE Standards  
Prof. David MELLOR
SESSION 6

Basic global needs for veterinary education
Chairman: Dr Carlos CORREA MESSUTI
Rapporteur: Dr Walter WINDING

Basic sciences
Prof. Pierre LEKEUX

Pre-clinical sciences
Prof. Francisco TRIGO TAVERA

Clinical sciences including veterinary medicinal products
Prof. Alan KELLY

Veterinary governance, legislation and organisation
Dr J. Gardner MURRAY

Day one competence
Dr Tjeerd JORNA

Continuous education
N.

SESSION 7

Towards global harmonisation and evaluation of the veterinary curriculum, and an internationally recognised diploma
Chairman: Prof. Marcel WANNER
Rapporteur: Prof. Louis-Joseph PANGUI

The disparity of veterinary education in the world and the impact of cultural differences
N.

The present situation of veterinary training evaluation in Europe
Dr Jan VAARTEN

Veterinary training evaluation in the USA
Dr Ron DeHAVEN

The Scientific and Technical Review of the OIE on veterinary education
N.

The Performance of Veterinary Services tool (PVS) and the task of Veterinary Statutory Body to guarantee the quality of the Veterinary Profession
Dr Herbert SCHNEIDER

Global harmonisation of Veterinary Services
Dr Brian BEDARD

Next veterinary education conference
Prof. Jean-François CHARY

SESSION 8

Conclusions and recommendations
Presentation of recommendations
Chairman: Dr Bernard VALLAT
Rapporteur: Dr Gideon BRUCKNER

Evolution Veterinary Education for a Safer World

Paris (France)
12-14 October 2009
The OIE, in acknowledging the risks associated with the development of resistance arising from the misuse of antimicrobials in animals, has adopted an approach designed to achieve an acceptable balance between the need for the use of antimicrobials to promote animal health, food security and food safety, and the dangers emanating from possible misuse of antimicrobials.

The following guidelines and documents have been developed and are regularly updated:

– Chapters 6.5 to 6.7. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code were developed and revised from 2003 onwards taking into account recommendations by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and Chapter 6.8. from 2004. These chapters cover ‘Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes’, ‘Monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry’, ‘Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine’ and ‘Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals’.


– A list of antimicrobials of veterinary importance which was adopted by the OIE International Committee in 2007.

Recognising that antimicrobial resistance is of major global health concern inherently related to the use of antimicrobials in many environments including those for human and non human medicine use, the OIE has developed strong collaboration with WHO and FAO and has for example actively participated in the meetings of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was established in 2006. The objective of the Task Force is to develop science-based guidance on the use of antimicrobials, using accepted risk analysis principles to assess the risks to human health associated with the presence in food and feed (including aquaculture) and the transmission through food and feed of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes.
the aim being to develop appropriate risk management advice based on the assessment to reduce risk. The Task Force, which is due to complete its assignment in 2010, will also attempt to create an increased awareness of the risk of the increase in antimicrobial resistance in human beings and animals emanating from the use of antimicrobials for a variety of purposes such as veterinary applications, plant protein or food processing and to make proposals to address these risks.

The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Seoul, Korea, in October 2007, during which the Task Force agreed to establish three working groups to prepare draft guidelines on:
– science-based risk assessment of foodborne antimicrobial resistant microorganisms;
– risk management to contain antimicrobial resistant microorganisms;
– creating risk profiles for antimicrobial resistant foodborne microorganisms for setting risk assessment and management priorities.

During the second session, held in Seoul, Korea, in October 2008, it was decided to establish an electronic working group, hosted by a member country, to prepare a consolidated document entitled ‘Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance’. This working group will prepare a revised version by the end of May 2009 following comments received by the end of February 2009 from members and observers. This revised version will be circulated for comments before the next meeting in 2009.

In parallel with the development of standards and guidelines in this field, the OIE recognises the need for its Members to implement the adopted standards and guidelines and also, where applicable, for this to be reflected in their national legislation. The OIE has thus taken several initiatives to help Members achieve this goal.

One of the main prerequisites for Members to be able to implement the OIE guidelines and conduct antimicrobial risk analysis including risk management is to have functional Veterinary Services. Veterinary Services as the supervisory authority play an essential role in the application of the risk analysis process and the implementation of risk-based recommendations. To facilitate this, the OIE has also initiated a methodology for evaluating the performance of national Veterinary Services, the OIE PVS Tool, which also takes into account their public and private components and the interaction with stakeholders.

Another important prerequisite is the existence of scientifically recognised laboratories able to support the Veterinary Services with expertise and as a scientific backup to develop and propose standards. The OIE laboratory twinning programme provides opportunities for developing and in-transition countries to have more ready access to scientific expertise and to progress towards compliance with the OIE standards.

The OIE further enhances awareness of the importance of responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine through its regional activities. As an example, the OIE organised a Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa: ‘Towards the harmonisation and improvement of registration and quality control’, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008. The aim of the Conference, attended by participants from over 50 African countries, was to provide a forum for the exchange of the latest scientific information and experiences on the improvement of registration procedures, legislation, control over quality and distribution of veterinary medicinal products including antimicrobials. Similar conferences are planned in other regions, including one scheduled to be held in the Middle East region in December 2009.

Recognising that the approval and registration of medicinal products is an important step in helping to contain antimicrobial resistance, the OIE has established a transparent relationship with manufacturers of veterinary medicinal products and representatives of the industry. The OIE is for example an associated member of VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) and is actively promoting this initiative.
The OIE is digitising its archives and placing them online

The OIE, or World Organisation for Animal Health as it is now known, began publishing in 1927. For almost 60 years its main publication remained the ‘Bulletin of the Office international des épizooties’, which, through scientific articles, official documents, conference proceedings, general session reports, resolutions and recommendations, statistics on animal health in the Member Countries and Territories and reports on all its activities, reflects the true history of the Organisation since its creation.


That is why the World Organisation for Animal Health decided in September 2008 to undertake the task of digitising these main archives in order to make them available to the public on its Web site.

This project started in September 2008 with the digitisation of the complete collection of the Bulletin from Volume 1 (1927) to Volume 93 (1981), together with the 1921 Paris International Conference, which led to the foundation of the OIE.


Health’, and is due to finish by the middle of 2009.

The electronic files thus obtained from the digitisation process will then be integrated into the online public access to the OIE bibliographic database (extracted from Alexandrie online on the Intranet site), which at the present time gives access to more than 4,000 referenced OIE documents, with about 1,600 ‘full text’ documents.

With this addition, online access to OIE’s documents will be considerably enriched, with several thousand documents being made available, reflecting the history of the OIE’s activities throughout more than eighty years of existence.

The communication and sharing of these resources on the Internet should help to meet the information needs of governmental authorities, diplomatic missions, Delegates to the OIE and observers from other international organisations on the one hand, and the many academies, learned societies, and teaching faculties, and countless veterinarians, biologists, laboratory workers, epidemiologists, statisticians, livestock producers, historians, and students on the other hand, who, in their various ways, are interested in the work and the accomplishments of the OIE over the years.
The English version of this book is the result of collaboration among epidemiological surveillance specialists at all the operational echelons of an epidemiological surveillance network: organisation, training, data management and evaluation. The coordinators of various networks contributed their valuable experience to this practical guide.

Part one provides readers with all the methodological elements they need to help create, operate and evaluate an epidemiological surveillance network in the field. Part two presents concrete examples of a variety of epidemiological surveillance networks in operation. It shows that all networks use the same methodological procedure even though their surveillance subjects and methods vary so widely.

This practical guide is aimed at all those responsible for epidemiological surveillance network design, organisation and operation in both the northern and southern hemispheres. It will also be of interest to students and teachers of animal epidemiology.
Although it is far from certain that HPAIV H5N1 will transform into the next pandemic human influenza virus, the possibility that this might occur and the concerns of politicians and the general public about the catastrophic consequences of an eventual influenza pandemic have resulted in enormous efforts to improve diagnosis, to better understand the epidemiology of avian influenza, to assess the molecular basis for influenza virus virulence and host specificity and to design improved vaccines for animals and humans alike. This drastic increase in research has resulted in a significant expansion of our knowledge on avian influenza viruses and the role they play in animals and humans. This issue of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review presents a comprehensive overview on our present understanding of avian influenza. Foremost leading experts on influenza have agreed to share their views and latest results to provide a state-of-the-art summary on the current knowledge.

This issue of the Scientific and Technical Review is devoted to the improvement of student education in global animal and public health, and all its numerous facets, in every veterinary faculty in the world. Its content will be of interest to all in veterinary medicine. This set of 50 papers is divided into two approximately equal parts. One half is devoted to defining the animal and public health education that every veterinary student in the world should receive, irrespective of their intended career path and whether or not they will be directly working within the field of public health. The remaining papers in the set are devoted to the question of how this education can be achieved within an already packed curriculum.
# Name and function of OIE permanent staff who participated in meetings or visits: October to December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Bureau</th>
<th>OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Directorate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Vallat</td>
<td>Abdoulaye Bouna Niang Past President of the OIE International Committee &amp; Regional Representative for Africa (Bamako, Mali)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Aissa Bagayoko Secretary (Bamako, Mali)</td>
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<td>Patrick Bastiaensen Chargé de mission (Gaborone, Botswana)</td>
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<td>Nems Na Thekiso Secretary (Gaborone, Botswana)</td>
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<td>Osvaldo Luján Ibarrarena Technical Senior (Buenos Aires, Argentina)</td>
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<td>Tri Satya Putri Naipospos Chargé de mission (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
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<td>Nikola T. Belev President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe &amp; Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Rina Kostova Secretary (Sofia, Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Pierre Prinot Chargé de mission (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
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<td>Stéphane Berlaut</td>
<td>Hani Imam Secretary (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilton Antônio de Morais</td>
<td>Khodr Rejeili Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaly Monsalve</td>
<td>Mahmoud Gaddaf Assistant (Beirut, Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Name and function of experts who represented the OIE in meetings or visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Function</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hassan Aidaros</td>
<td>Member of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Alessandrini</td>
<td>OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre (Teramo, Italy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bayvel</td>
<td>Chair of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy G. Bengis</td>
<td>President of the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhudipa Choudhury</td>
<td>OFFLU Scientist</td>
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<td>Vice-President of the OIE International Committee and OIE Delegate of Uruguay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paolo Dalla Villa</td>
<td>OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre (Teramo, Italy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salman Abdul Nabi</td>
<td>President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East and OIE Delegate of Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Edwards</td>
<td>President of the OIE Biological Standards Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamed Abdel El-Tawab Samaha</td>
<td>OIE Delegate of Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricardo Enrique Sais</td>
<td>Secretary General of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry J. Hill</td>
<td>Vice-President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission</td>
</tr>
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meetings and visits

September 2008 (see also Bulletin No. 4-2008)

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<thead>
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<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar on private standards on animal and plant health and food safety: 'the need for a regional action to encourage public goods', organised by FAO's Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean region</td>
<td>Santiago (Chile)</td>
<td>2-5 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the South Cone (CVP), 'informing and interchanging regional activities aspects'</td>
<td>Montevideo (Uruguay)</td>
<td>8 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Seminar on Harmonization of Registration and Control for Veterinary Medicines</td>
<td>Asuncion (Paraguay)</td>
<td>8-13 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Regional Workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Planning</td>
<td>Chiang Mai (Thailand)</td>
<td>17-19 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr R.C. Abila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA)</td>
<td>Managua (Nicaragua)</td>
<td>23-24 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo &amp; Dr F. Caya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop for the launching of the FAO-GREP TCP/RAF/3202 (D)</td>
<td>Yaoundé (Cameroon)</td>
<td>24 September – 5 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr N. Denormalidie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brainstorming on forecasting model for Rift Valley Fever</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>29 September – 1 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance training course on the OIE standard process (video-conferences with countries of the Americas)</td>
<td>San José (Costa Rica)</td>
<td>29 September – 3 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Mr Jinjun Zhao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to France and Mr Qu Xing, Minister Counsellor</td>
<td>People's Republic of China Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>30 September 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference on animal welfare, organised by Sweden in cooperation with DG SANCO (European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers)</td>
<td>Hindås (Sweden)</td>
<td>1-3 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Coordination Meeting on Development of Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarian (FETPV)</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>2 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr R.C. Abila &amp; Dr A. Bouchet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### October 2008 (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPINAP-AHI Technical Workshop for Southern Africa</td>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>2-4 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B.J. Mtei &amp; Dr P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Mr Cho Il Hwan, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to France</td>
<td>Republic of Korea Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>3 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute Centenary Celebrations and Pan-African Veterinary Conference</td>
<td>Pretoria (South Africa)</td>
<td>6-9 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner, Dr B.J. Mtei &amp; Dr P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Workshop on national animal health databases and advanced training in WAHIS and WAHID</td>
<td>Bamako (Mali)</td>
<td>6-10 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Ben Jebra, Dr D. Chaisemartin, Dr L. Weber-Vintzel, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr Y. Samaké &amp; Dr N. Denormandie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Meeting of the Livestock Consultative Board, organised by the Ministry of Livestock of Panama</td>
<td>Panama City (Panama)</td>
<td>7 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO/OIE/WHO Joint Symposium on Avian Influenza and the Human-Animal Interface</td>
<td>Verona (Italy)</td>
<td>7-9 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr L. Knopf &amp; Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Pan-American Congress of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET) and 16th Annual Meeting of CONASA (National Animal Health Council of Mexico)</td>
<td>Guadalajara (Mexico)</td>
<td>12-16 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Meeting of the Heads of the Veterinary Services of the European Union (French Presidency)</td>
<td>Strasbourg (France)</td>
<td>13-14 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants’ meeting on devices and systems for early and rapid detection of animal disease; early response to emerging diseases</td>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters, Vienna (Austria)</td>
<td>13-14 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th SPS Specialised Course, organised by WTO</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>13-15 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Session of the Research Group of the EuFMD (European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease) Standing Technical Committee</td>
<td>Erice, Sicily (Italy)</td>
<td>13-17 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y.J. Kim, Dr R.C. Abila &amp; Prof. P. Willeberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Mr Ali Ahani, Ambassador of Iran to France</td>
<td>Iran Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>14 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot &amp; Ms G. Mamaghani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd International Workshop on Equine Viral Arteritis</td>
<td>Lexington (United States of America)</td>
<td>14-15 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr P.J. Timoney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the Greek Government, WHO and FAO on the Strengthening of the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme (MZCP)</td>
<td>Athens (Greece)</td>
<td>15 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr D. Chaisemartin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd International Course on Emerging Zoonoses; collaboration among health professionals to overcome global challenges</td>
<td>Valencia (Spain)</td>
<td>15 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional Expert Group Meeting for Implementation of the Programme on Surveillance of Wild Birds and Domestic Animals along Migratory Flyways under the OIE/JTF Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia</td>
<td>Tokyo (Japan)</td>
<td>16 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton &amp; Dr T. Fujita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar on IPSAS Standards (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) and International Organisations</td>
<td>Bari (Italy)</td>
<td>16-17 October 2008</td>
<td>Ms A. Weng &amp; Mr J.-L. Lavigne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32nd Intergovernmental Council for Veterinary Cooperation of the CIS Countries</td>
<td>Moscow (Russia)</td>
<td>16-17 October 2008</td>
<td>Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Colloquium on ‘Emerging Animal Diseases: from science to policy organised by FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (Belgium))</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>17 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté &amp; Dr L.J. King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontools (Disease Control Tools) – 1st Meeting of the Working Package 2 on Disease Prioritisation – European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPSAH)</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>20 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFLU visit to the OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza at Hokkaido University</td>
<td>Sapporo (Japan)</td>
<td>20-21 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton &amp; Dr B. Choudhury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare: ‘Putting the OIE standards to work’</td>
<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>20-22 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. O’Neil, Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr S. Kahn, Dr L. Stuardo, Ms M. Zampaglione, Ms M. Bonnerot, Ms A. Torres Balmont, Dr M. Petlclerc, Dr A. Kamakawa, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr Y. Samaké, Dr N. Denormandie, Dr P. Bastiaensen, Dr G. Yebo, Dr P. Primot, Ms R. Rick, Ms H. Imam, Dr C. Correa Messuti, Dr G. Murray, Dr R. Thwala, Dr S.A.N. Ebrahim El Khuzza’s, Dr H.A. El-Tawab Samaha, Dr G. Khoury, Dr M. Zirelli, Dr S.A. Rahman, Dr D. Bayvel, Prof. H. Aidaos, Dr P. Dalla Villa &amp; Ms B. Alessandrini</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## October 2008 (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIE/FAO-APHCA (Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific) Regional Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis and Control with an Emphasis on <em>Brucella melitensis</em></td>
<td>Chiang Mai &amp; Lampang (Thailand)</td>
<td>20-23 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr T. Fujita &amp; Dr K. Sakurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Session of the ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (ITAMR)</td>
<td>Seoul (Republic of Korea)</td>
<td>20-24 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr F. Diaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Scientific Conference: ‘Animal Infectious Pathology’ — 3rd International Veterinary and Zootecnic Exhibition</td>
<td>Vladimir (Russia)</td>
<td>21-24 October 2008</td>
<td>Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combating Infectious Diseases of Livestock for International Development (CIDILID)</td>
<td>London (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>22 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner &amp; Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37th plenary meeting of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel (AHAW)</td>
<td>Parma (Italy)</td>
<td>22-23 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the General Secretary of World Customs Organization in order to coordinate activities for 2009 in the Americas Region</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>23 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos &amp; Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veterinarian Meeting (RVN)</td>
<td>Lille (France)</td>
<td>23-24 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot &amp; Ms T. Benicasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural and Meat Fair organised by the Ministry of Agricultural and Livestock Development of Panama</td>
<td>Panama City (Panama)</td>
<td>23-26 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos &amp; Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza</td>
<td>Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)</td>
<td>24-26 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr A. Thiermann, Dr G. Brückner, Dr A. Dehove, Dr K. Hamilton, Ms M. Zampaglione, Dr G. Yehia, Dr P. Primot, Dr B.J. Mtei &amp; Dr P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th meeting of the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Facility Advisory Board</td>
<td>Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)</td>
<td>27 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA)</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>27-28 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot, Dr T. Fujita, Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr S. Shin, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr G. Murray &amp; Dr D. Bayvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Table organised by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Panama</td>
<td>Panama City (Panama)</td>
<td>28 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Conference on Food Safety and Security of Russia</td>
<td>Moscow (Russia)</td>
<td>28-29 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr W. Droppers &amp; Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAVA/OIE Joint Symposium on Emergency Diseases</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>29 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot, Dr T. Fujita, Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr S. Shin, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot, Dr G. Murray &amp; Dr D. Bayvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG SANCO (European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers) conference ‘Delivering for Tomorrow’s European consumers’</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>29-30 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Carnat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional Seminar on Communication for the Asia-Pacific Region</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>30-31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot, Ms M. Zampaglione, Dr T. Fujita, Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr S. Shin, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO-EU/FMD/EC/OIE Tripartite Group Meeting on control of FMD and other exotic diseases in the southern Balkans/Aegean region</td>
<td>Island of Lesvos (Greece)</td>
<td>30-31 October 2008</td>
<td>Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Workshop on FAO TCP/RLA/3108</td>
<td>Montevideo (Uruguay)</td>
<td>30-31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr L.O. Barcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference of the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)</td>
<td>Paris (France)</td>
<td>30-31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inauguration of the new premises of the OIE Collaborating Centre for the training of official veterinarians</td>
<td>Lyons (France)</td>
<td>31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd PSVS Project (Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services) Steering Group Meeting</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot, Dr R.C. Abila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontools (Disease Control Tools) — 1st meeting of the Working Package 4: technology evaluation — European Technology Platform for Global Animal Health (ETPGAH)</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>31 October 2008</td>
<td>Dr E. Erfacher-Vindel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## November 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd meeting of the Animal Health Advisory Committee – Working Group of the Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health</td>
<td>European Commission Headquarters, Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>3 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove &amp; Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of the event</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Participants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Food Safety Administration Training Programme</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>3-4 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr W. Droppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania Implementation</td>
<td>Stockholm (Sweden)</td>
<td>3-4 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr G. Murray &amp; Dr D. Bayvel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Meeting of GALVmed (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines)</td>
<td>Edinburgh, Scotland (UK)</td>
<td>4 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner &amp; Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC Livestock Policy Dialogue (SADC Regional Agricultural Policy Development)</td>
<td>Gaborone (Botswana)</td>
<td>4-6 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr B.J. Mtei &amp; Dr P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd International Roundtable: ‘Sustaining Progress in the Life Sciences: Strategies for Managing Dual Use Research of Concern’</td>
<td>Bethesda, Maryland (US)</td>
<td>5-6 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.E. Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Seminar for National OIE Delegates of Europe</td>
<td>Lyons (France)</td>
<td>5-6 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr G. Brückner, Dr G. Funes, Ms M. Bonnerot, Prof. Dr N.T. Belev &amp; Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Meeting of the Lower Mekong Working Group (LMWG) for FMD and Animal Movement Management</td>
<td>Pakse (Laos)</td>
<td>6-7 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Kamakawa, Dr R.C. Abila, Dr A. Bouchot, Ms N. Hungerford &amp; Dr G. Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop for OIE Collaborating Centres in charge of the training of official veterinarians</td>
<td>Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)</td>
<td>6-7 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr N. Denormandie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committee on Residues and Chemical Contaminants</td>
<td>Mexico City (Mexico)</td>
<td>9 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Meeting on foot and mouth disease (FMD)</td>
<td>Shiraz (Iran)</td>
<td>9-13 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr P. Primot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committee on Animal Health</td>
<td>Mexico City (Mexico)</td>
<td>10 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st European Union Veterinary Week: ‘One Health: Healthy Animals = Healthy People’</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>10 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Ms G G. Mamaghani &amp; Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Support Programme to Integrated National Action Plans for Avian and Human Influenza (SPINAP-AHI)</td>
<td>Nairobi (Kenya)</td>
<td>11 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr A.B. Niang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health</td>
<td>Mazatlán (Mexico)</td>
<td>11-13 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr F. Caya, Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo &amp; Dr R. Enriquez Sais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Dairy Federation (IDF) – World Dairy Summit</td>
<td>Mexico City (Mexico)</td>
<td>11-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr E. Erlacher-Vindel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SADC FMD Programme Regional Seminar on Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAS) and Risk Management of Transboundary Animal Diseases</td>
<td>Kasane (Botswana)</td>
<td>12-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr B.J. Mtei, Dr P. Bastiaensen &amp; Dr R.G. Bengis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Planning Committee (NATO) Meeting</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>13 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biosafety Europe project: harmonisation of biosafety and biosecurity practices in Europe – Concluding Workshop</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>13 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr F. Diaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the commercial capacity reinforcement programme</td>
<td>Paris (France)</td>
<td>13 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional meeting on strengthening animal health information networking in Asia and OIE Symposium on avian influenza control in Asia</td>
<td>Tokyo (Japan)</td>
<td>13-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner &amp; Dr T. Fujita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional workshop on the control of <em>peste des petits ruminants</em> (PPR) in the Maghreb</td>
<td>Rabat (Morocco)</td>
<td>13-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y. Samaké &amp; Dr N. Denormandie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training course on bio-terrorism, organised by the NATO Center of Excellence – Defense against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</td>
<td>Ankara (Turkey)</td>
<td>13-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Veterinary Week</td>
<td>Hannover (Germany)</td>
<td>14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Ms M. Zampaglione &amp; Ms T. Benicasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Plenary meeting of the European Commission Advisory Group on the Food Chain, Animal and Plant Health</td>
<td>European Commission Headquarters, Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFLU meeting on the WHO Global Influenza Programme (GIP)</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>14 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions on the opening of an OIE Sub-Regional Representation for the Maghreb in Tunisia</td>
<td>Tunis (Tunisia)</td>
<td>17 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar on traceability of meat from developing countries</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>17-18 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y. Atagi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## November 2008 (cont.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) 2nd Task Force Meeting</td>
<td>Tehran (Iran)</td>
<td>17-18 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting on infectious disease sanitary policy, local knowledge and research network in Africa</td>
<td>Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</td>
<td>17-19 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. A.B. Niang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas</td>
<td>Havana (Cuba)</td>
<td>17-21 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. B. O’Neil, Dr. B. Vallat, Dr. G. Funes, Dr. K. Ben Jebara, Ms. N. Monsalve, Dr. L.O. Barcos, Dr. F. Caya, Ms. A. Palmas &amp; Dr. J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Annual Meeting of the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)</td>
<td>WHO Headquarters, Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>17-21 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. M. Varas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Australasia/Oceania Commonwealth Veterinary Association Regional Meeting and Workshop: ‘Protection, Production and Progress in the Pacific’</td>
<td>Apia (Samoa)</td>
<td>17-21 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. T. Fujita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Equestrian Federation (FEI) General Assembly</td>
<td>Buenos Aires (Argentina)</td>
<td>17-22 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Workshop on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures</td>
<td>Doha (Qatar)</td>
<td>18-20 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. M.E. Gonzalez Ortiz &amp; Dr. P. Primot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIRAD Regional Seminar on Animal Epidemiology in the Indian Ocean Region, with Special Reference to Rift Valley Fever</td>
<td>Mayotte (France)</td>
<td>18-20 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific research addressing the sanitary safety of certain animal products in relation to trade</td>
<td>Institute for Animal Health (IAH) Headquarters, Pirbright (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>20 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. G. Brückner &amp; Dr. K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer-review workshop for the IFRI (French Institute for International Relations) draft ‘The Global Fight against Avian Influenza. Lessons for the global management of health and environmental risks and crisis’</td>
<td>Paris (France)</td>
<td>20 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Workshop on European Union Legislation for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)</td>
<td>Johannesburg (South Africa)</td>
<td>24-27 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. L. Knopf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International conference on demographical trends and climate changes: ‘Consequences on vector-borne diseases in Western Africa’</td>
<td>Cotonou (Benin)</td>
<td>24-27 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. A.B. Niang &amp; Dr. Y. Samaké</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Mr Giedrus Cekuolis, Ambassador of Lithuania to France</td>
<td>Lithuanian Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>25 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. J-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFLU Steering Committee meeting</td>
<td>FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>25-26 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. G. Brückner, Dr. K. Hamilton &amp; Ms. S. Linnane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific Technical Committee meeting</td>
<td>Islamabad (Pakistan)</td>
<td>25-29 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. T. Hla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern African Development Community (SADC) Livestock Technical Committee meeting</td>
<td>Gaborone (Botswana)</td>
<td>26-28 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. B.J. Mtei &amp; Dr. P. Bastiaensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Conference on traceability</td>
<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>26-28 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. G. Yehia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Meeting of the Myanmar Zoning Working Group (MZWG)</td>
<td>Mandalay (Myanmar)</td>
<td>27-28 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. R.C. Abila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Meeting of the Participatory Epidemiology Network for Animal and Public Health (PENAPH)</td>
<td>International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Headquarters, Nairobi (Kenya)</td>
<td>28 November 2008</td>
<td>Dr. L. Knopf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th meeting of the Directors of the National Rabies Programmes of Latin America</td>
<td>Antigua (Guatemala)</td>
<td>30 November – 2 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr. L.O. Barcos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## December 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Sessional Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Biological and Toxic Weapons (BTWC) and their Destruction</td>
<td>Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>1-3 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr. K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene</td>
<td>Guatemala City (Guatemala)</td>
<td>1-5 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr. L.O. Barcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting on an integrated model on animal welfare (official, private, academic and trade-union sectors)</td>
<td>Bogota (Colombia)</td>
<td>1-5 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr. J.J. Oreamuno Toledo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## meetings and visits

### December 2008 (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Mr Yutaka Limura, Ambassador of Japan to France, and Mr Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Agricultural Attaché</td>
<td>Japanese Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>4 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting on measures concerning the threat posed by possible use by terrorists of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials, including survey on animal bio-terrorism threats</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>4 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Dehove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on rabies: ‘regional co-operation towards eradicating the oldest known zoonotic disease in Europe’</td>
<td>Antalya (Turkey)</td>
<td>4-5 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr L. Knopf &amp; Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with National Influenza Centres (NIC) on strengthening the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Influenza Surveillance Network (GISN)</td>
<td>Barcelona (Spain)</td>
<td>4-5 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE/WTO Workshop on Import Risk Analysis</td>
<td>Maseru (Lesotho)</td>
<td>4-5 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr G. Brückner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Dr Mohammed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Commission</td>
<td>OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)</td>
<td>8 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr J.-L. Angot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of a Working Group on prioritisation of animal diseases, organised by DG SANCO</td>
<td>Brussels (Belgium)</td>
<td>9 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Meeting of National Veterinary Services Laboratories in the Americas</td>
<td>Panama City (Panama)</td>
<td>9-11 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr W. Droppers, Dr L.O. Barcos, Dr O.L. Ibarra, Dr J.J. Oreamuno Toledo, Prof. S. Edwards &amp; Dr J.E. Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on pandemic influenza, open-ended working group (OEWG)</td>
<td>International Labour Organization (ILO) Headquarters, Geneva (Switzerland)</td>
<td>9-13 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr K. Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Animal and Human Health Collaboration for Emerging and Neglected Zoonotic Diseases</td>
<td>Vientiane (Laos)</td>
<td>10-12 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr A. Kamakawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD)</td>
<td>Vienna (Austria)</td>
<td>11-12 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr L. Knopf &amp; Prof. Dr N.T. Belev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38th plenary meeting of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) Animal Health and Animal Welfare Panel (AHAW)</td>
<td>Parma (Italy)</td>
<td>11-12 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr C. Planté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services</td>
<td>Bamako (Mali)</td>
<td>11-13 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat, Dr G. Funès, Dr E. Erfacher Vindel, Ms N. Monsalve, Dr A.B. Niang, Dr Y. Sakurai, Dr N. Denormandie &amp; Dr M. Petitclerc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Niger</td>
<td>Niamey (Niger)</td>
<td>13 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr B. Vallat &amp; Dr A.B. Niang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference: ‘Regards Croisés’ on Avian Influenza and 2nd meeting of the GripAvi (Project to fight avian influenza) Steering Committee</td>
<td>Cirad (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) Headquarters, Montpellier (France)</td>
<td>15-17 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr W. Droppers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Meeting of the NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific) Asia Regional Advisory Group</td>
<td>Bangkok (Thailand)</td>
<td>15-17 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr Y. Sakurai, Prof. B.I. Hill &amp; Dr S. Kanchanakhan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations</td>
<td>OIE Headquarters, Paris (France)</td>
<td>15-17 December 2008</td>
<td>OIE Central Bureau, OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Policy Committee</td>
<td>Rome (Italy)</td>
<td>16 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr S. Kahn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on Notification of Diseases</td>
<td>Belgrade (Serbia)</td>
<td>16 December 2008</td>
<td>Dr F. Berlingieri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the OIE and Bulgaria by Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE and Ms Irina Bokova, Ambassador of Bulgaria</td>
<td>Bulgarian Embassy, Paris (France)</td>
<td>19 December 2008</td>
<td>OIE Participants: Dr B. Vallat, Dr J.-L. Angot &amp; Prof. Dr N.T. Belev From Bulgaria: Ms Irina Bokova (Ambassador of Bulgaria), Ms Katia Beleiva (Minister Plenipotentiary) &amp; Mr Encho Dimitrov (Second Secretary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff changes - Arrivals

Dr. Mary-Kathleen (Kate) Glynn from the Unit of zoonotic vector-borne and enteric diseases at the US Centers for diseases control and prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, one of the OIE Collaborating Centre, joined the OIE Scientific and Technical Department on 8 December 2008.

The OIE is delighted to have secured this arrangement of exchange of expertise with the CDC in Atlanta, to enhance progress on an important focal area identified in the OIE Strategic Plan. Dr Glynn has an extensive background and expertise on matters related to the animal-human interface and has managed and supervised a variety of projects and initiatives working in close collaboration with her counterparts in human health. As a supervisory and experienced epidemiologist her involvement varied on subjects such as for example HIV/AIDS, bioterrorism preparation and response, brucellosis, anthrax, food-borne, vector-borne and mycotic diseases during which time she also managed to establish a close working relationship with international and regional organisations such as WHO, PAHO, FAO and OIE.

Her experience in this field will be used to the full advantage of the OIE to manage and help securing the co-leadership of the OIE in matters related to the ‘One World One Health’ concept with special emphasis on diseases at the animal-human interface, including building a network of OIE collaborating centers working in this area. She will liaise with other Departments of the OIE and on behalf of the OIE with her relevant counterparts in the FAO and WHO. A focal area of her tasks will also be to assess the status of support needed by selected laboratories in respect of establishing and strengthening the link between the delivery of diagnostic services and support for disease surveillance incorporating related veterinary public health aspects. Preference will be given to selected countries already subjected to a PVS evaluation and will focus on a gap analysis on laboratory service delivery. She will also deliver a supportive role in selected OIE twinning projects on avian influenza and Newcastle disease proficiency as well as relevant zoonotic diseases.
In 2008 the OIE International Trade Department welcomed five veterinary interns, reflecting the OIE’s global geographical and cultural diversity: Dr Anne Hessinger from the United States of America, Dr Rebecca Jennings from New Zealand, Dr Minhye Lee from Korea, Dr Nathanaëlle Donay from France and Dr Alice Mukakanamugire from Rwanda. These interns participated in the ongoing work of the Department in the fields of animal welfare, food safety and aquatic animal health (More details are given in Bulletin No. 4-2008).

Dr Donay assisted the ad hoc Group on the OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Mollusc Team and translated the meeting report from English to French. She also wrote a disease card on abalone viral mortality and assisted the ad hoc Group on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance in relation to the publication of a handbook on this topic.

Dr Alice Mukakanamugire and Dr Rebecca Jennings supported the ad hoc Group on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems, conducting a literature review on the use of animal-based criteria to assess the welfare of intensively farmed broiler chickens. Dr Anne Hessinger supported the ad hoc Group on Animal Identification and Traceability and Dr Minhye Lee participated in the 76th OIE General Session.

The staff of the OIE International Trade Department are from the Australia, Chile, Columbia, France, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom – a team that truly represents the multicultural nature of the OIE!
Activities of the International Trade Department

Meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

*OIE, Paris, 29 September 2008*

The full Commission met at the OIE headquarters in Paris, France, from 29 September to 10 October 2008, to address Member comments received before and after the 76th General Session and the work done by OIE *ad hoc* Groups (Trade in Animal Products; Evaluation of Veterinary Services; Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems) and the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare. The Commission also held meetings with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and received advice from the Biological Standards Commission on issues relevant to the work of the Commissions.

The Commission examined *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* chapters and revised existing texts, or proposed new texts, on the following subjects: the Glossary to the *Terrestrial Code*; Animal health surveillance; Import risk analysis; Animal health measures applicable before and at departure; Border post and quarantine stations in the importing country; Zoning and compartmentalisation; Application of compartmentalisation; Surveillance of arthropod vectors of animal diseases; Semen and embryo/ova; somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock and horses; General obligations related to certification; Certification procedures; The role of Veterinary Services in food safety; The detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in poultry; Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance; Stray dog population control; Bluetongue; Foot and mouth disease; Rabies; Rinderpest; Avian influenza; Newcastle diseases; BSE; Bovine tuberculosis; Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia; Equine diseases (including equine influenza, equine viral arteritis and African horse sickness); Scrapie; Classical swine fever; West Nile fever; Small hive beetle infestation and other bee diseases; Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed; Rift Valley fever; Bovine cysticercosis; Teschovirus encephalomyelitis; and several other points aimed at achieving consistency with the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. These proposed revisions and new texts were appended to the meeting report and sent to Members for comment.

The Commission also updated its work programme for 2009.

Meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

*OIE, Paris, 17 October 2008*

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission met at the OIE headquarters in Paris, France, from 13 to 17 October 2008, to address Member comments received before and after the 76th General Session and the work of OIE *ad hoc* Groups (OIE List of Aquatic Animal Diseases – Crustacean Team; Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance; Safety of Products Derived From Aquatic Animals).

The Commission examined several *Aquatic Animal Health Code* chapters, and revised existing texts or proposed new texts on the following subjects: Definitions; Diseases listed by the OIE; General obligations related to certification; Certification procedures; Quality and evaluation of Competent Authorities; Crayfish plague; Necrotising hepatopancreatitis; Milky haemolymph disease of spiny lobsters (*Panulirus* spp.); Model international aquatic animal health certificates; Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities; Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal products destined for human consumption; Welfare of farmed fish during transport; Handling and disposal of carcasses and wastes of aquatic animals.

The Aquatic Animals Commission also updated its work programme for 2009.

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1. CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission
2. FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
3. WHO: World Health Organization
**Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety**

**OIE, Paris, 4-6 November 2008**

The Working Group, which includes experts from the CAC\(^1\), FAO\(^2\) and WHO\(^3\), met from 4 to 6 November 2008. At the meeting the following issues were discussed:

- draft Guidelines on Detection, control and prevention of Salmonella spp. in poultry;
- Chapter 6.3. Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries;
- draft Guidelines for the Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed, as revised by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission;
- the proposal to convene an *ad hoc* Group to develop text on the food safety implications of feed for aquatic animals as a follow-up to a text prepared by an *ad hoc* Group on the Aquatic Animal Health Implications of Aquatic Animal Feed.
- antimicrobial resistance;
- food safety implications of the use, in food-producing animals, of vaccines developed using recombinant biotechnology;
- development of the Work Plan for 2009: The Working Group recommended a review of its mandate and modus operandi and the preparation of a discussion paper on the priority food safety pathogens for future standard setting by the OIE.

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**Ad hoc Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare**

**OIE, Paris, 8-10 December 2008**

At its second meeting the *ad hoc* Group revised the draft document on ‘The Use of Animals in Research, Testing or Training’, which had been prepared by the Group at its first meeting in December 2007. While OIE Member comments had not been specifically requested, some Members and some organisations had provided comments and the *ad hoc* Group addressed these in the revision of the text, which will be presented to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission for discussion at its March 2009 meeting, with the objective of circulating a draft *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* text to Members for comment. The *ad hoc* Group discussed relevant international developments, including the proposed modification of European Commission Directive 86/609/EEC. The *ad hoc* Group also held useful discussions on priorities identified at its previous meeting, namely:

- veterinary training on laboratory animal medicine
- laboratory animal transport
- regulatory testing.

It was unanimously agreed that the current global situation with the air transport of laboratory animals, in particular non-human primates, raises some serious concerns. Many international airlines have stopped carrying these animals due to commercial considerations, which means that laboratories and institutes are obliged to find other means of transport, leaving open the possibility that the standards of the OIE and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) are not being respected. The Group also noted that the IATA regulations for the transport of non-human primates have not been updated recently and that IATA is currently considering undertaking some work in this area. Members of the *ad hoc* Group agreed that the OIE should engage with IATA in this important area of work and that the development of OIE standards for the air transport of non-human primates and certain other species that are important in scientific research is a priority.

It was proposed that a third meeting of the *ad hoc* Group take place from 4 to 6 August 2009.

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1. CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission
2. FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
3. WHO: World Health Organization
Promotion of scientific research is one of the key approaches to improve animal health worldwide. For this scientific purpose, OIE Members may need to import disease agents. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual) provide recommendations to help establish appropriate measures for the importation of disease agents according to the risks posed by the specific importation.

In cases where the imported materials will remain under strict biological containment after importation, the biosecure level of containment of the material should be taken into account in establishing import measures as this has a significant bearing on the risk presented by the importation.

Recommendations on handling animal pathogens may be found in Terrestrial Code Article 5.8.5. (see: www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.5.8.htm).

A laboratory should be permitted to hold and handle animal pathogens in Risk Groups 3 or 4 provided that it has appropriate containment facilities for these classes of pathogens. The classification of animal/human pathogens, e.g. as Risk Group 3 or 4, should be done by the relevant Competent Authority in the country, based on a risk assessment following the principles set out in Chapter 1.1.2. of the Terrestrial Manual (see: www.oie.int/eng/normes/mmanual/2008/pdf/1.1.02_BIOSAFETY.pdf).

While several OIE Members classify the BSE agent as Risk Group 3, this is not an OIE standard, and a country may decide to classify the BSE agent in another risk group.

Recommendations relevant to the importation of animal pathogens and packaging and transport of pathogenic agents may be found in the Terrestrial Code Article 5.8.4. (see: www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.5.8.htm) and in the Terrestrial Manual Chapter 1.1.1. (see www.oie.int/eng/normes/mmanual/2008/pdf/1.1.01_COLLECTION.pdf), respectively.

Practical advice on specific disease agents may also be obtained from the relevant OIE Reference Laboratory (www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/en_listeLR.htm).

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) publishes regulations and standards for the transport by air of biological materials. Details may be found on the IATA Web site (www.iata.org/).
Activities of the Scientific and Technical Department

Ad hoc Group on Disease Status Evaluation for Rinderpest

**OIE, Paris, 18-19 November 2008**

Five country dossiers applying for rinderpest free status recognition were successfully analysed and four recommended for acceptance. One dossier was kept pending while awaiting the response to a request for additional information and will be reviewed again at the next meeting in January 2009. Additionally, six declarations claiming historical rinderpest free status were evaluated along with a number of clarifications on rinderpest free status of non-contiguous territories of Members already recognised as free from rinderpest. The progress and related difficulties in achieving the goal of the global rinderpest eradication were discussed, the list of countries and territories yet to be recognised as rinderpest free was updated and strategies for contacting each of them were shared between the OIE and FAO.

Ad hoc Group on Vaccines in Relation to New and Emerging Technologies

**OIE, Paris, 18-20 November 2008**

Following the last meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology in August 2008 and in accordance with OIE priorities, the Biological Standards Commission decided that work on biotechnology would in future be carried out by two new *ad hoc* Groups: one focusing on vaccines and the other on molecular diagnostic tests. The *ad hoc* Group on Vaccines met from 18 to 20 November 2008 to work on the update of the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (*Terrestrial Manual*) relating to progress in vaccine technologies. The main task was to make a proposal for revision/new structure of the relevant chapters (both horizontal and disease-specific) and to consider animal health and the safety of animal products originating from animals vaccinated with recombinant vaccines.

Specific disease chapters to be revised (the revision concerned the section on requirements for vaccines and diagnostic biologicals) were selected based on two criteria:

1. increased number of vaccines developed using new technologies that have been licensed and
2. technical improvements relative to safety, efficacy, purity and potency.

The Group also identified the horizontal chapters that need to be updated because of progress in vaccine technologies, and proposed that the section on ‘Requirements for vaccines and diagnostic biologicals’ of the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* be amended to provide a format that is more in line with international regulatory requirements.

For future consideration of the food safety aspects of recombinant vaccines, the Group proposed to extend the number of participants or scientific information providers for additional expertise and to draft a chapter for the *Terrestrial Manual* on risk assessment of veterinary biologicals with a specific section on vaccines containing or consisting of live genetically modified organisms (GMO).

Ad hoc Group on Disease Status Evaluation for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

**OIE, Paris, 9-10 December 2008**

Two country dossiers applying for CBPP free status recognition were analysed and one was recommended for acceptance pending minor additional clarification requested by the experts. The Group reviewed minor aspects of the draft chapter on CBPP, such as species considerations and commodity-related aspects. A suggestion for a future form or small questionnaire that should facilitate the annual reconfirmation of CBPP free status was also reviewed and endorsed by the Group.
Activities of the Animal Health Information Department

Improving Wildlife Disease Notification by Members – Development of the WAHIS-Wild Online Notification System and Web site

An OIE ad hoc Group on Wildlife Disease Notification met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, from 2 to 4 July 2008. The Group was convened 1) to review and evaluate the OIE’s experience with collecting wildlife disease information; 2) to examine proposals made by the OIE Animal Health Information Department aimed at improving data capture by replacing the existing wildlife disease notification questionnaire with a new wildlife disease data collection, notification and reporting system, to be integrated into the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) online notification system; 3) to discuss what types of data should be collected so as to comply with the required new outputs, while keeping in mind the need to minimise the possibility of certain countries implementing unjustified trade barriers in response to disease notification in wildlife.

After discussions and consultations with Dr Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, the Group considered that the current worldwide animal disease notification system for OIE-listed diseases already included notification of diseases in wildlife, and was already satisfactory for recording such occurrences of OIE-listed diseases in wildlife, except for the fact that details needed to be given on the species affected rather than the current term ‘fauna’. A short list of susceptible species should be added, and end-users should be able to add any species not already listed. The Group recommended that all OIE Members should, if they had not already done so, nominate a national focal point for the notification of diseases in wildlife and that a WAHIS Interface should be developed to enable them to process online annual reports, to replace the current Excel Questionnaire.

Focal points for wildlife disease notification should receive a summary of the information provided by Delegates of Members on OIE-listed diseases in wildlife species, verify it, and then complete the data with information on occurrences of non OIE-listed diseases in wildlife. The Group also recommended that, while data on wildlife diseases should be submitted once a year, it should indicate in which six-month period the disease occurred, so as to be in line with the six-monthly reporting procedure of WAHIS.

It was recommended that there should be two types of output for wildlife diseases: data on OIE-listed diseases should be directly accessible through the WAHID Interface, as is currently the case, but with the addition of a list of the affected wildlife species; for wildlife diseases that are not OIE-listed, a new Web interface should be developed, separate from WAHID. This separation is intended to avoid the reported information on diseases in wildlife of non OIE-listed diseases being misinterpreted and leading certain countries to put in place unjustified trade barriers. The relevant Web page will include an explanation of the intended objectives in collecting data on selected wildlife diseases.

The Group also revised the wildlife disease list from the 2007 Wildlife Disease Questionnaire for use as the initial list to be reported through the WAHIS-Wild module. It was recommended that the OIE further pursue the development of criteria to assess wildlife diseases not fulfilling the criteria for inclusion on the OIE List of Notifiable Diseases, for inclusion on the wildlife disease list for annual reporting. It was also stressed that the criteria for inclusion on the wildlife disease list for annual reporting should not preclude non-infectious diseases.

In line with these recommendations, the OIE is now working to improve WAHIS so as to better address the notification of OIE-listed diseases in wildlife, to develop a special interface for focal points for the notification of diseases in wildlife and to redesign the annual notification report of wildlife animal diseases, to integrate it more fully with WAHIS.
Activities of the Communication Unit

Interministerial Conference: ‘Investing for Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa’

*hosted by the OIE at its Headquarters on 8, 9 and 10 December 2008*

‘Boosting agriculture and livestock farming in Africa requires investments in rural roads, irrigation schemes, storage, production, marketing, processing, research and institutions. Private and public investments should be coordinated. The Forum proposed practical solutions to strengthen links between private investments and public subsidies within the framework of the national and sub-regional policies of African countries.’

Welcome address by Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE
The OIE Regional Representation for Africa

The OIE Regional Representation for Africa is one of the five Regional Representations (Africa, Americas, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Middle East) established by the OIE. It is based in Bamako, Mali, and its activities cover the 51 Members of the OIE that are also members of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (in 2006, a Sub-Regional Representation was created in Botswana, which is more specifically concerned with the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)).

The purpose of the Representation is to provide these countries with services that are adapted to the regional level, to enable them to strengthen the surveillance and control of animal diseases in Africa.

From its creation in October 2000 until September 2006, the OIE Regional Representation for Africa received funding for its activities from the European Union within the framework of the PACE programme (Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics). Since PACE, the OIE Central Bureau has financed the Regional Representation through the annual contributions of Members and subsidies from the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, following adoption of the Fourth Strategic Plan (2006-2010), under which the budget for the Regional Representations is included in the Regular Budget of the OIE. The OIE Regional Representation also continues to receive support from the European Commission and the governments of France and Mali.

The Representation is staffed by three veterinarians (the Regional Representative, Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, his Deputy, Dr Yacouba Samaké, and a Programme Officer, Dr Nicolas Denormandie), an accountant, Ms Youma Ndiaye, two secretaries, Ms Mariam Minta and Ms Aïssata Bagayoko, and an administrative clerk, Mr Alou Sangaré.

The aim of the Regional Representation is to strengthen, in the short- and medium-term, the capacities of the Veterinary Services in the field of animal disease information and safety of regional and international trade. The mandate and rules for the Regional Representation, adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 19 May 1995, are available on the Web site of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa: www.rr-africa.oie.int

The senior staff of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa play an active part in regional and international meetings, conferences and workshops on key OIE issues, such as animal health information, zoonoses, animal welfare and food safety. Their participation helps to give the OIE a higher profile and raises Members’
awareness of the Organisation’s mandates and activities. The aim is also to promote the development and implementation of animal health policies that will ensure the fluidity and safety of trade in animals and animal products at the intra-African level.

The OIE Regional Representation for Africa is committed to maintaining the closest possible collaboration with all the organisations with which the OIE has a cooperation agreement (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], Intercontinental Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union [AU IBAR], Economic Commission of Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources [CEBEVIRHA], Southern African Development Community [SADC], Economic Community Of West African States [ECOWAS], West African Economic and Monetary Union [WAEMU], International Centre of Research and Development on Livestock Production in Sub-humid Area [CIRDES], International Cooperation Centre for Agronomic Research and Development [CIRAD], International Livestock Research Institute [ILRI], etc.), especially since the appearance of the first outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Africa (February 2006), and also with the inauguration of the Regional Animal Health Centre, and its conference hall, in Bamako (October 2007). The Regional Animal Health Centre brings together the OIE, the FAO and AU-IBAR to form a platform of expertise, information and training, enabling their combined mandates and resources to be targeted at the prevention and control of animal diseases.

1. See also OIE Bulletin 2007/1, p. 41
Regional Workshop on the ‘Status of the national animal sanitary information databases and advanced training on WAHIS\(^1\) and WAHID\(^2\) for ECOWAS\(^3\) zone countries and Mauritania’

Held in the Regional Animal Health Centre in Bamako, Mali, this regional workshop was co-organised by the OIE Regional Representation for Africa, the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and West Africa with the support of the Regional Animal Health Centre (OIE, FAO\(^4\), and AU-IBAR\(^5\)). It gathered 28 participants from 15 West African countries. Lecturers were mainly from FAO and OIE headquarters.

The first two days of the workshop focused on presentations by countries of the status of their national animal health information systems and their national databases, on the difficulties these countries encountered in running them and on presenting their TADInfo\(^6\) system and/or use of ARIS\(^7\). Presentations were made on TADInfo by FAO officers and on the evolution of ARIS, the AU-IBAR national and regional information system.

The three additional days concentrated on advanced training on WAHIS/WAHID, with case studies to better understand the system and the requirements for Members’ notifications to the OIE, a presentation of the most important data discrepancies observed in the reports received from Members, so to avoid any future recurrence, and hands-on training using various exercises involving all types of OIE reports in WAHIS. The outputs of the system in the WAHID interface were presented to highlight the importance of processing good quality data in WAHIS. The sources of information from WAHIS used in reports created with WAHID were also presented, to highlight the importance of the choices to be made in WAHIS so as to achieve the best possible output of country data in WAHID.

Positive comments were received on the WAHIS secure online notification application and a valuable dialogue took place between the participants and the OIE lecturers. Participants expressed a desire for regular workshops of this type in the future.

The participating countries commented that the organisation of this joint workshop was a sign of the excellent collaboration between the different actors in disease information systems and called for an increase in collaboration between international and regional organisations. Such collaboration would offer sustainable tools to countries that do not have national databases, provide them with good support and assist them in improving their national animal health information systems. This technical support would help countries to better address their national needs and strengthen their capacities to better respect their international obligations of notification.

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1. WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System
2. WAHID: World Animal Health Information Database
3. ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States
4. FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
5. AU-IBAR: African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
6. TADInfo: Transboundary Animal Disease Information
7. ARIS: Animal Resource Information System
Status of the OIE PVS\(^1\) Evaluation Programme
(as at 11 January 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Official requests(^*)</th>
<th>Missions completed</th>
<th>Reports sent to countries</th>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^*\) Official requests:
In italics: Completed missions

Africa (36): Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia

Americas (16): Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, Uruguay

Asia/Pacific (13): Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea (DPR), Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam

Europe (12): Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Turkey, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Middle East (12): Afghanistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestinian Nat. Authority, Oman, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Additional information on the evaluation of the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS tool is given in the OIE Bulletin No. 2-2008, pages 33-34 and OIE Bulletin No. 4-2008, page 32.

19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Havana, Cuba, from 18 to 21 November 2008

The 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas was held in Havana, Cuba, from 18 to 21 November 2008.

The Members asked the OIE to develop additional biotechnology standards for the production and use of diagnostic tests and other rapid methods for detecting pathogens or post-infective immunological reactions, with the support of its network of Collaborating Centres, and to assist Members with updating their legislation.

The Conference reaffirmed that OIE standards help to ensure the safety of trade, particularly in the context of countries still faced with animal health problems. Application of the standards, recommendations and guidelines in the OIE Codes and Manuals for terrestrial and aquatic animals guarantees the conditions for safe trade among all countries and brings benefits in terms of animal production, food safety and public health.

‘The less developed countries are those experiencing the greatest problems, because they are caught up in a vicious circle of poor sanitary conditions, proliferating trade barriers and worsening food safety conditions at home’, stated Cuba’s Minister of Agriculture, María del Carmen Pérez Hernández.

The Conference participants highlighted the importance of prompt disease notification and transparency of the animal health situation through the use of the OIE’s WAHIS system and the assistance of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation, in Panama City, Panama.

The recommendations adopted by the Conference will be submitted for the approval of all OIE Members at the 77th General Session of the OIE in May 2009.

1- PVS: Performance of Veterinary Services
1. Introduction

The Chart of mandates, competences and complementarities between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is set up in the context of the FAO-OIE initiative named GF-TADs: Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases initiative signed in May 2004. The chart, which has been endorsed by the FAO and OIE DGs in February 2007, details the competences, complementarities and synergies as sketched in the last page.

The fields taken into account include animal health and animal welfare, as well as food safety of products of animal origin at the production until slaughter house stages (the transformation and distribution stages are not envisaged here while they are also part of the collaboration among FAO, OIE and the World Health Organization [WHO], notably via the Codex Alimentarius).

The types of activities (topics) are sorted from the strategical to the technical and then operational levels.

Each bar of the chart represents the activity of the organisations for a given topic. When a bar is over the two organisations, it indicates the respective role of each organisation towards the other one, for the given topic.
– For each topic, there are three possible collaborations: support, complementarity and synergy.

2. List of specific fields to be considered

2.1. Standards and guidelines

( elaboration and endorsement)

This field is a core mandate of the OIE, as the leading Organisation entirely devoted to animal health issues and in charge of animal health and welfare standards and guidelines setting (for both preventing, controlling and eradicating diseases, as well as for ensuring safe trading of animals and products) which have a global scope. FAO provides its support by participating in several OIE working groups or commissions and assistance to countries in the implementation of these standards.

2.2. Strategies and best practices

guides for developing and in transition countries

This field is a core activity of FAO (as the leading technical Organisation devoted to food and agricultural issues in developing countries and in charge of designing and implementing strategies and development programs in such countries) which mandate is to assist developing and in transition countries. The OIE brings a valuable guarantee and expertise from its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. FAO and OIE work synergistically in this field.

2.3. Sanitary information and epidemiological intelligence

– Official information on the sanitary status of the countries is OIE’s exclusive competence (as part of the obligations of OIE Members to notify the OIE on their sanitary status). FAO brings its support by communicating information from non-OIE member countries as well as by encouraging all countries to notify the OIE.

– Verifying diseases outbreaks, rumours and suspicions of outbreaks are performed both by FAO and OIE. Since the sources of information are often different (for OIE, CVOs network; for FAO, FAO national representations network, field operations, etc…) and the sharing of information made possible via the FAO-OIE-WHO common platform GLEWS (Global Early Warning System), the FAO-OIE collaboration is synergistic.

– Disease analysis and epidemiological intelligence are carried out in a synergistic manner notably via the FAO-OIE-WHO called GLEWS. FAO, supported by its multi-disciplinary teams and multiple sources of information on agriculture, socio-economy and climate changes and its link with crises and population movements, trade, etc…, operates in favour of a holistic approach to animal production and health, which targets in priority developing countries where major sanitary crises originate. Therefore, it was agreed that FAO hosts the GLEWS joint core-team in charge of the epidemiological analysis.

– A warning on animal disease events is officially provided by OIE. FAO provides a more synthetic warning, based on analysis and prediction. The platform GLEWS will also display warning messages by links to OIE, FAO and WHO websites.

2.4. Expertise

– Global expertise required to fulfil the OIE mandate including standard setting activities is provided through its network of experts from worldwide network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. FAO also provides expertise from its reference centres, in a complementary manner.

– Expertise to provide assistance to developing and in transition countries is within the core mandate of FAO; for that purpose FAO has teams in headquarters and in regional and national Representations, adding to the experts from its reference centres. OIE provides strong support, in a complementary manner, by offering experts from OIE Headquarters, OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, as well as through strategic advise from OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

– OIE/FAO Regional Animal Health Centres staff’s main activities are addressed to provide technical assistance and expertise (in a complementary and synergistic collaboration) to developing countries as necessities arise.

2.5. Scientific and technical publications

– Of global scope: OIE and its experts from its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres play a key role in this field. FAO provides support in a complementary manner including as invited author of OIE scientific publications.

– For developing and in transition countries: with its own experts or in close collaboration with experts from its reference centres, FAO publishes bulletins, manuals, monographies and publications in scientific and technical reviews. When relevant, OIE collaborates in this field with FAO.

– Publications on specific topics are issued jointly between OIE and FAO as the need arise, through a complementary and synergistic collaboration.

2.6. Training

– At the global level, for the OIE Delegates (most of them Chief Veterinary Officers -CVOs) and OIE Focal Points: OIE contributes to the training and information of staff that have worldwide responsibilities, on official standard setting process, good veterinary governance and disease prevention and control methods. FAO is likely to provide support where the need is identified.
– At the regional level, in developing and transition countries, for the OIE Delegate (most of them Chief Veterinary Officers CVOs) and OIE Focal Points, as well as the private sector: OIE has important training activities, to which FAO synergistically contributes.

– At the national level, in developing and transition countries, for animal health system operational teams (public veterinary services and private sector actors), FAO performs one of its core mandate to its member countries, with the support of the OIE. The OIE can organise national seminars on good governance with key policy makers with the support of FAO.

2.7. Development programs in animal health in developing countries

– This is the core mandate of FAO. OIE brings its support to this activity through its experts and the use by countries of its standards and guidelines, at the global, regional and national levels.

– The OIE/FAO global programme ‘Ensuring Good Governance to Address Emerging and Re-Emerging Animal Disease Threats – Supporting the Veterinary Services of Developing Countries to Meet OIE International Standards on Quality’ is implemented in a complementary collaboration. The PVS evaluation of Veterinary Services is the prerogative of the OIE as well as the follow up of good governance achievements by countries in the framework of PVS use. The subsequent gap analysis of PVS evaluations is managed in common by the OIE and FAO. FAO is responsible of national programmes directed to the prevention and control of animal diseases and emergency responses to sanitary crises in developing and transition countries.

3. Cross-cutting topics and common tools

FAO and OIE have concerted activities in the following intervention fields:

– Awareness / lobbying, for an improved governance and enhanced support and investments in the prevention and control of animal diseases.

– Priority identification and support for research in animal health.

– Communication towards and awareness of public and private sectors for the best practices for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

– Several coordination and support activities are jointly implemented at the international and regional levels, notably during international conferences and thematic meetings.

The tools for the implementation of the FAO and OIE activities cannot all be listed in this note. However, some can be mentioned such as GF-TADs, GLEWS platform (jointly with WHO), OFFLU and the Crises Management Centre for animal health (CMC-AH) or Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC).

Final version signed on 6th October 2008
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the World Organisation for Animal Health concerning the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

On 19 December 2008: signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the OIE and Bulgaria by Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE and Ms Irina Bokova, Ambassador of Bulgaria, at the Embassy of Bulgaria, Paris (France)  
OIE Participants: Dr B. Vallat, Dr J.-L. Angot & Prof. Dr N.T. Belev  
Participants from Bulgaria: Ms Irina Bokova (Ambassador of Bulgaria), Ms Katia Deleva (Minister Plenipotentiary) & Mr Encho Dimitrov (Second Secretary)
Bluetongue in northern Europe: appearance of new serotypes within an enzootic ground

Due to its significant socio-economic impact and its major repercussions on international trade in animals and animal products, bluetongue is a disease that must be notified to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (7, 8). In August 2006, the unexpected emergence of bluetongue virus serotype 8 (BTV-8) in northern Europe caused an unprecedented epizootic of bluetongue, which affected cattle more than previously (exacerbated virulence with the appearance of severe clinical signs including reproductive disorders) and was carried by culcoid vectors indigenous to northern Europe. New elements dating from 2008 are described in this update, which postdates the publication by the World Organisation for Animal Health of ‘Bluetongue in northern Europe’ (10).

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Spread of bluetongue virus infection in northern and Mediterranean Europe in 2008
Between the first declaration (17 August 2006) and 1 February 2007, 2,122 outbreaks of bluetongue were recorded in the European Commission’s Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS). The first new upsurge of bluetongue (BTV-8) in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, northern France, and Luxembourg in 2007, its subsequent spread to other countries (Denmark, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Italy) and its incursion into the United Kingdom were reported. A second upsurge in 2008, notably in France, and its further spread to Austria, Spain and Sweden suggest that bluetongue has become enzootic in northern Europe (9). The inexorable spread of BTV-8 through Europe, coupled with the recent progression...
of BTV-1 in the southwest of France from outbreaks in Spain, increases the risk of combined infection by both these serotypes, as well as between these and other serotypes, in particular those circulating in the Mediterranean basin. Nor can we rule out the possibility of the latter serotypes spreading from the Mediterranean zone to more northern latitudes. This progression also increases the risk of BTV-8 reaching a geographical zone where the vector *Culicoides imicola* is present and active for a longer period of the year, which could influence the occurrence of BTV-8 outbreaks.

Weekly changes in the number of bluetongue outbreaks in European Union Member States can be monitored using the information recorded in the ADNS (ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/adns/index_en.htm). Weekly spatial changes can be displayed using the EU-BTNET system (eubtnet.izs.it/btnet/). This system is closely linked to the ADNS system for information on European Union Member States and to the animal health information in the OIE WAHIS system (www.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=home) for information on other countries. Additional information is available from the OIE Reference Laboratory (Pirbright Laboratory, Institute for Animal Health, United Kingdom, www.iah.bbsrc.ac.uk/).

The accuracy of the information at any given time nevertheless depends on how quickly each Member State notifies validated information on bluetongue. Figure 1 above shows a map of the restricted zones for each of the serotypes registered.

Appearance of an attenuated vaccine strain of serotype 6 in the Netherlands

October 2008 was marked by a surprising discovery in the east of the Netherlands of four outbreaks of bluetongue in cattle, caused by BTV-6, a serotype not previously encountered in Europe. Vaccination against serotype 8 had been used in the infected farms. The clinical signs associated with this infection were quite mild (inflammation of coronary bands) and the morbidity rate remained low in the infected
farms (in percentage terms). A cautious approach is needed given the special context of this infection. It occurred in a population naturally and heterologously immunised against bluetongue serotype 8. Until this new occurrence, BTV-6 had been identified only in sub-Saharan Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Central America and the Caribbean.

A more detailed characterisation of the virus was carried out at the OIE Reference Laboratory (Pirbright Laboratory), which showed it to be related to a strain of BTV-6 present in a polyvalent attenuated vaccine produced in South Africa. Moreover, it also appeared to be a reassorted virus. The illegal use of a live vaccine was put forward as an hypothesis to explain this outbreak, but it is not the only possible explanation. More complete molecular and epidemiological data will be needed before the outbreak can be definitely confirmed as vaccinal in origin. The risks of using multivalent attenuated vaccines include reversion to virulence, reassortment between the genomic segments of a vaccine strain and a wild virus, and the introduction of exotic serotypes into countries previously free from the disease. Cases of infection with serotype 6 have also been reported in Germany, with similar clinical signs. No cases of mortality have been reported in either the Netherlands or Germany.

Possible new serotype in goats in Switzerland (serotype 25?)

A potential new orbivirus, named Toggenburg virus (after the region where it was identified) has been isolated in a goat in Switzerland (4). The molecular profile, based on the sequencing of 7 of the 10 genome segments in this virus, is distinctive, and it could be a 25th serotype of bluetongue virus. Laboratory observations of naturally infected adult goats showed a very low level of specific antibodies and viraemia with no visible clinical signs. Experimental infections were used to demonstrate the transmissibility of the infectious agent and its multiplication in goats (receptive species), with no clinical signs. Subsequent research also detected a few herds in other Swiss cantons with seropositive and polymerase chain reaction-positive goats. To date, none of the cattle on the same holdings as the goats has tested seropositive. Infection with Toggenburg virus thus seems to be restricted to small ruminants. Only time will tell whether this virus can definitely be considered as the 25th serotype of bluetongue virus.

Overlapping of infections with serotypes 1 and 8 in France and of serotypes 6 and 8 in the Netherlands

The current epidemiological situation raises the possibility of viral super-infection and co-infection within a given host or vector with, for example, serotypes 1 and 8 (France) or serotypes 6 and 8 (Netherlands), the clinical and epidemiological consequences of which cannot currently be evaluated. In the event of a cell becoming co-infected by two viruses of different strains (serotypes), newly generated viruses may have acquired some of their genomic segments from one of the two parental viruses and the remainder from the other. Genetic reassortment in this way is particularly important for the development of RNA viruses such as BTV. The likelihood of reassortment occurring and the potential changes in virulence of reassorted viruses are difficult to predict, but such phenomena have already been observed in the past between wild strains or between a wild strain and an attenuated vaccine strain. Depending on vaccination, the appearance of new serotypes as a result of reassortment or from other orbiviruses, the clinical signs associated with bluetongue may evolve. Any animal presenting clinical signs consistent with bluetongue after vaccination should lead one to suspect the presence of a serotype not covered by the vaccination, the emergence of a new orbivirus or a reassorted virus. In this situation, veterinary practitioners and livestock farmers must alert the authorities so that additional tests can be carried out to check for the presence of a bluetongue virus antigenically different from the serotype(s) against which the animal was vaccinated and to investigate the source of any newly introduced animals.
Other modes of transmission
Although vector transmission is the predominant mode, other modes of transmission have recently been documented in cattle for serotype 8; transplacental transmission in the absence of vector activity and, less commonly, horizontal transmission by ingestion of infected placenta (6). A field study carried out in Belgium examined the virological and serological status of cow–calf pairs and estimated that transplacental transmission occurs in 10% of cases (2). These modes must also be taken into account in the control strategy in the longer term, since they enable the disease to become endemic in Europe by helping to maintain the virus in winter (a phenomenon known as overwintering).

Vaccination campaigns in Europe using inactivated vaccines
Faced with a situation where bluetongue becomes enzootic, two measures must be given priority: strategic vaccination (based on existing scientific knowledge) using inactivated vaccines and a reduction in the number of contacts between the vectors and susceptible and/or receptive animals. The countries affected or threatened have implemented large-scale vaccination campaigns using inactivated vaccines (BTV-8, BTV-1) in order to minimise the clinical incidence of the disease and to protect susceptible livestock. Regular monitoring of these campaigns is possible at the following Web site: ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/scfcah/animal_health/index_en.htm

An update on the culicoid vectors involved
Following the emergence of bluetongue in 2006, entomological surveillance was carried out in the affected countries using culicoid traps. From the data obtained, it transpires that C. imicola is not present, unlike the C. obsoletus/C. scoticus complex, which was regularly observed, and to a lesser degree, C. dewulfi (phylogenetically quite close to C. imicola) and C. chiopterus (3, 5). The parity rate was quite high, which is conducive to vectorial transmission. It was also found that Culicoides could be captured gorged with blood in sheep and goat sheds, even during the winter (the period when vectors are normally considered to be inactive). C. pulicaris was only rarely captured. Since the above-mentioned midges are well established in central and northern Europe, the entire region must now be considered to be at risk of bluetongue. In addition, the susceptibility of C. obsoletus, C. scoticus, C. dewulfi and C. chiopterus has recently been evaluated following the experimental infection of Culicoides with BTV-8 and it was demonstrated that C. obsoletus and C. scoticus were receptive, the viral load being three times greater in C. scoticus (1). This experiment opens the way for more extensive research throughout Europe to more accurately plot the vectorial competence and capacity of the Culicoides found in these regions.

The need for modelling
There is now a clear need for modelling since it would help to predict the dynamics of the infection and contribute to decision-making to improve control of bluetongue. Improvements to existing models will require a multi-disciplinary approach and be informed by our improved understanding of the biology of the infection and the ecology of the vectors involved.
References


The elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs in the region of the Americas by 2005 was a decision taken by all members of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in the 1980s. Between 1982 and 2003, the number of cases of rabies in humans decreased from 355 to 35 (91%), and the number of cases of canine rabies decreased from 15,686 to 1,131 (93%) (PAHO, 2005). This trend has remained the same since then: a total of 14 cases of human rabies and 740 cases of canine rabies were reported in 2008 (data as of 29 December 2008, Panafota, 2008).

Latin America was able to achieve this significant reduction because national governments, in collaboration with PAHO, made sincere commitments to eliminate dog-transmitted human rabies. The governments in the region endorsed a political decision to eliminate the disease, allocating nearly US$ 40 million annually for this purpose. Equally important were efforts to train personnel to implement rabies control and surveillance measures (PAHO, 2005, Schneider et al. 2007, Dodet et al. 2008).

This success is fundamentally due to an action plan based on mass vaccination campaigns in dogs and appropriate treatment of people potentially at risk of contracting the disease: pre- and post-exposure treatment, epidemiological surveillance, education and communication initiatives. Every year in the region around 44 million dogs are vaccinated and approximately 1 million people receive post-exposure treatment (PAHO, 2005, Schneider et al. 2007).
Conclusion

When countries decide to eliminate rabies and coordinate their efforts, it is possible to achieve this goal. This requires a sound rabies surveillance system: prioritisation by health authorities; cooperation between health, agricultural and environmental/wildlife agencies; standardisation, especially as to the laboratory and epidemiological methods utilised; decentralisation; recognition and use of critical feedback from those who implement the system locally; coordination between local and national reporting authorities; interpretation, using comprehensive analytical methods, to understand and explain the information collected; education via public outreach to enable and enhance submissions and community participation; integration, beyond government activities, with local NGOs\(^1\) and academic programmes; modernisation; communication, timely reporting to stakeholders; collaboration at both national and international levels; and legislation ensuring that rabies is a reportable disease (Dodet et al. 2008).

The new challenges for rabies control in the Americas are the final eradication of dog-transmitted rabies where it still occurs and the control of bat-transmitted rabies. In 2004, out of a total of 71 cases of rabies in humans in Latin America, 47 cases were transmitted by wild animals, 46 of which were bats. The control of wildlife-transmitted rabies will require a joint effort between various sectors, including the public health, animal health and environment sectors.

Dr Nilton Antonio de Morais

\(^1\) NGOs: non-governmental organisations

References


Developments in Biologicals, 131, 95-122.


activities of reference laboratories & collaborating centres

Use of laboratory tests for pathogen screening in international movements of animals or animal products

This text has been prepared to indicate how the OIE standards in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Terrestrial Code) and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (Terrestrial Manual) should be applied when determining the use of laboratory tests for specific diseases to screen animals and animal products when they are moved between countries or between zones or compartments of differing animal health status.

The *Terrestrial Code* defines the measures that should be taken to protect the animal health status of a country, zone or compartment when moving animals or animal products from a different country, zone or compartment. The measures vary according to the nature of the disease in question, and the health status of both the place of origin and the destination involved in the movement. Examples may be seen by referring to the chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, and may include periods of quarantine, clinical examination for signs of disease, or laboratory tests on samples from the animals or products. These laboratory tests should, wherever possible, be in accordance with the OIE list of Prescribed Tests for specific diseases. For some diseases Alternative Tests are also listed. These are considered by the OIE to be useful in certain circumstances for international movement testing, but are less well characterised or validated than the Prescribed Tests and should therefore be used only by mutual agreement between importing and exporting countries.
The Terrestrial Manual provides detailed descriptions of laboratory tests that can be used in a variety of applications for individual diseases, including diagnosis, disease control, surveillance, epidemiological studies and screening for international movement. Only those tests that are suitable for international movement testing are included in the OIE list of Prescribed and Alternative Tests. Prescribed test methods are also highlighted with blue text in the Terrestrial Manual. Wherever the Terrestrial Code requires that tests be carried out for international movement, the Terrestrial Manual should provide a recommended laboratory method. Normally this is by designation of a Prescribed Test. Exceptionally, for diseases where there is no well-validated test available, only Alternative Tests may be designated in the Terrestrial Manual. When the Terrestrial Manual does not designate Prescribed or Alternative Tests, this is because there is no requirement in the Terrestrial Code for testing for that disease prior to international movements.

Although the OIE list of Prescribed and Alternative Tests gives only summary descriptions of the tests (e.g. enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay [ELISA], or polymerase chain reaction [PCR]) it should not be assumed that all tests under that description are suitable for international movement. Only the method described in the Terrestrial Manual should be used, or else a method that has been fully validated to show equivalent performance to the designated Prescribed Test method. ‘Validation’ in this context means compliance with the OIE validation template and the more detailed description in the validation chapter of the Terrestrial Manual.

The OIE Register of diagnostic tests provides a mechanism for diagnostic kit manufacturers to gain formal recognition that their kit has reached a specified level of performance and validation according to a series of ‘fitness for purpose’ designations. One of those purposes is international movement, and a kit on the Register that is declared fit for such purpose can be considered as fulfilling the requirements of the appropriate Prescribed Test for that disease.
This book contains comprehensive and updated information on how to perform avian influenza and Newcastle disease diagnosis from the suspicion in the field to the characterisation of isolates. It provides guidelines to outbreak management, field investigation, necropsy techniques, sampling methods and complete laboratory diagnosis, including molecular methods. The outstanding images collected from field outbreaks, including clinical and pathological findings, and the selection of laboratory protocols make this publication unique. It will therefore be an invaluable tool for all veterinarians, scientists, animal health professionals, and public health officials involved in the management of these infections.

Tourism Management: Analysis, Behaviour and Strategy

Authors: A. Woodside & D. Martin
February 2008
In English
592 pp.
ISBN: 978-1-84593-323-4
Publisher: CABI
www.cABI.org/index.asp

Planning and implementing successful tourism programmes requires in depth predictions of tourist behaviour. However, the actions of tourists are not always based upon conscious thinking and decision-making and therefore more realistic and practical management strategies are needed. Tourism Management provides an in-depth coverage of sense-making, planning, implementing, evaluating and administering tourism marketing and management programmes. Recent advances in tourism theory and research on causal history and ecological systems are used to discuss how leisure and tourism occur. This book offers useful descriptions, tools, and examples of tourism management decision-making.
The history of vaccination marks an important page in the history of mankind. Along with the development of hygiene, vaccination has undoubtedly been the most significant advance in medicine. Yet, this subject that has revolutionised both human and veterinary medicine has rarely received the attention it deserves. This has now been put right by this original work which, with a number of black and white illustrations, describes the history of vaccination, which is such as common feature of our society today. From smallpox vaccination to the research by Pasteur and advances in molecular biology, discover the spectacular development of human and veterinary vaccinology.

The BRAVE project (Bee Research and Virology in Europe) was selected from the call for proposals FP6-2003-SSP3, where one of the objectives was the ‘Assessment of the level of risk and the likely consequences for bees and other closely related pollinators of the introduction of bee viruses to Europe’. BRAVE was aimed at knowledge transfer between experts with a broad base of skills in insect virology diagnosis, immunology, epidemiology, international trade and risk management, along with scientists involved in fundamental and applied research on bees and related pollinator species. More than 60 world experts exchanged their knowledge during a preliminary meeting in Sophia-Antipolis, France, in April 2005. Following this first meeting, a smaller panel of experts gathered in Tourtour (Fondation des Treilles, Tourtour, France) in September 2005 and produced this book which, in addition to being an overview of current virology status of the honey bee, also proposes a framework for future research programmes on virology and the honey bee.
The importance of food safety for human health is widely recognised. The safety of foods of animal origin is particularly relevant because the large majority of foodborne diseases derive from poultry, eggs, meat, dairy products and fish. This textbook provides an integrated approach to this type of food production, hygiene and safety and shows how it results in concurrent benefits for animal well being, human health, protection of the environment and socioeconomics.

Topics covered include ways of optimising farming practices, controlling notifiable and zoonotic diseases, hygienic animal slaughter, food preservation and processing, food retailing, and food handling in catering and domestic environments. This book will be of significant interest to students of veterinary medicine, animal science, environmental health and food science and technology.

Main contents
Part 1. On-farm phase in the context of the food chain
Part 2. Hygiene of meat production–processing and meat inspection
Part 3. Hygiene of production–processing of other foods and retail–consumer food safety
Part 4. Stable-to-table concept
Principles of longitudinal and integrated food safety assurance

Exposure assessment is one of the four steps of microbiological risk assessment, which include hazard identification, exposure assessment, hazard characterisation and risk characterization. It provides an estimation of the likely intake of a microbiological hazard in a specific food or a range of foods. It can be undertaken qualitatively or quantitatively and ideally will also provide information on the actual amount of hazard consumed.

This volume provides guidelines for the exposure assessment of microbiological hazards in food. It outlines the principles of exposure assessment as well as the data needed and approaches available for carrying out exposure assessment. The guidelines also address the issues of uncertainty, variability, quality and communication as they relate to exposure assessment.
The third volume of the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) Biology of Animal Infections Series, *Bluetongue* discusses one of the most economically important diseases of domesticated livestock. Affecting primarily sheep particularly the improved mutton and wool breeds, it is now endemic in Africa, India, the Middle and Far East, Australia and the Americas, and over the last six years has caused a series of outbreaks throughout the Mediterranean region and northern Europe. Bluetongue represent a paradigm not only for the other orbiviruses (such as African horse sickness virus, which shares the same vector species) but also for other insect transmitted diseases, including those of humans.
2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare
‘Putting the OIE Standards to Work’

Cairo, Egypt (20-22 October 2008)

The Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, held in Cairo, Egypt (20-22 October) rallied support from all OIE Members and partners for worldwide implementation of animal welfare standards worldwide and assistance for developing countries in this field.

‘Egypt strongly supports the OIE’s work in animal welfare and is honoured to host this special event marking global progress in this key field,’
said Egypt’s Minister of Agriculture, Mr Amin Abaza, at the event.

‘The Conference has reviewed the state of animal welfare legislation and practices worldwide and has identified specific challenges in several regions and countries. There is already a strong consensus in support of OIE animal welfare standards, but more action is needed globally to improve their effective implementation,’

Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, said.

This view is supported by a World Bank study on ‘Livestock and Slaughter Waste Management’, which found that animal welfare practices in markets, transport and abattoirs are generally absent from national legislation in many countries. According to the study, animal welfare controls are also missing, in part due to a lack of knowledge on the issue and of public resources.

In addition to reviewing the state of the implementation of existing OIE animal welfare standards for the transport of livestock by land, sea and air, the slaughter of animals for human consumption and the killing of animals
animal welfare research institutes, representatives of partner international organisations, regulatory officials, and representatives of international organisations, non-governmental and farmers’ organisations, asserted the need for the development of additional OIE standards and scientific research in animal welfare. Work in progress at the OIE covers the welfare of animals used for experimentation and the control of stray dog populations.

Animal welfare: a competitive argument for all
Animal health is now recognised as a key component of animal welfare and improves the competitive performance of the food industry and producers.

Speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), J.J. Grigera Naón cited the results of a study conducted in Argentina in 2007 on 17,370 slaughtered animals: ‘Better handling of animals in slaughterhouses resulted in a 39% decrease in injuries, which implies, on a national basis, a production of 14,200 extra tons of beef for human consumption, valued at 28,000,000 US dollars on the international market.’

Participants supported the need for harmonisation of standards on a transparent, democratic and scientific basis, particularly for the private animal welfare standards that are increasingly coming into play.

Industry representatives at the Conference stressed the constraints arising from differing cultural and economic contexts but agreed that: ‘OIE [animal welfare] guidelines are crucial to help ensure that modern animal production systems and practices remain compatible with animal welfare. […] The need to have a common global basis for animal welfare requirements is a wish totally shared by economic operators’.

Success lies in empowering Veterinary Services to implement standards and ensure compliance
Success lies in the empowerment of national Veterinary Services, which need appropriate tools, such as legislation, training and adequate financial and human resources in the field of animal welfare standards implementation and control. The conclusions of the World Bank study support the OIE stance, recommending that appropriate training in animal welfare be dispensed to all veterinarians.

‘The Conference has certainly succeeded in raising the profile of animal welfare, but more needs to be done. Veterinarians and Veterinary Services and their partners throughout

Opening Session by Dr Bernard Vallat

Opening Session - Dr Salman A. Nabi, President of the OIE Regional Commision for the Middle East, Bahrain, Dr Barry O’Neill, President of the OIE International Committee, New Zealand and Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General, OIE
the world must take greater responsibility for animal welfare’, emphasised Dr Vallat.

OIE regional strategies – where Members take joint action towards the implementation of OIE global animal welfare standards also taking into account regional cultures and practices – are one positive step towards filling current gaps. A first such initiative using an integrated planning approach to animal welfare at the national level is proving successful in Asia. The OIE pledged to bring technical advice and support to all its Members through the engagement of the organisation’s Regional Representations.

The OIE has launched other animal welfare initiatives, including an educational resources database to enrich the veterinary and agriculture curriculum in all countries.

**Background information**

The 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare was organised with the generous support of the Egyptian government, the European Commission and several national sponsors.

The 1st OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare was held in Paris in 2004 and paved the way for the unanimous adoption of a first series of global animal welfare standards by OIE Members.
CONSIDERING THAT:

– Economic and social development must be addressed in parallel with animal welfare and that a progressive implementation of OIE standards, adapted to the economic situation and capacities of Members, is appropriate;

– animal health is a key component of animal welfare;

– that one of the objectives of the OIE is to facilitate international trade in animals and animal products;

– that the OIE is the unique reference organisation globally for the elaboration of international animal welfare standards;

– the OIE Strategic Plan has included animal welfare since 2001 and that the current Strategic Plan contains provisions for action, coordination and integrated planning on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare at the national, regional and global level;

– it is of concern that some private standards for animal welfare are not consistent with the OIE standards;

– OIE regional strategies, based on global animal welfare standards, represent a shared vision between government and the private sector, built upon collaboration between the various sectors, including animal health, public health, industry (production, transport and processing), academic and research sectors;

– animal welfare standards should be democratically and transparently adopted and both science- and ethics-based, bearing in mind the production systems and uses of animals of each Member and the relevant environmental, regional, geographic, economic, cultural and religious aspects;

– scientific information should be the basis for the preparation of international standards and that these should be appropriately evaluated and validated taking into account the different circumstances and contexts relevant to the Members;

– the need to promote scientific research, capacity building, education and communication in the animal welfare area;

– the ongoing work of the OIE in reinforcing the capacity of Veterinary Services, using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) with the legal basis in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code);

– the continuing support of the OIE for twinning programmes involving OIE Collaborating Centres;

– a number of important and relevant topics and issues were identified at the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

THE OIE IS REQUESTED TO:

– provide appropriate technical support to Members in the implementation of the OIE standards, including through the provision of tools relevant to 1) veterinary legislation, 2) veterinary education on animal welfare, and 3) good governance of Veterinary Services;

– describe Veterinary Services’ responsibilities for animal welfare in the Terrestrial Code and to include appropriate references in the OIE PVS Tool;

– work closely with donors and international organisations that have a commitment to animal welfare to help Veterinary Services and their partners in developing countries to implement the OIE animal welfare standards;

– continue collaboration at the regional level, with involvement of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations to support the development of strategies to address regional needs and priorities;

– advocate the role and responsibility of the Veterinary Services, including public and private sector veterinarians, in animal welfare and promote technical support for veterinary education and the provision of information on animal health and welfare, particularly to animal owners and handlers;

– collaborate and form partnerships with organisations representing all relevant sectors of the production and distribution chain for animals and animal products to develop and promote the OIE animal welfare standards as the key reference for national, regional and international trade and to urge the private sector to adopt private standards for animal welfare that are consistent with the OIE standards;

– influence those responsible for making decisions on scientific research to develop new programmes addressing animal welfare priorities;

– promote the development of twinning programmes with OIE Collaborating Centres in the field of animal welfare;

– continue to work on the standard-setting priorities established by the OIE International Committee as well as the priorities for standard setting on humane methods for controlling stray dog populations’ and free-ranging cats and wild invasive species;

– consider establishing a procedure for determining priorities for future standards development.

THE OIE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO:

– create or update, where necessary, legislation that prevents cruelty to animals as well as legislation that establishes a legal basis for complying with OIE standards for animal health, safety of animal products for human consumption and animal welfare, as well as supporting guidelines for the use of good practice to encourage compliance with OIE standards;

– support the development of programmes for education and scientific research relevant to animal welfare. Education programmes should be directed at key players, particularly veterinarians, livestock owners and animal handlers, NGOs and other key target categories, such as women and children;

– promote the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration addressing animal welfare, including compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards;

– nominate OIE animal welfare national focal points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate and to develop national programmes;

– encourage the private sector to respect OIE standards and not to adopt private standards that are in conflict with the OIE standards, particularly for the importation of animal products from developing countries.

– consider establishing a procedure for determining priorities for future standards development.
Avian Influenza International Ministerial Conference

Sharm El-Sheikh, 25-26 October 2008

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) welcomes the conclusions and vision of the future expressed at the International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (25-26 October 2008, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt), which consolidate the views shared by the OIE and sister organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, and the World Bank.

The OIE delegation was headed by its Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat. In his opening address, he issued the following warning:

‘... any programme for the final eradication of H5N1 in poultry must be linked to incentives for improvement of poultry production and control of other poultry diseases at backyard poultry owner level and [the programme] must be supported by the international community, focusing on the few countries with an endemic situation.’

He also spoke of the possibility of cross infections, whereby infected humans could re-introduce the pandemic strain into animals, as a critical aspect of global human pandemic preparedness. Such cross infections would complicate the eradication of the disease in both humans and animals and justify increased cooperation between veterinary and medical services.

Furthermore, Dr Vallat underlined the importance of permanently monitoring the situation in both the animal and human sector thanks to Member Countries’ efforts in the field of surveillance and early detection of diseases.

It was agreed that a better understanding of the causes of the emergence and spread of infectious diseases is needed under the broad perspective of the ‘One World, One Health’ (OWOH) principles, which have been developed jointly by the four specialised agencies FAO, OIE, WHO, UNICEF, along with the World Bank and the United Nations System Influenza Coordinator (UNSIC), in response to the recommendation made at the New Delhi international conference on highly pathogenic influenza (HPAI) H5N1 (New Delhi, India, December 2007).

Dr Vallat highlighted the need to change initial and continuous training programmes of both veterinarians and physicians in the field of zoonoses. He announced that the OIE would be organising a global conference on veterinary education, to be held in Paris, France, in October 2009.

The parallel implementation of the existing mechanisms adopted by countries will be necessary: the WHO International Health Regulations (WHO-IHR) relating to public health, the OIE WAHIS notification system for animal diseases, and GLEWS (Global Early Warning System), the joint platform for disease information shared by WHO, the OIE and FAO.

The Conference took steps to ensure that the best possible means are put in place for worldwide control of the disease in animals and prevention of the global threat represented by H5N1 avian influenza.
The 6th International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza
25-26 October 2008, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

The Sharm el-Sheikh vision for the future by the Government of Egypt
Universal solidarity, justice and equity

Approximately 530 Government Ministers and senior officials (representing more than 120 countries and 26 International and Regional Organisations), representatives of international and regional organisations, non-governmental groups and private entities, and researchers, participated in the 6th International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Sharm el Sheikh, hosted by the Government of Egypt on 25-26 October 2008.

Evolving pattern of work since 2005

Participants in the conference reiterated the need to sustain global efforts as outlined in previous international ministerial conferences: Washington (2005), Beijing, Vienna, Bamako (2006), and New Delhi (2007), as well as the partners technical meeting organised by FAO, OIE, WHO, and World Bank in Geneva 2005. The Washington meeting inaugurated the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. The Beijing principles outlined the core strategy for controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and preparing for an influenza pandemic; the Bamako Declaration emphasised the importance of international cooperation to support preparedness and response capacity in Africa; the New Delhi Road Map offered a valuable benchmark for the preparedness efforts of national authorities and proposed a convergence between animal and human health systems through contributions to the ‘One World, One Health’ concept.

Progress to date and factors for success

The Progress Report presented at the Conference ‘Responses to Avian Influenza and State of Pandemic Readiness’, prepared by the UN System Influenza Coordinator and the World Bank, indicated that in 2008 there have been fewer outbreaks of HPAI in poultry, in fewer countries, and fewer reported human cases of H5N1 infection, than in the preceding two years. This presents a unique opportunity to build on the tools and platforms which have enabled this success to address broader global threats. Despite these successes, the world must still prepare to contain, and if necessary mitigate, an influenza pandemic.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE
The challenges addressed in Sharm el-Sheikh

During the conference, Ministers and senior officials addressed three challenges:
1. ensuring that the world is fully prepared to mitigate the impact of an influenza pandemic or another unforeseen catastrophe;
2. sustaining efforts to control HPAI, especially in poultry; and – eventually – to eradicate H5N1 from domestic animals in the remaining contaminated countries;
3. initiating longer term action – responding to infectious diseases that emerge at the animal, human and ecosystem interface, and are capable of causing severe damage and affecting livelihoods.

Participants considered these challenges as they analysed national, regional and global efforts to prevent and control major diseases and prepare for pandemics and respond both to HPAI and other emerging infectious diseases of animal origin (EIDAO). They recognised that success usually reflects a number of different factors, working together within each country at both national and local levels.

These include:
- sustained engagement of political leaders,
- surge capacity – when necessary – to rapidly increase the deployment of skilled professional response teams,
- collaborative action across government ministries (including livestock, health, environment, disaster response and civil defense services),
- continuous engagement of the private sector and civil society,
- functioning systems to ensure incentives and compensation for economic losses; and
- engagement of communities and decision makers through integrated, sustained and transparent communication.

Participants emphasised the need to continue to support, strengthen and improve the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network and its procedures through the timely sharing of viruses or specimens with WHO collaborating centres, as a foundation of public health, to ensure critical risk assessment and response, and to aim to ensure and promote transparent, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the generation of information, diagnostics, medicines, vaccines and other technologies. Participants also highlighted the need to increased vaccine production capacities.

Participants also identified the ongoing need for applied research, product development and the prompt transfer of relevant technologies.

In their interventions, participants presented visions to guide collective action in 2009 and beyond; they established priorities that call for urgent attention and identified ways of working that best contribute to successful implementation.

They noted that though the threats of HPAI and an influenza pandemic persist, the current strategies have led to promising results. In order to sustain improvements in animal health, ensure human health security, and prepare the world for a pandemic, the approach must be sustained in years to come: this calls both for continued political engagement from national leaders, robust institutional arrangements that encourage joint working within...
Participants expressed determination to continue efforts to ensure that test and update pandemic plans. Continued need to develop, contaminated countries as possible, and to prevent human cases. Domestic animals in the short to medium term in as many of the with the application of all available technologies, to eliminate H5N1 in and with focus on those places where viral transmission persists and to intensify production of vaccines and medicines. Veterinary and public health systems in poorer countries are in need of urgent technical and financial support so that they function to global standards for animal and human disease prevention, surveillance and response in line with the International Health Regulations, the OIE’s World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS).

Participants highlighted paying urgent attention to the needs of developing countries, and especially in regards to the sixth goal of the Millennium Development Goals which focuses on combating diseases. Participants discussed sustained, long term international investment: (a) to develop and improve the governance of animal health systems and ensure that public health systems support implementation of the International Health Regulations, OIE standards and FAO guidelines; (b) fairer and more equitable access to and distribution of medicines, vaccines and other requirements, including supporting production capacity to meet the needs of the global, community, so that they bring benefits to poorer people and poorer countries that would otherwise be unable to access them.

**Eradication of HPAI H5N1 in poultry and minimise the risk of human infections**

Participants also envisaged that it is feasible, though concerted action and with focus on those places where viral transmission persists and with the application of all available technologies, to eliminate H5N1 in domestic animals in the short to medium term in as many of the contaminated countries as possible, and to prevent human cases.

**Continued need to develop, test and update pandemic plans**

Participants expressed determination to continue efforts to ensure that the pandemic preparedness efforts of national authorities are multi-sectoral and involve the full range of concerned sectors within government, stakeholders from private entities, the voluntary sector and civil society. They recognised that simulation exercises were an effective means of identifying gaps and weaknesses in pandemic preparedness plans. They noted that pandemic preparedness should be an essential element of broader national disaster management plans, which will strengthen the resilience of societies and communities when faced with a range of future threats. They noted the importance of business continuity planning to maintain essential services (water, power, shelter, food, transport, finance, public order, healthcare). They noted the importance of planning to meet the humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in poor countries.

**Information and material sharing and transparency**

Participants emphasised that the open and transparent sharing of virological and epidemiological information, materials, and technologies at national, regional and international levels contributes to our ability to adequately assess and mitigate national, regional and global public health, animal health and pandemic risks, and should be facilitated. Participants discussed approaches aiming to ensure and promote transparent, fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

**Strategic communication and policy advocacy**

It was recognised that national communication plans need to include a stronger advocacy element. Greater advocacy with governments by civil society and the international community should also be undertaken. Innovative communication technologies should be fully utilised to raise government awareness and to support government’s communication strategies with the public.

**Behaviour and social change communication**

It was suggested that communities everywhere should be engaged in the planning and implementation of strategies for HPAI control and pandemic preparedness and response. Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, Information, Tourism and others, as well as national and international media and non-governmental organisations, should be encouraged to collaborate to change attitudes, behaviours and practices amongst all national, migrant and refugee communities especially in countries affected by HPAI.

**Prevention of and response to emerging diseases of animal origin**

Participants appreciated that the effort to control HPAI and prepare for a pandemic had paved the way for an enhanced worldwide effort to reduce risks associated with emerging diseases of animal origin. They discussed “Contributing to One World, One Health,” a strategic framework for reducing risks of infectious disease at the animal-human-ecosystem interface which was prepared by FAO, OIE, WHO,
UNICEF and the World Bank. They accepted that this approach shows promise and discussions in the conference represent a first step in its development and implementation. National and regional authorities should take time to consider this approach.

**Education and training**
Participants noted the need to adapt medical and veterinary curricula to strengthen initial and continuing training of officials for human and animal health services, including appropriate ecosystems health studies. The need for increased harmonisation of animal and human health training was also noted.

**Research and development**
There are a significant number of important research issues that need attention in addressing the problem of HPAI and other emerging infectious diseases (EID) with zoonotic and/or pandemic potential. These include improved understanding of the drivers, factors for spread, and pathogen ecology and further areas for research will need to be identified and prioritised. In addition, the delivery of technical options needs to be improved and rationalised through, epidemiological studies linked to socio-economic and policy research. This should include an accelerated development of appropriate technology transfer including appropriate human and veterinary vaccines which are easier to administer and which produce longer lasting immunity. Support should be provided through international cooperation to improve the capacity of developing countries to produce these vaccines.

**PROSPECTIVE WAYS OF WORKING**
Recognising that societies derive many benefits from both HPAI control and pandemic preparedness efforts, participants emphasised continuing spirit of international partnership and equity, transparent sharing of information, and more equitable access to benefits, standardisation of indicators of progress and a greater focus on quantitative results, more involvement of the private sector and civil society, and continued engagement of regional organisations in the priority areas.

Participants noted that the Intergovernmental Meeting on ‘Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Sharing of Influenza Viruses and Access to Vaccines and other Benefits’ is scheduled to resume at the World Health Organization in Geneva in December 2008. They highlighted the importance of resolving the issues and coming to agreement in order to expedite pandemic influenza preparedness.

Participants noted and appreciated the generous support provided by the donor community throughout the international conference process, including the new pledges made during this conference. The continued gap between level of requirements and resources available was recognised, as was the importance for mobilisation of resources and sustained support from the donor community and concerned international organisations for developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained animal and human health and food security. Participants noted the current financial crisis. It was hoped that this would not negatively impact future support to combat avian and pandemic influenza.

Participants also recognised that effective partnerships take time to develop, and they appreciated that much of what has been achieved is a result of careful, patient and sustained effort by many dedicated organisations and individuals. They value the sequence of international ministerial conferences, and other international fora, that brings stakeholders together and offer a valuable opportunity for reflection, learning and commitment to coordinated action. They agreed to meet again to review progress and acknowledged that the Government of Vietnam has extended the invitation to host, if requested, such an event.

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**2008 ‘Grand Prix Éditorial’ of the medical press and health professions**

For the second year running, the NÉVA publishing house has been awarded the 1st Prize for the best continuing professional training article published in a journal for French veterinarians.

For further information, please contact

Maryvonne Barbaray NÉVA
Tel. 01 41 94 51 51
e-mail: neva@neva.fr

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**Award Ceremony**
From left to right:
Catherine Gaillard-Lavirotte, chief editor,
Maryvonne Barbaray, managing editor (NÉVA), Jean-Luc Cadoré, from the scientific committee, editorial director of the prize-winning article on jaundice.
Since its establishment in 1924, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has been committed to limiting the international spread of important trade sensitive diseases and zoonoses. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the OIE has considered the ultimate ideal not only to limit international spread of animal diseases but to gradually move towards the eventual eradication of some of the most important and devastating animal diseases. Diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), not only inhibit international trade in animals and animal products, but also have a potentially major negative impact on ensuring global food security and alleviation of poverty. This ideal has now almost been reached with the global eradication of rinderpest – a disease that with the exception of a small potential doubt in the horn of Africa can now almost be considered to have been totally eradicated.

Foot and mouth disease remains an important and priority disease to be considered as a candidate for long-term eradication from the cloven-hoofed livestock population in the world. In spite of intensive global, regional and national efforts to overcome the disease, more than 100 developing and in-transition countries of the world are not yet FMD free and thus remain a major inhibiting factor in the move towards a global liberalised trade in animals and animal products, to ensure an ideal of global food security and better market access for animals and animal products.

Since 1994 the OIE has given further impetus to the ideal of moving towards global freedom from FMD by providing international standards and guidelines to enable a system for officially recognising countries free from the disease to be set up. To further facilitate trade in animals and animal products the standards for officially recognising countries free from FMD have gradually been expanded to make provision to recognise FMD free zones within infected countries and more recently also disease free compartments as well as to further expand the concept to identify more animal products that can be traded as safe commodities even in the presence of the disease or irrespective of whether or not vaccination is applied to control the disease. Out of the 173 current Members of the OIE, 64 Members are already recognised by the OIE International Committee as free from FMD without practising vaccination; two Members are FMD free with vaccination, six Members have free zones where vaccination is practised and eight Members have free zones where no vaccination is practised.

This is however a slow process that depends on the ability of countries or territories to achieve and maintain the recognised disease-free status. It is also a costly process that necessitates sustainable and effective Veterinary Services and the political will and commitment. It is acknowledged that many developing and transitional countries experience their own unique problems to move towards the ideal of country or zonal freedom and that the international community should consider additional appropriate means to promote the concept of the global control of FMD and especially to assist developing and transitional countries and territories to become active participants in the pathway towards global freedom. This conference should therefore be considered an important step in moving along this pathway.

During the three days of the conference in Asuncion, Paraguay, the current situation of FMD in the world will be assessed with specific reference to international, regional and national efforts that are applied to control FMD. The updated control methods for the disease, the status of research on FMD, the application of disease surveillance methodologies; the application of and development of vaccines and the use, constraints and availability of diagnostic methods in susceptible species will all be assessed and evaluated against future needs and constraints. All these aspects will be presented by a selection of internationally recognised experts and debated by heads of Veterinary Services, veterinarians, scientists, researchers, farmers and other national and international stakeholders’ representatives from countries all over the world.
All existing regional strategies that include regional specificities will be presented by key regional policy makers. The conditions for funding sub-regional and national programmes will be presented by global donor representatives.

The deliberations will be concluded by proposing recommendations for adoption by the delegates to mobilise global organisations, donors, governments, the international veterinary community and all stakeholders to adopt a common commitment and strategies to start to move towards the global eradication of FMD.

The OIE and FAO acknowledge with sincere appreciation the generous financial contribution and support by the Servicio Nacional de Calidad y Salud Animal (SENACSA) of Paraguay, the Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento of Brazil and the European Commission to make this conference possible.

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### Provisional Programme

**Wednesday: 24 June**

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<td>Current situation of foot and mouth disease research and research needs</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>14.00 – 14.20</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease situation and control strategies in South America – the current situation</td>
<td>15.30 – 16.00</td>
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<td>14.20 – 14.40</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease situation and control strategies in Paraguay – the current situation</td>
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<td>14.40 – 15.00</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease situation and control strategies in Europe – the current situation</td>
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<td>15.00 – 15.20</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease situation and control strategies in sub Saharan Africa – the current situation</td>
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### Thursday: 25 June

#### SESSION 2.2

**DISEASE CONTROL METHODS TO MOVE TOWARDS GLOBAL ERADICATION: SURVEILLANCE**

**CHAIRMAN: DR ALF-ECKBERT FÜSSEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00</td>
<td>Global surveillance of foot and mouth disease: challenges, concepts, constraints</td>
<td>Dr Juan Lubroth</td>
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<td>09.20</td>
<td>OIE requirements on quality of veterinary services</td>
<td>Dr Herbert Schneider</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.40</td>
<td>Surveillance strategies for foot and mouth disease to prove absence from disease and absence from viral circulation</td>
<td>Dr Vincenzo Caporale</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Participatory epidemiology methods for foot and mouth disease surveillance</td>
<td>Dr Jeff Mariner</td>
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<td>10.20</td>
<td>Opportunities and constraints of wildlife in the diagnosis, sampling and epidemiology of foot and mouth disease infection</td>
<td>Dr Roy Bengis</td>
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<td>10.40</td>
<td>The application of zoning and compartmentalisation for FMD control</td>
<td>Dr Jorge Caetano</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
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#### SESSION 2.3

**DISEASE CONTROL METHODS TO MOVE TOWARDS GLOBAL ERADICATION: VACCINATION**

**CHAIRMAN: DR JAMIL GOMES DE SOUZA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>Availability and use of vaccines for FMD in different parts of the world</td>
<td>Dr Paul Van Aarle</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>The need for the application and availability of efficient vaccines in different species</td>
<td>Dr Gideon Brückner</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Assuring the potency, purity and quality of foot and mouth disease vaccines</td>
<td>Dr Eduardo Maradei</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>Strategic reserves of vaccines for foot and mouth disease – needs and applications</td>
<td>Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Opportunities for new FMD vaccines and alternative vaccine control strategies</td>
<td>Dr L. Rodriguez</td>
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<td>12.45</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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#### SESSION 2.4

**DISEASE CONTROL METHODS TO MOVE TOWARDS GLOBAL ERADICATION: DIAGNOSTICS**

**CHAIRMAN: DR VINCENZO CAPORALE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Diagnostic needs for different regions and stages of FMD control</td>
<td>Dr Aldo Dekker</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>The use of diagnostic kits and NSP tests for foot and mouth disease in cattle and in other susceptible species: constraints and challenges</td>
<td>Dr Ingrid Bergmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20</td>
<td>Interpretation of results of foot and mouth disease surveillance to distinguish between vaccinated and infected cattle</td>
<td>Dr Kris De Clercq</td>
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<td>15.40</td>
<td>Sampling, shipping and testing of FMDV inactivated samples</td>
<td>Dr S. Alexandersen</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>16.15</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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SESSION 3
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE
CHAIRMAN: DR JOSEPH DOMENECH

16.45 – 17.00 The OIE International standards for foot and mouth disease control – trade facilitating issues
Dr Alex Thiermann

17.00 – 17.15 Risk mitigating measures for FMDV in animal products from cloven-hoofed animals to facilitate national, regional and international trade
Dr Paul Kitching

17.15 – 17.30 How can government control and interact with private programs for FMD control – the view of the Federal Rural Association of MERCOSUR
Dr Sebastiao Guedes

17.30 – 18.00 Discussions

SESSION 4
MOVING TOWARDS GLOBAL CONTROL OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
CHAIRMAN: DR CARLOS CORREA MESSUTI

09.00 – 09.20 The hemispheric program for the eradication of foot and mouth disease – challenges and lessons learned
Dr Alejandro Schudel

09.20 – 09.40 Donors’ perspectives for moving towards global control of FMD – the view of the World Bank
Dr François Le Gall

09.40 – 10.00 The global control of foot and mouth disease: Challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from the global rinderpest campaign
Dr Joseph Domenech

10.00 – 10.30 A world without foot and mouth disease – the role and vision of the OIE and the use of communication tools
Dr Bernard Vallat

10.30 – 10.45 Discussions

SESSION 5
MOVING TOWARDS GLOBAL ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE: RECOMMENDATIONS
CHAIRMAN: DR BERNARD VALLAT

10.45 – 11.45 Presentation and adoption of recommendations

11.45 – 12.15 Closure of conference

12.30 Lunch
February

GLEWS TASK FORCE meeting (FAO/OIE/WHO)
2 February
OIE Headquarters, Paris
(France)
d.chaisemartin@oie.int

FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Coordination and Executive Meeting
3-4 February
OIE Headquarters, Paris
(France)
d.chaisemartin@oie.int

International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance
13-16 February
Vienna (Austria)
doris.steinbach@mci-group.com
imed.isid.org/

Meeting of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
10-13 February
OIE Headquarters, Paris
(France)
scientific.dept@oie.int

Re-emergence of Rift Valley Fever in Southern Africa: how can we better predict and respond?
16-18 February
Bloemfontein (South Africa)
p.bastiaensen@oie.int

Meeting of the OIE Administrative Commission
18-20 February
OIE Headquarters, Paris
(France)

18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa
22-26 February
N’Djamena (Chad)
regactivities.dept@oie.int

SPS Committee (Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
23-27 February
Geneva (Switzerland)
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spse.htm

Best Practices in Transnational Medicine, Drug Discovery, and Informatics
24 February
San Francisco, California
(United States of America)
chi@healthtech.com

Cambridge Healthtech Institute’s 16th International Molecular Medicine Tri-Conference
25-27 February
San Francisco, California
(United States of America)
chi@healthtech.com

January
(events not included in no. 2008-4)

Regulatory Affairs for Veterinary Medicines
13-14 January
Regus Victoria, London
(United Kingdom)
registration@pti-europe.c.co.uk

OIE Regional Workshop on Vaccine Production and Good Laboratory Practices
13-16 January
Bandung (Indonesia)
asia-pacific@oie.int

World Health Organisation Executive Council
19-20 January
Geneva (Switzerland)
www.who.int

Expert Meeting on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare
19-22 January
Brussels (Belgium)
Maria.FERRARA@ec.europa.eu
ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/index_en.htm
March

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
2-6 March
Paris (France)
trade.dept@oie.int
www.oie.int/TAHSC/eng/en_tahsc.htm

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
9-13 March
Paris (France)
trade.dept@oie.int
www.oie.int/aac/eng/en_fdc.htm

15th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in Southeast Asia
9-13 March
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (Malaysia)r.abila@oie.int

Second Conference of the International Society of Camelid Research and Development (ISOCARD)
11-14 March
Djerba (Tunisia)hadrami@uae.ac.ae
www.isocard.org/

3rd African Veterinary Congress
17-19 March
Yaounde (Cameroon)
Dr Fotso Kamga Zéphyrinfokaze@yahoo.fr
vetatvac@yahoo.com
www.onvc.org

First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability
23-25 March
Buenos Aires (Argentina)
traceability-2009@oie.int
www.oie.int/eng/traceability-2009/index.html

April

Fourth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
30 March – 3 April
Rome (Italy)
IPPC@fao.org
www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp

9th Annual Forum on pharmaco surveillance
7-8 April
Paris (France)
info@development-institute.com
www.development-institute.com/

1st International Conference on Biotechnology and Environmental Safety
14-16 April
Giza, Cairo (Egypt)h3abbas@yahoo.com
www.nrc.sci.eg

36th Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA
20-24 April
Cartagena (Colombia)

Course on Disease Outbreak Management (Part 1-distance learning)
20 April – 31May
Copenhagen (Denmark)Mette Giersing (metg@life.ku.dk)
Tel: +45 35333016
www.kursusinfo.life.ku.dk/Kurser/mvph/modules_and_courses/specific_courseplan/workshop.aspx

May

The European Veterinary Conference ‘Voorjaarsdagen’ 2009
23-25 April
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)info@voorjaarsdagen.org
www.voorjaarsdagen.org/index.php

The Impact of the Environment on Innate Immunity: The Threat of Diseases
4-9 May
Ötz Valley (Austria)
European Science Foundation Research Conferences Unit Brussels (Belgium)
Tel.: + 32 (0)2 533 2020
Fax: +32 (0)2 538 8486
conferences@esf.org
www.esf.org/conferences

OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
5-6 May
Gaborone (Botswana)
For English-speaking African countriesm.zampaglione@oie.int

7th International Symposium on Shiga Toxin (Verocytotoxin)-producing Escherichia coli infections
10-13 May
Buenos Aires (Argentina)info@vtec2009.com.ar
International Conference on the Use of Antimicrobials in Cattle Production
27-29 May
Kansas State University, Manhattan (United States of America)
wpacheco@ksu.edu

ACVIM Forum & Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention
3-6 June
Montreal (Canada)
ACVIM@ACVIM.org

June

WTO technical workshop on SPS measures
8-10 Juin, Maseru (Lesotho)
For English-speaking SADC member countries
In collaboration with OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius
p.bastiaensen@oie.int

Importation of animal products: threat or opportunity?
11-12 Juin, Maseru (Lesotho)
For English-speaking SADC member countries

Meeting of the OIE Administrative Commission
21-22 May
OIE Headquarters
Paris (France)

The European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) Workshop 2009
2-5 June
Dublin (Ireland)
Louise Farragher (Chair, Local Organising Committee)
lfarragher@hrb.ie
Tel.: +353 (0)1 2345 159
Paul Murphy (Chair, International Programme Committee)
pauljmurphy@rcsi.ie

International Symposium on Sustainable Improvement of Animal Production and Health
8-11 June
Vienna (Austria)
International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA-CN-174
Vienna International Centre
1400 Vienna (Austria)
APHS-Conference@iaea.org

Course on Disease Outbreak Management (Part 2-distance learning)
8-12 June
Faculty of LIFE Sciences, Copenhagen (Denmark)
Mette Giersing
Tel: +45 3533 3016
metg@life.ku.dk

Nanotechnology for the Study of Cellular and Molecular Interactions
14-18 June
Barga, Tuscany (Italy)
kstebe@seas.upenn.edu
www.engconfintl.org/9aa.html

World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WAVLD) Annual Conference
Madrid (Spain)
17-20 June 2009
Jose Luis Blanco
jlblanco@vet.ucm.es
26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and infection
18-21 June
Toronto (Canada)
lcc09@congresscan.com
www.icc-09.com

SPS Committee
(Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures)
22-25 June
Geneva (Switzerland)
www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

OIE/FAO International conference on foot and mouth disease
24-26 June 2009
Asunción (Paraguay)
scientific.dept@oie.int

July

Government Veterinary Surgeons (GVS) Conference: Education, Expertise and Evidence
1-2 July
University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)
Megan Power (GVS Programme Lead)
DEFRA FFG
London
Tel.: 020 7238 3030
megan.power@defra.gsi.gov.uk

August

12th International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE XII)
10-14 August
Durban (South Africa)
info@isvee.co.za
www.isvee12.co.za

Preclinical/Clinical Development of Novel Vaccines: the Next Generation of Human Vaccines
18-19 August
Providence, Rhode Island (United States of America)
Leslie C. Lilly
Tel: +1 978-371-5942
Fax: +1 781-972-5425
llilly@healthtech.com

October

21st Latin American Congress on Poultry Farming
6-9 October
Havana (Cuba)
info@avicultura2009.com
www.avicultura2009.com

Meeting of the OIE Administrative Commission
7-9 October
OIE Headquarters
Paris (France)
November

15th Annual Conference ‘Animal Healers’ past and present
14 November
Berlin (Germany)
Dr Johann Schaeffer
johann.schaeffer@tiho-hannover.de

26th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
16-21 November
Shanghai (People's Republic of China)
OIE Regional Activities Department
regactivities.dep@oie.int

15th Congress FECAVA
27-29 November
Lille (France)
contact@afvac.com

December

Regional Conference on Veterinary Drugs
10-12 December
Damascus (Syria)
OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
rr.mideast@oie.int

World Conference on Biological Invasions and Ecosystem Functioning (BIOLIEF)
27-30 October
Porto (Portugal)
biolief@ciimar.up.pt

Seminar of Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives of the OIE
16-18 December
OIE Headquarters
Paris (France)
regactivities.dep@oie.int

March

14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases
9-12 March
Miami, Florida (United States of America)
info@isid.org
www.isid.org

April

XII Conference on Cell Culture
25-30 April
Banff Springs, Alberta (Canada)
CEE-XII@UDEL.EDU

November

20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas
November (Uruguay)
OIE Regional Activities Department
regactivities.dep@oie.int
Practical implications of official disease status recognition
(focus on Resolutions XXII and XXIII of the OIE 76th General Session)

question: Where can I find information on official disease status recognition?

answer: The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has been given by its Members the responsibility of compiling a list of countries or zones that are officially recognised as being free from specific animal diseases. Since May 1994, when a procedure was developed for the official recognition of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free status, a similar procedure has been developed for three other priority diseases: rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). You can find the summarised information on listed Members at www.oie.int/eng/Status/en_procedures.htm.

The procedure for official disease status recognition is applied to entire countries or territories, or to zones within a country or territory, but is currently not implemented for compartments. Resolutions XXII and XXIII of the 76th General Session, May 2008, explain the procedure of official disease status recognition and conditions for maintenance of a given disease status.

question: How are Members’ applications for disease status recognition processed at OIE?

answer: The OIE’s fundamental policy is to promote democratic decision-making and transparency. Official recognition of disease status follows a democratic and impartial procedure adopted by the International Committee, comprising all OIE Members. A Member that wishes to apply for recognition of a particular disease status submits its request to the OIE, accompanied by the relevant questionnaire (available at www.oie.int/eng/Status/en_procedures.htm) and other relevant information. In future, the disease-specific questionnaires will be annexed to the corresponding disease chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Documentation can be in any of the official languages of the OIE and should be supplied in hardcopy as well as in electronic format. For the evaluation of the disease status of zones, Members are requested to submit a geo-referenced map (shapefile format) which should be compatible with ESRI ArcView software.

Members should take note of the time schedule of meetings of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) and the relevant ad hoc Groups and submit applications at the latest 3 weeks prior to the meeting of the appropriate ad hoc Group. This will enable the experts of the ad hoc Group to prepare for the meeting and carefully analyse the data. There is an ad hoc Group for each of the four diseases – all of these ad hoc Groups report to the Scientific Commission and are only able to prepare decisions.

After submission of the request, an ad hoc Group comprising world renowned experts on that particular disease is convened to analyse the Member’s application. The recommendations from the ad hoc Group are then reviewed and endorsed by the democratically elected Scientific Commission. Once the Scientific Commission has recommended acceptance of a Member’s application, all Delegates are informed of the OIE’s intention to propose the adoption of the disease status of the applicant Member for that particular disease. The other OIE Members have 60 days in which to register any objection to the proposed disease status in writing.

The final step is the adoption, by a consensus vote of the International Committee, of the Resolutions containing the updated lists of Members’ disease status each year during the General Session.

Regular submission of animal health reports to the OIE is a basic requirement for Members applying for disease status recognition. The history of animal health reporting (6 monthly...
questions and answers

and annual reports of WAHIS) with regard to compliance with general requirements of Veterinary Services of Members applying for disease status recognition over the last three years will be verified. Members are required to participate in the cost of evaluation by submitting, with their application, 9,000 Euros for BSE and 7,000 Euros each for FMD and CBPP, if it is the first application for that specific disease. Least developed countries (according to the most recent United Nations list) need submit only half of these amounts. Evaluations for rinderpest free status are free of charge, as well as re-instatement of any lost disease status. The detailed conditions for the cost of evaluations are described in Resolution XXIII of the 76th General Session. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases can decide at any time to ask the Member to undertake a verification mission in the field. This mission is paid for by the Member itself.

question:

How are Members’ comments relating to the 60-day consultative period addressed?

answer:

Resolution XXII of the 76th General Session confirms the obligation of a 60-day consultative period for Members, concerning all new applications for disease status recognition or changes to another disease status category (except loss and re-instatement of a previously allocated status) or change in the boundaries of an existing free zone. Any objection raised by Members must be based on scientific and technical grounds, and must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation. All comments by Members received during this 60-day period are submitted to the Scientific Commission for consideration. Should the Scientific Commission be convinced that the comments justify either a withdrawal of a proposed recommendation or a re-evaluation of the Member’s application, such a recommendation will not be submitted for adoption to the General Session, unless the objection can be resolved satisfactorily prior to the General Session. In evaluating comments, the Scientific Commission is obliged to refer to the existing standards in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, to scientifically justify the withdrawal of a recommended disease status.

question:

How is the procedure applied if a Member loses its disease status due to an outbreak?

answer:

Whenever an outbreak of FMD, rinderpest or CBPP, as defined by the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, is notified by the Delegate of a Member Country or territory with an official disease free status, that status is suspended. Regarding the official BSE risk status of a country or zone, it is determined on the basis of the BSE risk assessment and surveillance efforts. The occurrence of a new BSE case implies a re-assessment of the official risk status only in the event of a change in the epidemiological situation indicating failure of the BSE risk mitigating measures in place. In case of any suspension or the withdrawal of the disease status of a Member by the OIE or the Scientific Commission, the information will immediately be published on the OIE Web site to indicate that the status has been revoked and is no longer subject to prior approval by the International Committee. The Scientific Commission has been delegated the authority to recognise, without further consultation of the International Committee, that a Member country or a zone within the Member’s territory has regained its previously recognised status of the same zone following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

question:

Why is the annual reconfirmation of disease status needed and how can Members comply with it?

answer:

The maintenance of an official disease status is dependent on continued compliance with OIE standards and reporting by Members of any significant epidemiological event that may affect that status. The annual reconfirmation of a given disease status should be submitted in November of each year by the Delegate. The time limit is necessary for administrative purposes to allow the Scientific and Technical Department and the Scientific Commission sufficient time before the scheduled General Session in May, to assess
whether all the Members having an officially recognised disease status, have actually complied with the requirements stated above before drafting the final list (Resolution) for adoption by the International Committee. In the event of clarification being needed or insufficient supporting information having been supplied for the disease status to be reconfirmed, the Scientific and Technical Department may submit the data to the Scientific Commission or the respective *ad hoc* Group for analysis and verification.

In accordance with Resolution XXII of the 76th General Session, only those Members that have complied with this obligation will be listed. The official lists for disease status remain valid for one year (from May to May) and must be submitted each year for adoption. When a Member has been deleted from the official list due to failure to comply with the obligation of annual reconfirmation, the application to be re-listed would be regarded as a new application subject to analysis by the relevant *ad hoc* Group, endorsement by the Scientific Commission and, lastly, adoption by the International Committee.

In the case of BSE and FMD, the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on BSE and FMD and the corresponding articles on an allocated disease status specify the requirements for annual updates that Delegates should submit along with the annual reconfirmation.

`Retention on the list requires that the information in points 2 and 3b) above be re-submitted annually and changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events should be reported to the OIE according to the requirements in Chapter 1.1.

*point 2. send a declaration to the OIE stating that:
  a) there has been no outbreak of FMD during the past 12 months
  b) no evidence of FMDV infection has been found during the past 12 months
  c) no vaccination against FMD has been carried out during the past 12 months
  d) no vaccinated animal has been introduced since the cessation of vaccination

*point 3. supply documented evidence that
  b) regulatory measures for the early detection, prevention and control of FMD have been implemented.`

**question:**

What data have to be submitted for the annual reconfirmation of a given BSE risk status?

**answer:**

For BSE, *Terrestrial Code* Article 11.6.3. describes the requirements for retention of a negligible BSE risk status:

`The Member or zone will be included in the list of negligible BSE risk only after the submitted evidence has been accepted by the OIE. Retention on the list requires that the information for the previous 12 months on surveillance results and feed controls be re-submitted annually and changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events should be reported to the OIE according to the requirements in Chapter 1.1.`

In Article 11.6.4. on controlled BSE risk, Members will find the requirements for the retention of a given controlled BSE risk status.

**question:**

What data do Members have to submit for the annual reconfirmation of a given FMD free status?

**answer:**

In Chapter 8.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*, the articles specifying the conditions for recognition of a particular FMD status also mention the requirements for annual reconfirmation of that status. For example, for an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised, the requirement is described in article 8.5.2.:
AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
ANDORRA
ANGOLA
ARGENTINA
ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BELIZE
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOLIVIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BOTSWANA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMBODIA
CAMEROON
CANADA
CAPE VERDE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.
CHAD
CHILE
CHINA (PEOPLE’S REP. OF)
CHINESE TAIPEI
COLOMBIA
COMOROS
CONGO
CONGO (DEM. REP. OF THE)
COSTA RICA
CÔTE D’IVOIRE
CROATIA
CUBA
CYPRUS
CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICAN REP.
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
ESTONIA
FIJI ISLANDS
FINLAND
FORMER YUG. REP. OF MACEDONIA
FRANCE
GABON
GAMBIA
GEORGIA
GERMANY
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GUATEMALA
GUINEA
GUINEA BISSAU
GUAYANA
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IRAN
IRAQ
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
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JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KENYA
KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE’S REP.)
KOREA (REP. OF)
KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LATVIA
LEBANON
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LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
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MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALI
MALTA
MAURITANIA
MAURITIUS
MEXICO
MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)
MOLDAVIA
MONGOLIA
MONTENEGRO
MOROCCO
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MYANMAR
NAMIBIA
NEPAL
NETHERLANDS
NEW CALEDONIA
NEW ZEALAND
NICARAGUA
NIGER
NIGERIA
NORWAY
OMAN
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OIE Regional Seminar on Communication for the Asian and Pacific Region

Bangkok (Thailand), on 30-31 October 2008

Participants of the OIE Regional Seminar on Communication for the Asian and Pacific Region (25 countries were represented) at the Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok (Thailand), on 30-31 October 2008

Bluetongue in northern Europe: appearance of new serotypes during the epizootic

This map includes information on the bluetongue virus serotypes circulating in each restricted zone, which permits, for the purposes of Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation No 1266/2007, the identification of the restricted zones demarcated in different Member States where the same bluetongue virus serotypes are circulating.

Fig. 1

Restricted zones linked to outbreaks of bluetongue in Europe.
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