

## CONTROL OF VETERINARY PRODUCTS: THE NEED FOR GLOBAL STANDARDS

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Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) are key tools for both public and animal health and need therefore to be of high quality, safe and efficacious. This objective at international level can be reached if a good governance regarding VMPs is structured and international standards developed.

In the first part, the current situation regarding international harmonization of standards for VMPs will be presented in particular the achievements to date of the CCRVDF (Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods) and VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) and relevant perspectives.

The role of CCRVDF is to establish maximum residue limits for substances used in Veterinary Medicine in order to protect consumer safety and to facilitate trade. OIE contributes to the debate and acts as a partner to FAO and WHO in the development of animal production food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice.

VICH is a trilateral (European Union-Japan-USA) programme aimed at harmonising technical requirements for veterinary product registration. VICH was created under the auspices of the OIE. OIE participates to the VICH steering committee and contributes to the dissemination of information to OIE Member countries and Territories. The OIE provides support to the VICH process and to relay information on VICH to the 177 OIE Members. Means of improving the outreach of VICH information and principles to other countries and regions wishing to benefit from VICH experience are under consideration.

In the second part, improvement of the global governance of VMPs within the framework of the OIE 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan will be presented, with relevant objectives and methodology.

The official governance of VMPs covers a wide range of responsibilities: registration, official control, inspection, surveillance, communication, information and training. In this respect national competent authorities play a key role with respect to improvement of animal health, animal welfare and public health and the establishment of the required legislative base for relevant programmes and activities. Good governance, on one hand, improves availability of VMPs and encourages the market and, on the other hand, is necessary to fight against fraud and the placement of counterfeit, ineffective or even dangerous products on the market. In this respect, the official control of VMPs, including through the implementation of national legislation of appropriate quality, harmonised, as appropriate, with

international standards, is an essential tool to assure a quality market. In that way, good governance and veterinary legislation also support fair trade.

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