

PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN TUNISIA

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In Tunisia, veterinary health regulations accompanied the establishment of veterinary services in 1885 and their subsequent development. The first regulation relating to contagious cattle diseases was promulgated by the decree of 3 February 1885, while the decree of 14 February 1904 established veterinary border controls. Tunisia is a founder member of the OIE in its capacity as a High Contracting Party to the International Agreement for the Creation of an Office International des Epizooties in 1924. A Tunisian veterinary statutory body was founded by the decree of 10 July 1947 and entrusted with organising the veterinary profession.

The legislative and regulatory texts underpinning the organisation and interventions of Tunisia's veterinary authority were published gradually over time and were regularly amended, supplemented or replaced thereafter to take into account developments in livestock production, the spread of diseases, changes in the principles of controlling these diseases, and the recent development of the concept of food safety and its connection with animal health.

Veterinary legislation has evolved mainly in terms of consolidating the principle of State intervention in animal disease control by instituting compulsory animal health activities and State-administered and funded animal health activities, and setting up networks for the surveillance and control of disease risks and official animal health controls leading to the official certification of livestock.

Tunisia is currently engaged in a process of updating its veterinary legislation to harmonise it with international rules, with a view to consolidating the animal health powers required for effective control, integrating international standards, particularly those of the OIE, and covering domains that are as yet inadequately regulated or supervised, such as animal welfare.

Keywords: Veterinary legislation – Perspectives – Tunisia – OIE.
