



**MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION
OF CONTAGIOUS BOVINE PLEUROPNEUMONIA STATUS OF MEMBERS¹**

Paris, 13 – 14 November 2018

A meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) Status of Members (hereafter the Group) was held at the OIE Headquarters from 13 to 14 November 2018.

1. Opening

Dr Min Kyung Park, Deputy Head of Status Department, welcomed and thanked the Group for its commitment and its extensive support towards the OIE in fulfilling the mandates given by Members. Dr Park also thanked and welcomed Dr Alec Bishi who was participating throughout the meeting electronically.

Dr Park reminded the Group on the sensitivity and confidentiality of the dossiers received for official recognition and thanked the experts for having signed the forms for undertaking of confidentiality. Dr Park reminded the experts on the OIE procedures for protecting the confidentiality of information and for declaring potential conflicts of interest (by withdrawing themselves from the discussion/conclusion in case of a potential conflict of interest).

Dr Park highlighted the importance of the quality of the report that will be scrutinised by Members, before adopting the proposed list of countries and zones free from CBPP.

Dr Park introduced Drs Marija Popovic and Hernan Oliver Daza, responsible for the activities related to official status recognition for CBPP.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur

The Group was chaired by Dr François Thiaucourt and Dr Flavio Sacchini acted as rapporteur, with the support of the OIE Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The terms of reference, agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I, II and III, respectively.

3. Evaluation of requests from Members for the status recognition of CBPP free countries

a) Peru

In September 2018, Peru submitted a dossier for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarification from Peru.

¹ Note: This *ad hoc* Group report reflects the views of its members and may not necessarily reflect the views of the OIE. This report should be read in conjunction with the February 2019 report of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/scientific-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

i) *Animal disease reporting*

The Group acknowledged that Peru had a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP was a notifiable disease for at least the past 10 years in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Group took note that the Veterinary Services of Peru published the animal disease epidemiology reports each week on its website. The Group was informed from the dossier that the reporting system provided information on notifiable disease occurrence (suspected and confirmed), as well as on localisation, progressive notification number, number of susceptible animals, number of cases, number of deaths, confirmed laboratory results and disease distribution map of the country.

The Group acknowledged that the notification system was supported by a legal framework with national legislation listing the notifiable diseases in the country and establishing the obligation to notify any suspicion or detection of disease within twelve hours to the competent authority. The Group also noted Resolution 881 of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) that establishes a list of exotic diseases for the Andean sub-region, which includes CBPP.

ii) *Veterinary Services*

The Group noted that the Veterinary Services was in charge of conducting zoonotic surveillance activities based on notifications for any suspected cases of notifiable and exotic diseases in the country.

The Group took note that at central level, activities were regulatory and strategically managed through the following bodies: i) Sub-directorate of Risk Analysis and Epidemiological Surveillance responsible for implementing and maintaining the Integrated System for Animal Health Management (SIGSA), providing weekly epidemiological information on notifiable diseases and laboratory confirmation; ii) Sub-Directorate of Animal Quarantine responsible for control and inspection of livestock imports, as well as of products and by-products of animal origin. It also oversees the internal movements of livestock at the national level; and iii) Sub-directorate for Disease Control and Eradication responsible for implementation of actions for prevention, control and eradication of diseases prioritised by the Veterinary Services at regional and sub-regional level.

The Group also noted that the Veterinary Services of Peru relies on 25 decentralised Executive Directorates or Decentralised Agencies to coordinate the implementation of the general policy and plans for animal disease control and surveillance at the regional and sub-regional level. Peru informed in its dossier that each decentralised body had a staff responsible for carrying out animal health interventions at the field level.

iii) *Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months*

The Group acknowledged that CBPP has never been reported, and therefore Peru was eligible for historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

iv) *Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months*

The Group noted that the importation of vaccine against CBPP was prohibited and no vaccination against CBPP had ever been implemented in Peru.

v) *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group acknowledged that there was no specific surveillance for CBPP due to the fact that CBPP had never been reported in Peru. The Group noted that within 24 hours of receiving notification of a suspected outbreak of a disease, a specialist had to record all the information gathered and required by the SIGSA. The Group took note that this information included, sample collection and laboratory investigations following an established procedure. Peru informed the Group that the samples would be immediately sent to the Animal Health Diagnostic Centre (UCDSA) for safekeeping until they could be sent to an OIE Reference Laboratory for CBPP diagnosis.

Peru informed that the UCDSA of the Veterinary Service did not perform CBPP diagnosis and no private laboratory was authorised to perform CBPP diagnostic tests. Additionally, the Group noted that laboratories were not authorised to manipulate live *Mycoplasma mycoides* subspecies *mycoides* (Mmm).

The Group was concerned that the Veterinary Services did not have arrangements already established with a competent laboratory for CBPP confirmation (i.e. formal agreements with OIE Reference Laboratories for CBPP or other regional laboratories). The Group therefore recommended that Peru establish a clear procedure – indicating responsibilities, tasks, sampling procedures, sample management and storage, shipping and timelines – as well as to organise specific trainings for all laboratories supporting the Veterinary Service to ensure awareness of the protocol to be followed in case of CBPP suspicions.

The Group acknowledged that there was a veterinarian responsible for each slaughterhouse conducting *ante- and post-mortem* inspections; any suspicious clinical signs or pathological lesions would be reported to the Veterinary Services within 12 hours following the detection of suspicions and sampled for laboratory testing.

Whilst details were not given on the number of lung samples taken for laboratory testing for mycoplasma isolation or for other differentials for pneumonia in cattle such as *Pasteurella* or *Mannheimia*, the Group acknowledged that the risk of introduction was negligible and the described measures in place were sufficient.

Overall, the Group agreed that pathological surveillance was sufficient to substantiate the absence of CBPP.

vi) *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The Group acknowledged that in accordance with the CAN Decision 195 (25 November 1983), the importation of live animals and semen in this sub-region was prohibited from all CBPP infected countries. The Group noted that the procedures for the import of live animals included inspection of documents followed by quarantine and issuance of an Internal Transit Health Certificate (CSTI) that allows tracing back of imported animals. The Group also noted that movement of animals was registered in the SIGSA. The Group was informed that the personnel at the control posts are required to update and register information in the SIGSA to provide regarding the animals entering the country.

The Group noted the involvement and different roles of the public and private sectors in disease surveillance. Peru informed that in case of a suspicion of CBPP, the affected premise would immediately be put under restriction with disinfection of the facilities pending the release of the laboratory results. The Group noted that in case of confirmation of CBPP, Peru would implement additional sanitary measures such as quarantine, declaration of a sanitary emergency, and a stamping out policy. However, the Group was concerned as there was no information provided if such a protocol was officially written and if there was any legal document specifying these steps.

Whilst the Group noted that there was no unique animal identification system, all cattle subjected to movement were required to be identified and to be inspected for the issuance of a CSTI. Data generated from the CSTI are registered in SIGSA and accessible for epidemiological investigations. The Group acknowledged that the Veterinary Services have established 54 Quarantine Control Posts throughout the country which were strategically located according to livestock movement-patterns and production systems.

vii) *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group agreed that Peru's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Peru to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6., and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Peru be recognised as a country historically free from CBPP.

The Group recommended that information on the following be submitted to the OIE when Peru reconfirms its CBPP status (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

- Adjusted contingency plan including the chain of actions specifically targeted to CBPP, from the point of detection of clinical suspicion, immediate diagnosis for agent isolation and confirmation using molecular techniques (i.e. PCR), to the point of implementation of control measures;
- Demonstrate evidence of awareness programmes and trainings for CBPP and their effectiveness.

b) Uruguay

In September 2018, Uruguay submitted a dossier for the official recognition of its CBPP free status based on historical grounds.

The Group requested additional information and received clarification from Uruguay.

i) Animal disease reporting

The Group acknowledged that Uruguay had a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and that CBPP was a notifiable disease for at least the past 10 years in accordance with Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Group acknowledged that all persons of public and private sectors dealing with animals were responsible for notifying occurrence of animal diseases and that this information was registered in a National Information System for Animal Health (SISA).

ii) Veterinary Services

The Group noted that the Veterinary Service of Uruguay was the competent animal health authority for planning and implementing animal health programmes for the prevention, monitoring, control and eradication of animal diseases. From the information in the dossier, the Group noted that the Veterinary Service of Uruguay was divided as follows:

- Animal Health Division (DSA) responsible to maintain, protect and improve the health of the animals as well as to carry out the control and certification of sanitary and hygienic-sanitary conditions of the entry, import and export of animals, genetic material, products and by-products of animal origin. DSA includes 19 regional offices and 22 local offices distributed in six regions;
- Animal Industry Division in charge of guaranteeing conformity and safety of meat, meat products, by-products, derivatives and other foods of animal origin for export and non-export; and
- Veterinary Laboratories Division (DILAVE) responsible for laboratory diagnostic support to the Veterinary Service. DILAVE has a central laboratory in Montevideo and three regional laboratories.

From the dossier, the Group was informed that there was coordination between public and private veterinarians through the National System of Accreditation of Independent Veterinarians aimed at improving efficiency and optimising the use of resources in the delivery of animal health services. The Group noted that this accreditation programme included the active participation of veterinary professionals in animal health programmes, support in animal health emergencies, collaboration in epidemiological surveillance and certification for national, regional and international markets.

Overall, the Group considered that the Veterinary Services had current knowledge of and authority over the livestock population in the country.

iii) *Situation of CBPP in the past 24 months*

The Group acknowledged that no cases of CBPP were registered in the past 25 years and therefore, Uruguay would be eligible for historical freedom from CBPP as described in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group also noted that the two neighbouring countries were officially recognised as free from CBPP.

iv) *Absence of vaccination in the past 24 months*

The Group acknowledged that the manipulation or possession of etiological agents of diseases that did not exist in the country was prohibited as per legislation since 21 May 1997.

v) *Surveillance in accordance with Articles 11.5.13. to 11.5.17.*

The Group noted that disease surveillance at the farm level was carried out by the DSA through its local and regional offices. Uruguay reported that these activities consisted of inspection of livestock establishments, animal assembly points, animal transit controls and monitoring of suspected cases of disease. The Group noted that clinical inspections were systematically carried out by accredited veterinarians and by the official service during the movement of animals for slaughter in exporting meat plants and for the field. The Group also noted that controls on animals were performed before animal movements within the national territory, for domestic supply, fairs, shows, passage through official health posts, or for activities determined by other health programmes. The Group highlighted the importance of pathological surveillance as the most effective approach for CBPP surveillance and emphasised that all suspect lesions detected at the slaughterhouses should be followed up by laboratory testing.

The Group noted that CBPP diagnosis was not performed in the country. Uruguay informed that in case of CBPP suspicion, samples would be sent to an OIE Reference Laboratory for CBPP and provided details of the procedure describing the collection, submission and shipment of samples for the confirmation of *Mycoplasma mycoides* subspecies *mycoides* (Mmm).

The Group noted that the Veterinary Service of Uruguay had different information systems to support disease monitoring and surveillance activities. Uruguay mentioned that a National Livestock Information System (SNIG) was in place which showed the distribution of livestock population and ensured the traceability of cattle from the establishment of origin to the customs or cold storage facility for meat. The Group noted that all information related to livestock was registered in the system and could be used for epidemiological investigation in case of suspected animal disease or outbreaks. Additionally, the Group took note that the SISA was used to manage the occurrence of animal diseases including CBPP in the country.

The Group considered that taking into account altogether the measures implemented by Livestock Controller Department and through the SNIG, Uruguay would guarantee animal traceability in case of potential disease outbreaks.

vi) *Regulatory measures for the prevention and early detection of CBPP*

The Group considered that mandatory notification, passive clinical and pathological surveillance together with the monitoring carried out during other animal health programmes (e.g. for foot and mouth disease, brucellosis, etc.) should allow a constant supervision of the animal health status.

The Group noted that the prevention system relied on importation of animals only from countries officially recognised free from CBPP.

The Group took note that the National Health Emergency System (SINAESA) was established in 2009 to carry out the activities required for the rapid control and eradication of exotic diseases. The Group also noted that the SINAESA was the specific and permanent authority responsible for coordination of public institutions in Uruguay regarding disaster risk management. However, the Group noted that there was no specific emergency plan for CBPP. The Group took note of the general measures to be applied in case of CBPP outbreak, which included access restrictions, isolation, quarantine,

disinfection, disposal of animals, restrictions on the movement of animals, bans on livestock events, use of biological measures (vaccination or sera), marking of animals, treatment, sanitation, partial or total sanitary culling. The Group appreciated that there was specific funding allocated in case of an emergency as well compensation to farmers.

vii) *Compliance with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.*

The Group agreed that Uruguay's dossier was compliant with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1.

Conclusion

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and the answers received from Uruguay to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was compliant with the requirements of Chapter 11.5., Article 1.4.6. and with the questionnaire in Article 1.10.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group therefore recommended that Uruguay be recognised as a country historically free from CBPP.

The Group recommended that information on the following be submitted to the OIE when Uruguay reconfirms its CBPP status (also detailed in the relevant sections above):

- Adjusted contingency plan including the chain of actions specifically targeted to CBPP, from the point of detection of clinical suspicion, immediate diagnosis for agent isolation and confirmation using molecular techniques (i.e. PCR), to the point of implementation of control measures;
- Demonstrate evidence of awareness programmes and trainings for CBPP and their effectiveness.

c) Other request

The Group assessed one additional request from a Member for the recognition of CBPP free country status. The Group concluded that the Member did not meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and the dossier was referred back to the respective applicant Member.

4. Other matters

The Group recommended to the OIE to develop guidelines on preparation of contingency plans, and possibly targeted to specific diseases including for CBPP.

The Group noted that the taxonomy of the pathogenic agent causing CBPP was not harmonised with the new nomenclature within the OIE documents, and strongly recommended to adjust the current taxonomy.

5. Adoption of report

The Group reviewed the draft report and agreed to circulate it electronically for comments before the final adoption. Upon circulation, the Group agreed that the report captured the discussions.

.../Appendices

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Terms of Reference

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) status of Members (the Group) is expected to evaluate the applications for official recognition of CBPP free status and for endorsement of their official control programme of CBPP received from three Members in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of national official control programmes.

This implies that the experts, members of this Group are expected to:

1. Sign off the OIE Undertaking on Confidentiality of information, if not done before.
2. Complete the Declaration of Interests Form in advance of the meeting of the Group and forward it to the OIE at the earliest convenience and at least two weeks before the meeting.
3. Evaluate the applications from Members for official recognition of CBPP free status and for endorsement of their official control programmes for CBPP.
 - a) Before the meeting:
 - read and study in detail all dossiers provided by the OIE;
 - take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of dossiers;
 - summarise the dossiers according to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* requirements, using the form provided by the OIE;
 - draft the questions whenever the analysis of the dossier raises questions which need to be clarified or completed with additional details by the applicant Member;
 - send the completed form and the possible questions to the OIE, at least one week before the meeting.
 - b) During the meeting:
 - contribute to the discussion with their expertise;
 - withdraw from the discussions and decision making when possible conflict of interest;
 - provide a detailed report in order to recommend, to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, i) the country(ies) or zone(s) to be recognised (or not) as CBPP free ii) country(ies) to have (or not) the OIE endorsement of national official control programme for CBPP, and to indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the applicant Member.
 - c) After the meeting:
 - contribute electronically to the finalisation of the report if not achieved during the meeting.

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Agenda

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur
3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) free status
 - Peru
 - Uruguay
 - Other request
4. Other matters
5. Adoption of report

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List of participants

MEMBERS

Dr Alec Bishi (electronic participation)
Senior Lecturer & Head of Department (Population Health)
Neudamm Campus
University of Namibia
Private bag 13301
340 Mandume
Ndemufayo Avenue, Pionierspark
Windhoek
NAMIBIA
abishi@unam.na; alecbishi@hotmail.com

Dr Flavio Sacchini
Immunology and Serology Department
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise
Via Campo Boario
64100 Teramo
ITALY
Tel: +39 0861332437
f.sacchini@izs.it

Dr Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe
Head of Lab (Deputy Director)
Chandapiwa Marobela-Raborokgwe (Bvetmed, MSc Vet
Microbiology)
Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory
Private Bag 0035
Gaborone
BOTSWANA
Tel: +267 3928816
Fax: +267 3298956
cmarobela-raborokgwe@gov.bw

Dr François Thiaucourt
UMR15 CIRAD-INRA
Control of exotic and emerging animal diseases
Campus International de Baillarguet, TA A-15/G
34398 Montpellier cedex 5
FRANCE
Tel: (33) 4 67.59.37.24
Fax: (33) 4 67.59.37.98
francois.thiaucourt@cirad.fr

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

Dr Baptiste Dungu (Invited but could not attend)
26 Dalrymple Crescent
Edinburgh EH9 2NX
Scotland
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel.: +212 523 30 31 32
Fax: +212 523 30 21 30
Fax: (49-38351) 7-151
b.dungu@mci-santeanimale.com

OIE HEADQUARTERS

Dr Monique Eloit
Director General
12 rue de Prony
75017 Paris
FRANCE
Tel: (33) 1 44 15 18 88
Fax: (33) 1 42 67 09 87
oi@oie.int

Dr Min Kyung Park
Deputy Head
Status Department
m.park@oie.int

Dr Marija Popovic
Chargée de mission
Status Department
m.popovic@oie.int

Dr Hernán O. Daza
Chargé de mission
Status Department
oh.daza@oie.int



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