RESOLUTION No. XXXII

Regionalisation as an instrument for preventing the propagation of diseases, including those of camelids

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Regionalisation, based on epidemiological criteria, is a relatively new tool that is used by Member Countries to control animal diseases

2. Chapter 1.3.5 of the OIE International Animal Health Code provides the basis for defining zones or regions, which the national Veterinary Services must establish, control and maintain, based on specific health legislation

3. There is a need for Member Countries to apply the concept of regionalisation more broadly and to adopt specific legislation relative thereto

4. Of the countries that replied to an OIE questionnaire in 2002:
   - 74% use regionalisation as a disease-prevention strategy
   - only 66% have specific legislation for these zoned areas
   - slightly more than half (58%) acknowledge that regionalisation was positive in controlling diseases
   - only 14% stated that regionalisation had boosted their foreign trade
   - 56% confirmed that the regionalisation process had been supported by the private sector

5. Economic globalisation has stimulated international trade in animals and animal products, and the use of regionalisation has helped to increase trade between countries with differing animal health status, thereby creating new markets for animals and animal products

6. Few countries have developed and implemented methodologies to characterise the risks of agents spreading from affected zones or to assess the cost-effectiveness of regionalisation for disease control and eradication

7. Disease control measures, such as the use or non-use of vaccines, the control of animal movements to and from the zone in question and the extent of surveillance conducted by the Veterinary Services, must be tailored to the epidemiological characteristics of each specific disease

8. Camelids are important, particularly in arid and semi-arid zones of Africa, Asia and South America in the provision of meat and milk, draught power and for trade

9. The climatic restrictions that determine areas where camelids prevail, the diversified patterns of husbandry and the keeping of camelids in different parts of the world, create a natural regionalisation system that allows specific strategies to be applied for the control of diseases endemic to those areas

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10. Other species (such as yak, mithun, equidae, etc.) require the application of disease control measures, particularly in regard to movement, as these animals are the major source of income to landless and subsistence farmers in some developing countries of the world

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. In order to seek and secure international markets for animals and animal products, Veterinary Services of Member Countries and the OIE promote the use of zoning/regionalisation to all involved, as a method to control animal diseases by securing political and economic recognition and support, particularly from producers and importers, culminating in the establishment of disease control zones.

2. The OIE continue to develop regionalisation methodology in order to characterise livestock production areas, to identify the risks of disease spread inherent in each ecosystem and to develop regionalised control strategies.

3. Member Countries are urged to establish specific legislation to support regional animal disease control strategies which will require, inter alia, adequate infrastructures and resources.

4. Member Countries with existing or potential disease control zones request recognition from the OIE for these zones, when such procedures are available, with a view to seeking and securing international markets for their animals and animal products.

5. The OIE appoint a laboratory, among Member Countries, to serve as the OIE Reference Laboratory for diseases affecting camelids.

6. The OIE strengthen Chapter 1.3.5 by proposing amendments in the light of recent experience gained in regionalisation and zoning.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2003)