Recommendation No. 1

Establishing a vaccination buffer zone against foot and mouth disease in the Commonwealth of Independent States

CONSIDERING

The request of 29 October 1996 to the Director General of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) by the Delegates of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for assistance in setting up control measures against foot and mouth disease in their countries,

The progression of the disease since that date and the appearance of new types of foot and mouth disease virus in the transcaucasian region,

The alarming report made to the OIE Regional Commission for Europe by the Delegate of the Russian Federation concerning the difficulties of vaccination against foot and mouth disease in Russia and in other CIS countries,

The conclusions of a meeting held on 21 September 1998 in Prague between the Delegates of interested Member Countries and representatives of the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EUFMD), the European Commission (EC) and the OIE, which focused on the risk of the spread of foot and mouth disease in European countries,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. An OIE/FAO/EC tripartite group work together with the Veterinary Services of the CIS countries to develop a common strategy for the control of FMD in the region, including a programme for a vaccination buffer zone and other control measures. The group will also follow up the progress of the programme.

2. The governments of CIS countries consider the fight against foot and mouth disease as an immediate priority, and grant their Veterinary Services the financial, material and human resources necessary for this control.

3. The other European governments, the European Union, the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Bank study the possibility of urgently granting tangible support to the CIS countries, on the request of their governments and/or of the Intergovernmental Economic Council of the CIS countries.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 25 September 1998 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 19 May 1999)