Recommendation No. 2

Compensation mechanisms for producers for economic losses caused by the implementation of sanitary measures

CONSIDERING THAT

Producers are generally the first to detect animal diseases,

Producers play a significant role in assisting veterinary authorities in notifying animal diseases to the OIE in accordance with Member Countries’ obligations,

Early detection of and rapid response to animal diseases are crucial in the control of epizootics the costs of which rise exponentially if detection and response are not timely,

Economic compensation to farmers who lose animals as part of disease control and eradication programmes is critical for the early detection and transparent reporting of and rapid response to animal diseases, economic recovery from epizootics and for enlisting collaboration of farmers in stamping out and other animal disease control measures,

Stamping out of infected and in-contact animals remains the method of choice to eradicate important animal diseases and zoonoses.

Several countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas have neither provision in their legislations to compensate farmers, nor actual compensation mechanisms in place,

The occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in countries of the region that do not have adequate compensation mechanisms for the destruction of affected and in contact poultry would have disastrous consequences to the human and animal populations in the whole region,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries that do not have appropriate legislation to timely compensate producers who lose their animals as part of animal disease control and eradication programmes, adopt such legislation as soon as possible.

2. Member Countries set up a specific national Fund to compensate producers involved in stamping out operations. Contributions for this Fund should be established through a mechanism involving public and private sources but may be supplemented by other national or international external resources.
3. The OIE undertake to study the possibility of establishing a World Fund, including the participation of private insurance companies, to assist developing countries in the provision of compensation in response to a sanitary crisis.

4. The OIE Central Bureau and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas undertake representations to the Government authorities of Member Countries of the critical need to establish legal and funding frameworks for animal health compensation including implementation of educational and communication programmes to secure the trust and active participation of producers.

5. Countries of the region that have the necessary experience and resources for compensating farmers provide technical and/or financial assistance to other countries in need of such assistance.

6. Member Countries give priority to the creation of a special compensatory and economic recovery mechanism in case of occurrence of animal diseases including highly pathogenic avian influenza.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)