

## PUBLIC SECTOR PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OIE STANDARDS ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

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The author begins by summarising the OIE *Aquatic Code* provisions on governance of health inspection services in the aquaculture sector and on technical rules relating to the surveillance and management of aquatic animal diseases. He then explains how these rules are taken into account in the European Union (EU).

Firstly, in accordance with the relevant Treaties, a new legislative text was added to the existing EU secondary legislation in 2006, namely Council Directive 2006/88/EC of 24 October 2006 on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals. Then, in accordance with Articles 61 and 62 of the Directive, the EU Commission proposed measures to implement the Directive, which were duly adopted under the committee procedure.

Secondly, the European Union's institutional system ensures proper implementation of this body of legislation by Member States, through inspections by the competent authorities, both central and local (Veterinary Services). These inspections are carried out by a specialist body of the European Commission, the institution responsible for compliance with treaties and secondary EU legislation: the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). Located in Ireland, the FVO organises and carries out inspections of sanitary services responsible for implementing European Community legislation in Member States and third countries.

Lastly, the author deals with the particularities of the governance system of services responsible for sanitary inspection of animal production in France, with particular reference to the aquaculture sector. At the central level, a single Ministry is responsible for agriculture, food and fisheries, thereby embracing all animal production sectors "from the farm to the fork". At the local level, all sanitary inspectors, covering the entire livestock and agri-food sector, are under the authority of a single State representative - the prefect - who has a direct chain of command in each of the country's main territorial divisions.

The presentation ends with a general description of how European rules are implemented in France, illustrated with current examples in the French fish farming and shellfish farming sectors.

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