

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 80th General Session
in Paris, 21 May 2012**

NOTE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS

Draft Recommendations proposed during the meetings of the Regional Commissions held during the General Session must be presented again for adoption during the next Regional Commission Conference held in the respective regions, so as to be examined and possibly adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, 21 May 2012

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 21 May 2012 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 112 participants, including Delegates and observers from 40 Members of the Commission and 1 observer countries/territories and representatives from 9 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Rep., Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observer countries/territories: Liberia

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, EU, ECOWAS⁴², FAO UMA⁴³, SADC⁴⁴, WAEMU⁴⁵, WB⁴⁶, WTO

The meeting was chaired by Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, welcomed all participants to the meeting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The Agenda and the annexes concerning agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Marosi Molomo reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries had become a matter of concern and urged the OIE Delegates of the region to make follow ups of their country's contribution to the OIE.

⁴² ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

⁴³ UMA : The Arab Maghreb Union

⁴⁴ SADC: Southern African Development Community

⁴⁵ WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

⁴⁶ WB: World Bank

The Vice-President of the Commission encouraged Member Countries of the region, particularly those not listed by the UNDP as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to upgrade their contribution from 6th to the 5th or 4th category.

3. Report of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Marosi Molomo, Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, gave a brief review of the activities in which the OIE Regional Commission had participated since the last annual meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa at the 79th General Session highlighting the key points resulting from the meeting.

She congratulated and welcomed the new staff appointed at the Regional Representation and the Sub Regional Representation and thanked the OIE for the continuous multidisciplinary support to the Africa Region.

Dr Molomo then informed that Africa has continued to be active in requesting OIE PVS Missions aiming at helping the countries to improve the performance of their Veterinary Services.

She listed the missions in which the members of the Bureau of the OIE Africa Commission have participated during the year highlighting the different capacity-building activities, training sessions and global events.

Dr Molomo also informed on the planned activities/missions for the members of the bureau of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa.

She concluded by acknowledging the financial support of donors to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and the in-kind and/or financial contribution from the host countries of OIE representations, namely Mali, Tunisia, Kenya and Botswana.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and for the OIE Sub-Regional Representations

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, provided a summary of the activities carried out from 1 January to 1 May 2012, and the planned activities for the rest of the year, for the Regional Representation and the three OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Africa.

He explained that these activities had been designed to fulfil the Representation's obligations and aid the implementation of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan. They had included activities which focused, with the financial support of EU and donors such as USA, Italy, France and other donors of the OIE World Fund, on the Good Governance of Veterinary Services, capacity building, providing assistance to Members, helping Member Countries to improve transparency when notifying diseases and further activities designed around issues of growing importance in the region.

Dr Samaké listed some specific activities that had taken place during this period, including planning for the organisation of a round table with donors, developing a five-year Action Plan (2012–2016) for GF-TADs for Africa, a mission to alert the leaders of Togo to the forthcoming 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and a meeting with CVOs to harmonise the position of OIE Delegates before the 80th OIE General Session.

He also remarked that the meeting of Heads of State of ECOWAS established the RAHC in Bamako as a specialized institution of ECOWAS. Thus, in this capacity, the RAHC is eligible for international public support.

In terms of the planned activities for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2012, Dr Yacouba Samaké commented that members of the Bureau of the Regional Commission for Africa and OIE Regional Representations would take part in various OIE world conferences, such as the OIE General Session, the FAO/OIE Global Conference on FMD Control and the OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare. He also mentioned the GF-TADs/Africa Five-Year Action Plan, which will be presented during the meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa, the Representation's participation in the very first workshop for the programme “Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa” (VET-GOV) and Technical Committee meetings to support the VET-GOV and PAN-SPSO programmes, as well as several Regional Animal Health Centres (RAHC) coordination meetings.

5. Selection of technical item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 82nd General Session:

- “The use of new information systems and technologies in the management of animal health”

6. Selection of technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa, to be held in Lomé, Togo, in February 2013

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 20th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

- “The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa”

7. Update on the organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa

Dr Batasse Batawui, OIE Delegate of Togo, thanked the Delegates from the OIE Regional Commission for Africa for having accepted Togo's proposal to host the next Regional Conference in February 2013.

He expressed the honour of his country to hold this important event for the Region and invited all Delegates to Lomé on February 2013.

Dr Kinam Kombiagou, from the Togo Delegation, summarized the different actions that Togo has engaged in order to start the organisation of the conference. She commented on the preparatory mission from the OIE Regional Representation and the OIE Headquarters held last February in Lomé.

Dr Kinam Kombiagou explained the organisation undertaken at ministerial level in order to ensure the success of the Conference.

To conclude, Dr Kinam Kombiagou gave general information regarding hotel accommodation and visa issuance while ensuring that all information would be sent to all participants on a timely manner.

Before continuing with the next item of the agenda, Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, read a message of gratitude and best wishes received from Dr Saley Mahamadou, former President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and former Delegate of Niger.

8. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)

After several discussions among OIE Delegates of the region regarding the proposal of candidates, Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reminded participants that the meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa was an institutional meeting in which decisions had to be taken by OIE Delegates of the region.

Bureau of the Regional Commission:

President:	Dr Marosi Molomo (Lesotho)
Vice-President:	Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub (Chad)
Vice-President:	Dr Theogen Rutagwenda (Rwanda)
Secretary General:	Dr Ahmed Chawky Karim Boughalem (Algeria)

Council:

Dr Jaouad Berrada (Morocco), as Vice-President
Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane (South Africa), as member

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission:

Dr Stuart Hargreaves (Zimbabwe)⁴⁷

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases:

Dr Gideon Brückner (South Africa)

Biological Standards Commission:

Dr Emmanuel Couacy (Côte d'Ivoire)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission:

Dr Eli Katunguka (Ouganda)

9. OIE note related to the organisation of a round table with donors

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, explained the intention behind the OIE note on the organisation of a donor round table.

He explained that countries which had hosted a PVS Gap Analysis mission would have received a comprehensive plan to strengthen the country's Veterinary Services, with the support of OIE experts. This five-year plan would have been accompanied by specific actions to be undertaken, and an indicative budget.

⁴⁷ It is noted that Dr Hargreaves was not able to attend Code Commission meetings during the two last years because of serious health problems.

Dr Samaké pointed out that the organisation of a round table requires a country to take full institutional ownership of the process in order to ensure that it is in a position to lead that process effectively.

He added that dedicated time was required, because the participation of the relevant individuals must be secured and a costed action plan must be approved by the country at least three months prior to round-table discussions.

Dr Samaké then gave a brief review of the steps involved when preparing a donor round-table meeting:

- a) A national team is set up, comprising the Veterinary Services (public and private components) and representatives from the other Ministries concerned including Finance and Foreign Affairs.
- b) The costed action plan is updated and confirmed, detailing the country's financial contribution, and a timetable of bilateral meetings with the country's strategic partners is drawn up.
- c) The Government adopts the costed action plan and timetable of bilateral meetings.
- d) The Minister of Foreign Affairs presents the action plan to the head of the country's diplomatic and consular missions. A press release is then issued, including the World Bank and the European Union.
- e) A letter of invitation and the costed action plan are sent to strategic partners.
- f) Bilateral consultations are held between the Minister of Livestock and the strategic partners. These consultations are also attended by the Director of International Cooperation and the Director of Public Debt.
- g) The round-table meeting is held.

Dr Samaké concluded by explaining that OIE experts may be involved in steps (b), (c), (f) and (g) of the process.

10. Feedback from BTSF and future work on Good Governance in Africa

Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa, gave a summary of the activities that had been carried out under the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) programme, reporting that OIE Delegates and Focal Points had undergone considerable training. He reminded Delegates that the programme had benefited from funding covering the period between 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012. This subsidy to the OIE World Fund had now been completely used up.

Dr Bourzat informed the meeting that a total of 4,400 person-days of training had been provided by the OIE, with the help of experts from the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres. All these training workshops were given high approval ratings by the participants.

Dr Bourzat added that this training had significantly improved the governance of Veterinary Services in OIE Member Countries and that it should continue in the future.

He also noted that the same programme had placed Africa well in the lead in terms of OIE Member Country participation in the OIE PVS Pathway. Thus, 51 of the 52 countries had undergone an analysis to measure the performance of their Veterinary Services against OIE quality standards (OIE PVS Evaluation) and 36 countries had undergone a further analysis

to identify ways in which to address the gaps in their ability to comply with these standards (OIE PVS Gap Analysis). Moreover, 21 were preparing to modernise their veterinary legislation while 8 had already benefited from follow-up missions or were in the preparatory phase for a round table with international technical partners. Such round tables would ensure sustainable funding of their strategic development plan, developed within the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway.

Dr Bourzat observed that the BTSF programme had also helped to strengthen the laboratory twinning programme, reporting that, in Africa, 13 twinning projects were already in progress, one had been completed and another, on Peste des Petits Ruminants, was in the process of being finalised.

Finally, Dr Bourzat commented that the new programme, “Better veterinary governance in Africa”, should be able to take over the reins of the BTSF project, at least partially, and build on its achievements.

11. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, gave a brief review of the various activities that had been undertaken in relation to GF-TADs mechanisms for Africa. He highlighted the development of the Five-Year Action Plan and the fact that provisional dates and an agenda had been set for the next meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for Africa.

Dr Samaké stressed that the five-year plan would have to be consistent with the pillars of the African Union’s Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, the 2004 Agreement on GF-TADs, and the recommendations of the GF-TADs Global Steering Committee over the past four years. It would also need to comply with the policy directions contained in the Strategic Plans of the OIE (2011–2015), IBAR (2010–2014) and FAO. Furthermore, Dr Samaké stressed the fact that the Plan must take into account the specificities of each regional economic community, notably in terms of priority diseases, and the lessons learned during the eradication of rinderpest.

He explained the key objectives of the plan, i.e.: 1) to contribute towards improving transparency of the global animal health situation; in particular, by notifying the OIE of any exceptional epidemiological events; 2) to reduce the potential impact of animal health crises and threats to human health; 3) to improve governance of Veterinary Services, in line with OIE quality standards; 4) to ensure adequate funding to implement disease prevention, detection and control programmes at all times and to facilitate the eradication of animal diseases and; 5) to promote a regional approach to the control of transboundary diseases.

Dr Samaké concluded by reminding the meeting that the Five-Year Action Plan would be presented for approval at the next meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee for Africa, to be held in July 2012.

12. Update on Global FMD Control Strategy and on PCP Roadmaps in Africa

Dr Joseph Domenech from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department explained that the Global FMD Control Strategy had been prepared by a joint OIE-FAO Working Group, established in accordance with the recommendations of the First Global Conference on FMD Control, held in Asunción, Paraguay, in June 2009. An outline of the strategy had been presented at the 79th OIE General Session in Paris, in May 2011, and the OIE World Assembly of Delegates had passed a resolution supporting the proposed writing process of this strategy, under the OIE/FAO GF-TADs mechanism.

Around 50 partners from Member Countries, regional and international organisations, representatives from the private sector and selected experts, including wildlife experts, were involved in the process, as well as the members of the OIE/Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD).

Dr Domenech noted that the Global Strategy addressed the progressive control of FMD within the wider objectives of food security, poverty alleviation, income generation and rural development in developing countries, as well as biodiversity conservation. Implementing programmes for FMD progressive control (Component 1 of the Global Strategy) was taken as an entry point to improve the Veterinary Services environment (Component 2) and to decrease the impact of other major transboundary animal diseases (Component 3). For each component, the objectives, the underlying principles, the tools to be used (in particular the PCP tool for Component 1 and the PVS tool for Component 2, and the surveillance systems, laboratories and vaccines), as well as the activities to be conducted, were all described in the Global Strategy document.

He then explained that the global strategy had been built on the experience of other regions, and that working at the regional level was considered to be a key factor in the control of FMD and other Transboundary animal diseases, in addition to country commitment and global coordination. Several regional roadmap meetings had been organised to assess the PCP FMD stage of each country and to prepare a regional African strategy and vision for 2022. The results of the workshops held in Nairobi in 2009 for the entire African continent, in Gaborone in March 2011 for the SADC region and in Nairobi in March 2012 for Eastern Africa were all summarised.

Dr Domenech finally added that a workshop had also been planned for Western and Central Africa, and would take place before the end of 2012. The new and worrying SAT2 situation, now prevailing in Egypt and Libya, would specifically be addressed, as well as the objectives and agenda of the FAO/OIE Second Global Conference on FMD Control, to be held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 June 2012.

13. Presentation from Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC)

Dr Karim Tounkara, Director of the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre, made a presentation in supporting the application of PANVAC as a new OIE Collaborating Center. He explained that PANVAC vision was to build a recognized Reference Centre in the international arena for vaccine quality control, technology transfer, production of diagnostic and surveillance reagents and capacity building, driven by and for African professionals.

He then added that PANVAC was officially launched in Debre Zeit on 12th March 2004 as an African Union Regional Centre within the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture in accordance with the Decisions of the 67th Ordinary OAU Council of Ministers meeting held in Addis Ababa in 1998.

He remarked that the major achievements of AU/PANVAC were its internationally recognized contribution to the global rinderpest eradication and the development of Xerovac technology for the production of heat tolerant live vaccine.

Dr Tounkara commented that currently, AU/PANVAC operated with two main units (vaccine quality control and reagents production) an administrative building, five physically separated laboratories (vaccine quality control, reagents production, molecular biology, Bio-safety Level 3 and Process Development) and Laboratory animal facilities.

Regarding the vaccine quality control unit, Dr Tounkara informed that it ensured the certification of the following vaccines using the OIE standards: PPR, CBPP, CAPP, Sheep and Goat Pox, RVP, Hemorrhagic septicemia, Infectious Bursal Disease, Newcastle Disease and African Horse Sickness vaccines. This list could be expanded to other vaccines upon request from AU member states.

This Vaccine Quality Control Unit also maintains a repository of vaccine seeds and cells for distribution to AU member states upon request.

Dr Tounkara concluded mentioning that AU/PANVAC would continue to provide services to AU member States and implement projects contributing towards the improvement of livestock health in Africa.

14. Presentation from the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC)

Dr Hassane H. Mahamat, PATTEC Coordinator, summarised the major achievements and activities of the PATTEC Coordination Unit's programme to eradicate tsetse and trypanosomosis, and the way forward.

He explained that the PATTEC initiative arose from a collective decision, urging affected countries and their neighbours to take decisive and joint action aimed at rapidly eliminating the scourge of trypanosomosis.

Dr Mahamat indicated that, as part of its role in coordinating activities for the PATTEC Initiative, the African Union Commission had been actively engaged in trying to develop a permanent mechanism through which countries could receive support. Consequently, the PATTEC Coordination Unit had been set up with a mandate to promote, organise, monitor and evaluate, as well as coordinate, activities aimed at the eradication of tsetse and trypanosomosis throughout the continent, and to mobilise the necessary resources (financial, material, human, etc.) to implement them.

15. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centre

Dr Susanne Münstermann, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, addressed to the meeting in order to remind the procedures to be followed for the designation of new OIE Collaborating Centre. She highlighted that the endorsement of the Regional Commission is necessary before the matter is referred to a competent Specialist Commission.

The Regional Commission for Africa noted that the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre [AU-PANVAC], located at Debre-Zeit, Ethiopia, had submitted an application to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Quality Control of Veterinary Vaccines. Referring to the short presentation of the candidate institution on the planned activities, the Commission unanimously agreed to support this application, which will be examined by the Biological Standards Commission at its next meeting.

16. WAHIS/ WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Yassim Mustafa from the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories as well as the number of Questionnaire on Wildlife Disease reported by Members of the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. 60 % of Members belonging to the region have submitted complete Annual reports for 2011.

Dr Yassim Mustafa finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Diseases on a regular basis to the OIE.

17. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**

Dr Henry Wamway, Acting Senior Policy Trade and Market Officer, spoke on behalf of Prof. Ahmed El Sawalhy, AU IBAR Director.

Dr Wamway explained that, AU-IBAR wanted to express its gratitude to all its member states as well as its technical and financial partners for all their support and active participation in the different activities of the Organisation.

He also highlighted how the establishment of a consensus between countries of the region was important for AU-IBAR. In order to reach a better communication within the region, he explained that AU-IBAR would continue working on the improvement of the processes related to technical common positions within the region.

- **World Bank**

Dr Stéphane Forman, Representative of the World Bank, briefly commented on the ongoing activities of the World Bank especially regarding the current development of a new global strategy for the next 10 years and a new action plan for the next 3 years, which would be explained in detail by Dr François Legall during the plenary session.

Dr Forman mentioned the 3 pillars of the strategy which would be focused on livestock and natural resources, livestock and social equity and livestock and health.

He finally spoke about the strong commitment of World Bank within the ALive platform as well as on the projects undertaken in some African countries following the OIE PVS Pathway.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Cheikh Ly, FAO Regional Animal Production and Health Officer, addressed to the conference, stating that animal diseases remain fundamental constraints for Africa. The direct and indirect effects of these diseases impact negatively on food security, capital assets, livelihoods, public health, national and regional trade, and national and regional economic growth. Dr Ly said that, if priority and transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases were to be prevented and controlled, then regional and sub-regional mechanisms must be in place to enable collaboration between countries, value chains, sectors and regions.

Dr Ly noted that FAO had integrated several of its African projects that shared the common strategic objective of increasing sustainable livestock production by reducing the incidence of animal diseases and their associated risks to human health. This would be achieved by aiding countries and RECs to develop and implement their livestock policies and animal health action plans, with the aim of preventing and controlling priority animal and zoonotic diseases, increasing production and improving market access and veterinary public health.

He also noted that the Regional Office for Africa in Accra, in collaboration with four sub-regional offices in Libreville, Addis Ababa, Harare, and Accra, as well as ECTADs in Bamako, Nairobi and Gaborone, would join the Regional Office for the Middle East in Cairo and the sub-regional office in Tunis in covering animal health issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Ly finally reported that FAO worked closely with the OIE, AU-IBAR, WHO and RECs consistent with CAADP in implementing and strengthening regional and national capacities in African animal health systems.

- **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)**

Dr Soumana Diallo, representative of the WAEMU Commission, spoke of the number of animal health reforms in the fields of zoonoses and food safety that had been undertaken by the WAEMU Commission, to facilitate the implementation of the WAEMU Agricultural Policy (WAP).

Dr Diallo gave details of these reforms, as follows:

- 1) the harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation;
- 2) the evaluation of national Veterinary Services, using the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, and the adoption of a WAEMU strategic plan for building the capacity of Veterinary Services;
- 3) reforms in the area of food safety of animals and animal products;
- 4) projects to support animal disease control and eradication, and
- 5) the adoption of a Directive on the free movement and establishment within WAEMU of veterinary surgeons who are nationals of WAEMU member states.

Dr Diallo reported that the activities planned by WAEMU for 2012 were centred around continuing programmes that were already under way on: the harmonisation of veterinary pharmaceutical legislation; quality control of medicinal products through successive campaigns to improve conditions in the veterinary medicinal products market; and animal health and food safety. In addition, WAEMU would continue to offer support to member states for animal disease control (Newcastle disease, anthrax, etc.) and for serious animal health crises.

Dr Diallo concluded by saying that, in 2012, with the support of the OIE, the WAEMU Commission will launch a study, to define a regional strategy for controlling contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP).

- **Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

Mr B. Hulman, SADC Senior Programme Officer, gave a brief review of the Livestock Development Unit of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate of the SADC, explaining the major intervention areas of the FANR Directorate and the different programmes through which these interventions were being coordinated.

In regard to livestock policy, Dr Hulman highlighted the different projects addressing such issues as: a) the SADC Farm Animal Genetic Resources Project, b) the Promotion of

Integration in the Livestock Sector, c) the SADC TADs Project, d) Food Safety and Capacity Building on Residue Control and e) the SADC FMD Project.

He also commented on the SADC Livestock Technical Committee (LTC), which comprises the Directors of Livestock and Veterinary Services of the SADC member states. The LTC steers the Livestock Sector Unit of the FANR Directorate towards the livestock development needs of its member states.

Mr Hulman concluded by expressing concerns regarding the SADC member states “Undetermined BSE Risk” status. He requested the OIE to provide guidance for getting historical free status for BSE.

- **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**

Dr Vivian Iwar, Head of Animal Resources of the ECOWAS Commission, submitted a report on the activities of ECOWAS to the Commission which was provided to all participants in the working document. Due to time constraints, Dr Iwar could not present. However, her report can be summarized as follow:

The ECOWAS Commission had put in place a strategic plan to transform the livestock sector, between 2011 and 2020, within the framework of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP). This plan was composed of four main elements: the promotion of meat and dairy value chains, cross-border transhumance, re-structuring the animal production sector, and financing.

The ECOWAS Commission had conducted capacity-building workshop on SPS in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, with EU support, aimed at strengthening national SPS committees (NSPSC) in international trade negotiations. Sensitisation training had also been conducted in collaboration with AU-IBAR under the PAN-SPSO project in Bamako.

The ECOWAS Commission convened the inaugural Regional Veterinary Committee meeting in Accra, Ghana. The Committee made far-reaching recommendations on the strengthening of epi-surveillance and laboratory networks in the region, the prioritisation of major TADs and zoonoses for control, and the development of an advocacy plan for reviving the livestock sector.

Finally, ECOWAS Commission had convened a regional technical meeting of Directors of Animal Production in Accra, Ghana, to validate a study on cross-border transhumance. This study had been carried out in collaboration with the FAO sub-regional office. The ECOWAS text on transhumance had also been reviewed, in an attempt to seek solutions to the perennial problems of transhumance in the region.

The meeting officially ended at 7:25 p.m.

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Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Paris, Monday 21 May 2012

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Marosi Molomo, Delegate of Lesotho and Vice President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Marosi Molomo)
3. Report of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Marosi Molomo)
4. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa and for the OIE Sub-Regional Representations (Dr Yacouba Samaké, OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
5. Selection of a technical item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014 (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
6. Selection of a technical item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa to be held in Lomé, Togo in February 2013 (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
7. Update in the organisation of the 20th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (Dr Batasse Batawui, OIE Delegate of Togo)
8. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions) (Dr Marosi Molomo)
9. OIE note related to the organisation of a roundtable with donors (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
10. Feedback from BTSF and future work on Good Governance in Africa (Dr Daniel Bourzat, Advisor to the OIE Regional Representative for Africa)
11. Update on the GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Yacouba Samaké)
12. Update on Global FMD Control Strategy and on PCP Roadmaps in Africa (Dr Domenech, OIE Scientific and Technical Dept)
13. Presentation from the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) (Dr Karim Tounkara, AU/PANVAC)
14. Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) (Dr Hassane Mahamat, AU/PATTEC)
15. Proposal for designation of a new Collaborating Centres
16. WAHIS/ WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)

17. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - World Bank
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
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**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, 21 May 2012

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 21 May 2012 at Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 81 participants, including Delegates and observers from 21 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Surinam, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

International/regional organisations: COPEG⁴⁸, CVP, FAO, ICFAW IFAH, IICA⁴⁹, OIRSA⁵⁰, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁵¹, WSPA⁵², World Bank.

The meeting was chaired by Dr John Clifford, President of the Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, seconded by Dr Luis Osvaldo Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, President of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and Delegate of Uruguay, Dr Brian Evans, Member of the OIE Council and Delegate of Canada, and Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles, Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of Guatemala.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was adopted unanimously.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Brian Evans reported on budgetary aspects in the Region and commended the progress made on voluntary contributions to the World Fund. He expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the countries hosting the Regional and Sub-Regional Representations.

Dr Evans pointed out that Member Countries' voluntary contributions were used to support the activities of the Commission and regional ad hoc groups. He commended Mexico and Colombia for moving up to 'Category 1' OIE contributions and called on Members to consider

⁴⁸ COPEG: Panama/United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm

⁴⁹ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

⁵⁰ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)

⁵¹ PAHO-PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization

⁵² WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

increasing their contribution category. He urged the five countries in the Americas that were one to two years in arrears with their contributions, and the country that was seven years in arrears, to bring their outstanding payments up to date. He also invited them to contact the Regional Representative, or Dr Bernard Vallat directly, to agree on possible ways to resolve late payments.

3. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

Dr John Clifford, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas and Delegate of the United States of America, presented a summary of the Regional Commission's activities.

Dr Clifford reported that the Bureau had met on three occasions in the past year to discuss the activities of the Regional Representation and the programmes of activities for addressing regional priorities, as well as administrative and technical aspects, including: identification of candidates for the various elective offices in the OIE; status of contributions to the OIE; forthcoming Regional Conference (Barbados); technical committee meetings; Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas; missions to review the foot and mouth disease (FMD) status of some countries in the Region; movements of competition horses; pilot seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Laboratories; and meeting to update OIE standards.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including Focal Point Seminars and an update on GF-TADs mechanisms

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, presented a summary of the activities of the Regional Representation (Buenos Aires) and Sub-Regional Representation (Panama).

Dr Barcos reported that the Regional Representation would continue to coordinate regular meetings of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, in order to: follow up the conclusions of the Regional Conference in Uruguay in 2010; coordinate the organisation of the next Regional Conference, to be held in Barbados in November 2012; and follow up the work programme.

Dr Barcos said that previous activities would continue, focusing on: strengthening Veterinary Services; encouraging countries to participate in the OIE PVS Pathway; and organising a meeting to discuss and update OIE standards. It would also carry out activities for the benefit of Delegates and National Focal Points, including a pilot seminar for National Focal Points for Laboratories in the Region, in order to assist countries in participating in the OIE standard-setting process.

Dr Barcos highlighted the Representation's active participation in the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), with the aim of coordinating activities in the Americas, together with international and regional organisations, including coordination within the framework of the FAO/OIE Global FMD Control Strategy.

Dr Barcos reported that work on developing the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas would continue, as well as the participation in regional and national activities requiring OIE presence and action.

Dr Barcos also described Spain's support in preparing a control programme for classical swine fever and a seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Laboratories.

The report and work programme were adopted.

5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2014

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical items (with a questionnaire to Members) for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session:

- “Impact on food security of certain animal diseases, including vector-borne diseases”
- and
- “Characterisation of quarantine infrastructure in the world for international movement control as a first line of defence”

6. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (without questionnaire) for inclusion in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas:

- “Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks”

7. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Barbados from 26 to 29 November 2012

Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados to the OIE, showed a video of his country and described the arrangements being made by the authorities to host the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held from 26 to 29 November 2012.

8. Update on the OIE FMD Andean Mission

Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, reported that, at the request of countries in the Andean Region, three experts appointed by the Director General of the OIE, accompanied by one representative from FAO, one from PANAFTOSA, one from the Andean Community (CAN) and Dr Luis Barcos from the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, undertook a mission to Colombia, Ecuador and Peru between 8 and 20 January 2012, and a mission to Venezuela between 30 April and 4 May 2012, in order to assess FMD control methods in those countries with a view to evaluating the development of a regional strategy based on the specific needs of the Andean Region.

Dr Brückner presented a summary of the missions and highlighted the political commitment and support of governments in the countries visited, where there had been a marked improvement in FMD control and a decline in FMD incidence. He also stressed the importance of including Bolivia in the regional project for FMD control in the Andean region.

Dr Brückner said that, as the borders between countries were not entirely secure and border control checkpoints were not an infallible mean of mitigating risk, routine vaccination of all animals and stricter control of movements were vital to progressing towards the goal of final eradication of FMD.

Dr Brückner concluded by emphasising that the commitment encountered in the countries visited – to move resolutely towards the ideal of total eradication of FMD from the Andean Region – could be bolstered if the four countries were to conclude an agreement on harmonising FMD control, including rules on border protection.

9. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, stressed how important it was for countries to take ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes, as reflected in the reports of OIE PVS initial, follow-up, Gap Analysis and Legislation missions.

Dr Caya summarized the great efforts made by the OIE and PVS Pathway donors to support Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services. He signalled the OIE's concern at the failure by some countries to take ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes, which was why the OIE was implementing new strategies to promote such ownership.

Dr Caya reiterated that since the OIE PVS Tool was introduced in 2006, the OIE, with the permission of the countries concerned, had been distributing reports to donors and other partners, such as the FAO. The OIE also currently assigned experts to assist countries in organising round tables with senior officials in their governments involved in budget allocations to Veterinary Services. Donors and international and regional organisations interested in supporting Veterinary Service capacity-building are also invited to attend the round tables.

During these round tables, the OIE experts assisted in explaining the importance and potential use of PVS Pathway outcomes. Recently the OIE had also been assisting countries in distributing the reports, through diplomatic channels, to senior officials able to support Veterinary Service capacity-building. The OIE would soon be drafting a guide on the ownership and use of reports and, with the permission of the countries concerned, would transmit the reports to relevant regional organisations that had signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE.

For their part, countries requesting OIE recognition and support along the various stages in the PVS Pathway should guarantee strong political commitment and support from their governments for implementing report recommendations in their operational plans, based on national priorities.

Dr Caya concluded by stating that the OIE's goal of building the capacity of Veterinary Services with appropriate legislation and the necessary human, physical and financial resources could be achieved only by countries taking ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes and by international solidarity.

10. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)

Bureau of the Regional Commission

President:	Dr John Clifford (United States of America)
Vice-President:	Dr Guilherme Henrique Figueiredo Marques (Brazil)
Vice-President:	Dr Miguel Ángel Azañón Robles (Guatemala)
Secretary General:	Dr Mark Trotman (Barbados)

Council

Dr Brian Evans (Canada), as member

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Alex Thiermann (United States of America), as President

Dr Jorge Caetano Jr. (Brazil), as Member

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Sergio Duffy (Argentina), as member

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Rodolfo Rivero (Uruguay), as Vice President

Dr Beverly Schmitt (United States of America), as member

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Víctor Manuel Vidal (Mexico), first candidate

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno (Chile), second candidate

11. Proposals for designation of new Collaborating Centres

Dr Alex Thiermann noted that, at the 2011 General Session, the Assembly had confirmed the designation of an OIE Collaborating Centre for Research and Diagnosis of Emerging and Existing Pathogens of Wildlife in the United States of America. He added that the Assembly has also adopted a new mandate and rules of procedure for OIE Collaborating Centres, which included the principle of designating no more than one Collaborating Centre per region per speciality. As an OIE Collaborating Centre for wildlife already existed (in Canada), it had been proposed that the two centres should form a consortium and re-apply in 2012 as a single, combined Collaborating Centre, composed of the two entities.

Dr Clifford reported that the two centres had signed and sent to the OIE a memorandum of understanding to form a single OIE Collaborating Centre for Research, Diagnosis and Surveillance of Pathogens of Wildlife. Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada, confirmed that the Scientific Commission had already endorsed the application.

The Regional Commission also agreed to endorse it.

Dr Hugo Fragoso, Delegate of Mexico, reported on the agreement to integrate Mexico's proposed Collaborating Centre with the Chile/Uruguay Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Research. Dr Francisco Muzio, representing the Delegate of Uruguay, and Dr Oscar Videla Pérez, Delegate of Chile, welcomed Mexico's initiative to join the region's Collaborating Centre, saying that it would expand the Centre's areas of expertise and objectives.

The Regional Commission decided to support the integration of Mexico into the existing Chile/Uruguay Collaborating Centre and the incorporation of sustainable animal production to expand the Centre's areas of expertise, which would be appraised in accordance with OIE procedures.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Paula Cáceres, veterinary epidemiologist in the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories in the Region, and reported on the number of wildlife disease questionnaires returned by Members in the Region. She also listed those that had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit these as soon as possible. A total of 72% of countries in the Region had sent complete annual reports for 2011. Dr Cáceres concluded by stressing the importance of submitting disease information on terrestrial and aquatic animals to the OIE on a regular basis.

13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Pan American Health Organization/Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PAHO/PANAFTOSA)**

Dr Ottorino Cosivi, Veterinary Public Health Coordinator and Director of PANAFTOSA, presented his organisation's structure and activities. He described efforts relating to: the eradication of rabies transmitted by dogs; neglected diseases; zoonoses; and food-borne diseases. He emphasized PANAFTOSA's activities in support of laboratories and food safety training. He described its actions to control antimicrobial resistance and reported on actions taken in connection with FMD control, the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and its institutional relations.

Dr Cosivi concluded by announcing the 16th Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSAs 16), which would address the relationships and implications of agriculture for health.

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)**

Dr José de Oliveira Mascarenhas Junior, Technical Secretary of the CVP, stated that the CVP comprised the official Veterinary Services of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and that its priority was to consolidate CVP regional institutions and the active and committed participation of all countries, building trust in the actions of official Veterinary Services and regional transparency.

Dr de Oliveira described regional efforts to control the FMD outbreaks that had occurred in Paraguay (September 2011 and January 2012) and surmount the regional emergency. He described the actions taken by Paraguay's official Veterinary Service and CVP technical cooperation, which had included PANAFTOSA technicians.

Dr Jose de Oliveira reported on a proposal to develop a system to constantly evaluate the official Veterinary Service of countries of the CVP, in accordance with what was previously established by the Ministers of Agriculture of the sub-region. In this regard, Dr Luis Barcos remarked the need to carefully study this proposal, in order to avoid duplications with the OIE PVS Pathway.

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Dr Ricardo Molins, Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the report of IICA activities, through its offices in various countries, describing in detail: capacity-building of official Veterinary Services in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica and Venezuela; support to countries and regions with animal health measures; activities to boost FMD control; communication aids for farmers; procedures manuals; various workshops on risk analysis and communication, traceability, food safety, economic and legal impact of private standards; geographic information systems; projects for the prevention of avian diseases and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies; and training on a variety of animal health issues.

- **International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA)**

Dr Abelardo de Gracia presented OIRSA's annual report of activities in 2011 and described: OIRSA activities in support of cattle, aquaculture, bee, swine and poultry health; its training workshops on quality and safety management systems; and support for the development of regulatory frameworks for cattle traceability and animal identification.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Julio Pinto presented the FAO report concerning technical cooperation on transboundary diseases to support national and regional programmes for the control and eradication of such diseases as classical swine fever (Andean region), avian and swine influenza (South America, Central America and the Caribbean), and new world screwworm and FMD (Andean region), the latter to meet the goal of eradicating FMD from the Americas by the year 2020. He also reported on FAO studies to monitor climate change and animal health, as well as FAO activities in the areas of Veterinary Service capacity-building, health education, risk management and communication, distance training programmes and the production of information materials.

Dr Pinto emphasised that coordination of FAO activities in the region with those of the OIE, under GF-TADs, was of strategic importance, citing: FAO participation in recent missions to FMD programmes in the Region; its interaction with OIRSA in Central America and with the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) and French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) in the Caribbean region; and a cooperation agreement FAO had signed with the IICA.

14. Other matters

Dr François G. Le Gall, head of the World Bank delegation, took the floor to introduce Dr Laurent Msellati as the new head of agricultural development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

Paris, Monday 21 May 2012

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr John Clifford, Delegate of the United States of America and President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Brian Evans, Delegate of Canada and Member of the Council)
3. Report of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr John Clifford)
4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, including Focal Point Seminars and an update on GF-TADs mechanisms (Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas)
5. Selection of a Technical Item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, to be held in May 2014 (Dr Luis Barcos)
6. Selection of the Technical Item II (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Dr Luis Barcos)
7. Organisation of the 21st Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas to be held in Barbados from 26 to 29 November 2012 (Dr Mark Trotman, Delegate of Barbados)
8. Update on the OIE FMD Andean Mission (Dr Gideon Bruckner)
9. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes (Dr François Caya, Head OIE Regional Activities Department)
10. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions) (Dr Carlos Correa, President of the World Assembly of Delegates)
11. Proposals for designation of new Collaborating Centres
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dpt.)
13. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - Pan American Health Organization/ Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAHO/PANAFTOSA)
 - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP)
 - Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
 - Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
14. Other matters

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, 21 May 2012

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 21 May 2012 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 101 participants, including Delegates and observers from 23 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Dem. People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: EU, FAO, IEC, FEL, SPC⁵³

Dr Toshiro Kawashima, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations and introduced the Members of the Regional Commission.

He reminded the meeting about the election to be held during the session.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the OIE, reminded the meeting that, in relation to country contributions to the OIE, there were six different categories of countries, and he described how they were distributed across the Region. He indicated that each Member Country should belong to the category that fits the economic characteristics of the country, and that once the commitment is taken, they should ensure that they pay their contributions on a timely manner.

⁵³ SPC: Secretariat of the Pacific Community

He pointed out that most Regional Commission Members respect their financial commitment to the OIE. However, he reported that contributions from 13 countries were still missing and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any.

The Delegate of Mongolia indicated to the Regional Commission that his country had moved from category 6 to category 4.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Dr Toshiro Kawashima gave a presentation on the activities of the Commission. He indicated that the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania had been held in Tehran, Iran, from 19 to 23 November 2011.

He noted that, in the context of the 5th OIE Strategic Plan and Shanghai recommendation, and under guidance from OIE Headquarters, the Regional Commission had developed a Regional Work Plan Framework 2011-2015, which had been adopted at the Conference. He explained that, under the Work Plan, the Regional Commission would work closely with the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific to provide regionally-adapted services to Members. Dr Kawashima informed the meeting that, in accordance with this Work Plan, the Regional Commission had established a regional core group, circulated comments on the OIE Codes, established an e-mail network for information sharing, developed a list of experts for nomination as members of OIE Specialist Commissions and Working Groups, and would develop regional strategies and road maps for HPAI, FMD, CSF and PPR.

He also explained that the 5th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific had been held in Tokyo in July 2011. The meeting made recommendations on horizontal issues and specific diseases. As regards horizontal issues, it recommended that Veterinary Services be strengthened by addressing capacity-building, including the implementation of the PVS Pathway. As for specific diseases, the meeting recommended that surveillance of influenza A viruses be conducted in the region, and that a sub-regional meeting be held in East Asia to define a process by which countries in the region can develop national strategies and a sub-regional road map toward FMD control and progressive eradication. Considering the number of ongoing programmes in the region, he further emphasised the need to avoid overlaps and to focus on necessary issues.

Dr Kawashima also participated in the 4th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee of the GF-TADs that was held in Rome in October 2011. The meeting had recommended that the GF-TADs Global Secretariat build upon the basic GF-TADs documents and the One Health principle to develop a draft five-year action plan and that it liaise with the GF-TADs Regional Secretariat to provide guidance and obtain the necessary regional input (GF-TADs Regional Action Plan and/or relevant GF-TADs recommendations).

Finally, he described his participation in the OIE Seminar for National Focal Points for Animal Welfare and the OIE Regional Seminar for recently appointed OIE Delegates, both of which were held in Tokyo, in December 2011 and in February 2012, respectively. He thanked Australia and New-Zealand for their input on the regional strategy for animal welfare.

He also reminded the Commission that the FAO / OIE Global Conference on FMD Control was to be held in June in Thailand; and that the Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare would be organised in November 2012 in Malaysia. He urged the Delegates to participate in these events.

Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO, explained that, within the framework of the GF-TADs and with the financial support of Australia, FAO regional offices implement programmes targeting rabies in Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines. He asked the regional secretariat of the GF-TADs to send their regional action plan by June so that it could be used to inform the GF-TADs Global Strategy.

4. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including Focal Point seminars, update on the GF-TADs mechanism, and outline of the New OIE/JTF Project for FMD control in Asia

Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific presented a report on the regional activities implemented to strengthen Veterinary Services (to enable them to comply with International Standards) and to improve animal health. He reported that capacity-building activities in different areas (legislation, diagnosis and surveillance of animal diseases) had been organised to that effect and that regional workshops for newly appointed OIE Delegates, animal welfare Focal Points, and wildlife Focal Points had been organised early in 2012.

He mentioned that, in line with the first specific objective of the 5th OIE strategic plan, which relates to animal disease and zoonosis information, a Regional animal health information system (RAHIS) had been in development since 2009. He explained that the information contained in the RAHIS database was made of data reported by Members of the Asia-Pacific Region through the WAHIS and extracted directly from WAHID.

He explained that, under the OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project for Strengthening HPAI Control in Asia, efforts had been made to improve HPAI control in the region through the organisation of various meetings (including training courses on HPAI laboratory diagnosis), field surveillance in wild and domestic birds along the migratory flyways, and molecular analysis of the collected samples.

He noted that the National Veterinary Assay Laboratory (NVAL) of Japan (an OIE Collaborating Centre for the diagnosis and control of animal diseases), in close collaboration with the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, would organise a training seminar on veterinary drug assessment, as a follow-up activity of the OIE regional workshop on risk analysis for veterinary vaccines.

He also highlighted the close collaboration between the OIE and FAO in the organisation of Regional Steering Committee Meetings of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific. He expressed his wish that this collaboration would continue and that similar, close working relationships could be developed with all OIE partners.

He explained that, considering the impacts of recent recurrent FMD outbreaks in East Asia, the OIE had launched a new project, entitled “OIE/JTF on FMD Prevention in Asia” with the support of OIE Tokyo, to develop a regional roadmap and a strategy for FMD control in East Asia, to enhance information sharing, and to strengthen disease control measures and laboratory diagnosis. Dr Shimohira explained that the project had been proposed and accepted during the 5th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs. The inception meeting was held in Tokyo on 13 and 14 December 2011.

Dr Shimohira indicated that from May to December 2012, the OIE, with the support of OIE Tokyo and OIE Bangkok, would organise several capacity-building activities, including a seminar for OIE Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety, Veterinary Products, Veterinary Laboratories (pilot) and Aquatic Animal Diseases; various regional meetings and

workshops on HPAI, FMD, swine diseases, and the strengthening of national Veterinary Services. Finally, he mentioned the new version of the OIE regional website for Asia and the Pacific which provides information on the activities organised by OIE Tokyo and OIE Bangkok.

5. Report of the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including an update on the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South-East Asia

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia, presented a report on the role played by the OIE SRR-SEA in the strengthening of Veterinary Services in the region.

He provided details of some topics of importance and activities implemented by the Sub-Regional Representation, grouped according to the strategic objectives of the OIE 5th Strategic Plan (2011-2015), namely:

- Animal health information – Dr Abila stressed the seriousness of the FMD and HPAI situation in the region and pointed out that outbreaks had occurred in several countries;
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses – Dr Abila first presented the activities that had been conducted under the SEACFMD programme. The three coordination meetings organised had generated several action plans, which mostly involved encouraging stakeholders to coordinate and cooperate to achieve SEACFMD goals. Dr Abila said that these meeting had provided Member Countries with an opportunity to undertake an initial self-assessment of their progress in relation to the OIE/FAO Progressive Control Pathway. Dr Abila then explained that a rabies workshop had been jointly organised with the ASEAN, FAO and the World Health Organization to review the achievements and progress of Member Countries and to initiate efforts to eliminate rabies in the region through the development of a regional strategy for rabies control and eradication;
- Capacity building for national Veterinary Services – Dr Abila listed the activities that had been organised in this field, namely, the coordination of PVS Pathway missions; the organisation of training for Focal Points; the provision of support to OIE HQ in the organisation of a pilot PVS One Health mission in the region; the successful organisation of a Laboratory Strategic Planning workshop with the support of the IDENTIFY project for wildlife; and
- FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite collaboration and the outcomes of the Second Regional Workshop on Collaboration between Human and Animal Health Sectors on Zoonoses Prevention and Control, held in Malaysia in January 2012;
- Influence on policy design, applied research and governance – Dr Abila explained that the OIE with the support of SRR Bangkok had conducted policy engagement activities, such as organising coordination meetings, participating in meetings organised by Member Countries and partners, and undertaking missions to meet Ministers and OIE Delegates.

Dr Abila also presented the activities programmed for the rest of the year. In particular, he stressed that the SEACFMD would continue to provide assistance to its Members, and enable them to assist each other, by facilitating access to vaccines and funds via the newly operational FMD vaccine bank and the Small Grants Facility (SGF), which has been established under the AusAID-funded STANDZ (Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses) Initiative.

6. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (May 2014)

Seven proposals were made by various Delegates. Dr Barry O’Neil reminded the meeting that the selected technical item should be of relevance to all OIE Member Countries in order to be endorsed by the World Assembly.

The following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session:

- “Capacity and development requirements for veterinary education and veterinary statutory bodies internationally/regionally”

7. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Teheran, Iran from 19-23 November 2011

Dr Itsuo Shimohira presented the outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Iran in November 2011 and was attended by high-ranking officials from 17 Member Countries. In particular, he listed the main recommendations made following discussions related to each technical item.

Technical item I (with questionnaire) (“Active participation of Members in the development of the OIE Codes”) led to the following recommendations:

- OIE RRs and SRRs should organise workshops to train Members to assess critically and comment constructively on draft Code texts.
- Regional Members should be encouraged to develop efficient processes, including email lists and website postings, for consulting with relevant stakeholders.
- Regional Members should strengthen the level of consultation with farming and aquaculture producer organisations when formulating comments.

In relation to these recommendations, Dr Shimohira emphasised the relevance of the new regional website and stressed its importance as a mean allowing Delegates to share their comments.

Technical item II (without questionnaire) (“Epidemiological development and control of FMD in Asia”) led to the following recommendations:

- Members should continue to improve their FMD control strategies in order to ensure early detection and rapid control of FMD.
- Members should ensure the use of FMD vaccines produced according to the OIE Manual.
- Members should ensure the use of vaccines matching field strains.
- Members should collaborate and share information in order to ensure a harmonised approach to FMD control strategies.
- The OIE should stimulate research addressing the need for a better understanding of the epidemiology of FMD, including the role of wildlife.

Dr Mark Schipp, Delegate of Australia, pointed out the excellent quality of the presentations of the technical items during the Regional Conference of Teheran and noted that the recommendations had already been implemented through regional plans. Finally, he encouraged Member Countries to participate in the next Regional Conference.

Dr Nar Bahadur Rajwar, Delegate of Nepal, questioned the efficacy of FMD vaccines and asked how the efficacy of vaccination campaigns can be ensured. Dr Lubroth explained that, from his experience, the circulating strain of virus can vary according to temporal and geographical contexts, and he stressed the importance of implementing good quality assurance procedures for handling veterinary vaccines.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in November 2013

Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines, informed the Regional Commission that his country would be willing to host the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in November 2013.

9. Selection of the technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Following proposals from the Members, the following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 28th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania:

- “The use of cost-benefit analysis in animal disease control, including practical examples from the region”

10. Outcome of the 18th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Lijiang, Yunnan, P.R. China, from 5 to 9 March 2012

Dr Ronello Abila presented a report on the outcomes of the 18th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in China in March 2012.

He noted that the newly introduced FMD control strategies in China, Vietnam, Laos and Malaysia had been presented during this meeting and that these strategies had since enabled the campaign to make significant progress towards meeting the objectives of the SEACFMD 2020 Roadmap. He also described the resources that are currently available to support FMD control activities, in particular, the Small Grant Facility (SGF) and the FMD vaccine bank.

He then presented an overview of the discussions that had been held during a separate workshop on the improvement of the SEACFMD campaign where the discussions covered issues such as animal identification and traceability, sample submission and vaccine matching, the FMD vaccine bank, the STANDZ SGF, and forthcoming key events relevant to FMD control. In particular, a special session had been organised on “One Health”, which recognised the urgent need for more, and better, cooperation between the human, animal and environmental health sectors, and the need to involve the medical profession, including academia, more fully in “One Health” cross-sectoral collaborations.

Finally, he presented the key recommendations and priority actions that had emerged from the meeting. The priority actions included: updating Member Countries’ National FMD Control Programmes and developing proposals for OIE recognition where applicable; submitting proposals for SGF support; increasing sample submission rates to reference laboratories; implementing targeted control activities; identifying achievable milestones for

meeting the SEACFMD Roadmap objectives; updating National Communication Action Plans; engaging political support in FMD-free countries to sustain and improve budgets for maintaining freedom; and participating actively in the FMD Global Conference in June 2012 in Thailand. He urged the Delegates who had not yet registered to do so as soon as possible.

11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)

Bureau of the Regional Commission

- President: Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (China [People's Rep.]) proposed by Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines)
- Vice-President: Dr Davinio Catbagan (Philippines) proposed by Dr Mark Schipp (Australia)
- Vice-President: Dr Sen Sovann (Cambodia) proposed by Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand)
- Secretary General: Dr Matthew Stone (New Zealand) proposed by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu (China [People's Rep.]

The above proposals were unanimously approved.

Council

Dr Barry O'Neil explained the system of election, the composition of the Council, its responsibility, and the meetings its Members should attend. He explained that he and Dr Tensin Dhendup were leaving their positions and should be replaced by other Delegates from the Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania.

Dr Toshiro Kawashima (Japan) was proposed by Dr Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), and supported by the Delegates of New Zealand and Bhutan.

Dr Mark Schipp (Australia) was proposed by Barry O'Neil (New Zealand), and supported by the Delegates of New Zealand and Bhutan.

The proposals were unanimously approved.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Stuart MacDiarmid (New Zealand) as Vice-President

Dr Toshiyuki Tsutsui (Japan) as member

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Yong Joo Kim (RO Korea) as Vice-President

Dr Graeme Garner (Australia) as member

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Peter Daniels (Australia) as President

Dr Hualan Chen (China [People's Rep.]) as Vice-President

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Huang Jie (China [People's Rep.]) as Vice-President

Dr Ingo Ernst (Australia) as member

The proposals were unanimously adopted. As proposed by the Delegates of New Zealand, Mongolia and Cambodia, Dr Kawashima will inform the World Assembly of the Regional Commission's unanimous position at the elections on Friday.

12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Manuel Sanchez, Deputy Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories. He also told the meeting about the number of Questionnaires on Wildlife Disease that had been received from Members of the region and pointed out those who had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Ninety per cent of Members belonging to the region have submitted complete annual reports for 2011. Dr Sanchez finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting animal health information on terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases on a regular basis to the OIE.

13. Proposals for designation of new Collaborating Centres

The Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania noted that the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute in the People's Republic of China had submitted an application to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses of the Asia-Pacific region. It was understood that the Centre would specialise in those zoonotic diseases endemic in the region. After a short presentation by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of People's Republic of China, on the planned activities, the Commission unanimously agreed to support this application, which will be examined by the Scientific Commission at its next meeting.

Dr Catbagan requested additional information regarding the requirements for approval as a Collaborating Centre.

Dr Kiok Hong, project officer in the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, explained that the Council first requested the endorsement of the application by the Regional Commission. He then further explained the overall procedure for being recognised as an OIE Collaborating Centre.

The application from China (People's Rep. of) was approved by the Regional Commission.

14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

Dr Abila provided the Regional Commission with details of the outcomes of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Coordination Group meeting for endorsement of the reports and recommendations.

He reminded the meeting that the RAWS Coordination Group had met in Tokyo in November 2011 and in Bangkok in April 2012.

Dr Abila explained that the main issues that had been discussed during these meetings were the following:

- Key welfare development in the Region, as demonstrated by the organisation of a pilot training course in practical animal handling, the running of a comprehensive course in animal welfare by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis, the launch of the Improved Animal Welfare Programme, and the review of the RAWS;

- Establishment of a drafting group to update the RAWS to reflect changes; this newly updated RAWS 2012-15 Strategy would be supported by an Action Plan to be developed by the Secretariat;
- Importance of effective communications and networking (the meeting discussed the possibility of publishing a quarterly newsletter and improving linkages with Focal points, NGOs and Industry);
- Importance of tracking progress in animal welfare in the region (Regional Members should provide information on welfare developments so that progress can be documented and consolidated).

He noted that the next meetings of the RAWS Coordination Group would be held after the 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Kuala Lumpur (November 2012); and in March / April 2013.

15. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, stressed how important it was for countries to take ownership of the results of the PVS Pathway, as reflected in the reports of OIE PVS Evaluation missions, PVS Gap Analyses, OIE Veterinary Legislation missions and PVS Pathway follow-up missions.

Dr Caya summarised the great efforts made by the OIE and PVS Pathway donors to support Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services. He signalled the OIE's concern at the failure of many countries to take ownership of PVS Pathway results, which was why the OIE was implementing new strategies to promote such ownership.

Dr Caya reiterated that, since the OIE PVS Tool was introduced in 2006, the OIE, with the permission of the countries concerned, had been distributing reports to donors and other partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He explained that the OIE also currently assigns experts to assist countries in organising round tables with senior officials in their governments involved in budget allocations to Veterinary Services. Donors and international and regional organisations interested in supporting Veterinary Services capacity-building are also invited. He explained that, during these round tables, the OIE experts help in explaining the importance and potential use of PVS Pathway results. Dr Caya said that, recently, the OIE had also been assisting countries in distributing the reports, through diplomatic channels, to senior officials able to support Veterinary Service capacity-building. He informed the Commission that the OIE would soon be drafting a guide on the ownership and use of reports and, with the permission of the countries concerned, would transmit the reports to relevant regional organisations that had signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE.

For their part, countries requesting OIE scrutiny and support along the various stages in the PVS Pathway should guarantee strong political commitment and support from their governments for implementing report recommendations in their operational plans, based on national priorities.

Dr Caya concluded by stating that the OIE's goal of building the capacity of Veterinary Services with appropriate legislation and the necessary human, physical and financial resources could be achieved only by countries taking ownership of PVS Pathway results and by international solidarity.

16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC)**

Dr Anne-Sophie Lequarre, representative of the European Commission, updated the Regional Commission on a series of collaborative animal health research projects, funded by the European Commission, that are being carried out by European and Asian Scientists. She noted that these projects cover diseases that pose a particular risk in Asia (such as fish diseases and highly virulent swine diseases – CSF, PRRSV or ASF) and critical conditions that are a worldwide problem (e.g. FMD or avian flu). A few endemic diseases are also being studied.

She further explained that Asian research institutes are partners of EU-funded global networks to generate better surveillance systems for global diseases or to develop strategic alliances for the coordination of research on the major infectious diseases. This scientific collaboration has been established for several years and measures are in place to preserve these links.

Cooperation between Asian scientists and European researchers is important for optimising the management of potential new viral epidemics and for harmonising diagnostic tools and prevention measures for current infectious diseases.

Finally, she noted that activities sustaining sanitary measures endorsed by the OIE are implemented by the European Commission in order to build up institutional capacity in the area of veterinary public health, animal health, traceability, surveillance of zoonotic diseases and veterinary drug residues and antimicrobial resistance mitigation. These activities foster the harmonisation of international and domestic trade-related standards across the animal production supply chain.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer of the FAO, presented the activities that had been implemented in Asia and the Pacific. He emphasised that this region includes more than 40 Member Countries which have a combined livestock population of 1.6 billion ruminants, 0.6 billion pigs and 11 billion poultry. The region accounts for one third of the global livestock.

Dr Lubroth explained that, with the aim of safeguarding and improving livestock production in the region, FAO's functions with respect to animal health improvement include regional and sub-regional coordination, capacity building, information generation and dissemination, and support for field implementation of disease control activities. Dr Lubroth detailed some activities related to cross-cutting issues, such as the One Health concept, diagnostic laboratory capacity and networking, field epidemiology and specific diseases, e.g. FMD, HPAI, and PRRS. He explained that these activities had been coordinated with other agencies through various platforms, which include, but are not limited to, the regional GF-TADs mechanism, the FAO-OIE network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU), the ASEAN Livestock Group and the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA). He also explained that these activities had been funded by FAO core funds, funds from FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, country contributions to APHCA and extra-budgetary contributions.

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**

Dr Ken Cokanasiga, representative of the SPC, presented activities related to the Food Animal Biosecurity Network Project, funded by AusAID, and currently implemented in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu with the aim to enhance animal health and laboratory capability to the Pacific islands and to allow assessment under OIE guidelines, for trade in animal and animal products.

He explained that the main outputs of the project were to design appropriate disease investigation protocols; to obtain accreditation for the animal health laboratories in Fiji and Papua New Guinea; to improve collaboration with Australia; to improve collection, transport and handling of samples; to develop proficiency testing; to establish an animal health risk profile in these countries; and to develop a professional network.

17. Other matters

Dr Kawashima thanked Dr Barry O'Neil on behalf of the Regional Commission Members for his tremendous contributions to the Regional Commission as well as to the OIE.

The meeting officially ended at 6:15 pm.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA**

Paris, Monday 21 May 2012

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Barry O'Neil, Delegate of New Zealand and Past President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Toshiro Kawashima)
4. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific including Focal Point Seminars, update on the GF-TADs mechanisms and outline of the New OIE/JTF Project for FMD control in Asia (Dr Itsuo Shimohira, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)
5. Report of the Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries including an update on the Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Initiative in South East Asia (Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South East Asia)
6. Selection of a technical item I (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
7. Outcomes of the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Teheran, Iran from 19-23 November 2011 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
8. Confirmation of the venue of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, to be held in November 2013 (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
9. Selection of the technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 28th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Dr Itsuo Shimohira)
10. Outcome of the 18th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease in South-East Asia and China, held in Lijiang, Yunnan, P.R. China, from 5 to 9 March 2012 (Dr Ronello Abila)
11. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept)
13. Proposals for designation of new Collaborating Centres

14. Update on Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Dr Ronello Abila)
 15. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes (Dr François Caya, Head OIE Regional Activities Department)
 16. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
 - Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
 - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
 - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 17. Other matters
-

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, 21 May 2012

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 21 May 2012 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 131 participants, including Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission and representatives from 10 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan.

International/regional organisations: Codex Alimentarius COPA/COGECA⁵⁴, CVIWUR⁵⁵, EC⁵⁶, EuFMD⁵⁷, FAO, FEL, FESASS⁵⁸, World Bank, WSPA.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, assisted by Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine), Vice-President of the Commission and Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia), Vice-President of the Commission, and the Secretary General of the Commission Dr Nihat Pakdil (Turkey).

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from almost all countries had been made; only one country still has to settle its arrears.

⁵⁴ COPA/COGECA: Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations/ General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives

⁵⁵ CVIWUR: The Central Veterinary Institute / Wageningen UR

⁵⁶ EC: European Commission

⁵⁷ EuFMD: European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

⁵⁸ FESASS: European Federation for Animal Health and Sanitary Security

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, including Focal Point seminars

The President of the Regional Commission and Regional Representative provided information on the activities implemented by the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in the first few months of 2012. Within the framework of the OIE Capacity-Building Programme, two workshops had been organised in the region: a Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife in Pravets (Bulgaria), on 23-25 January 2012, with participants from 41 Members from Europe, and a Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare focused on Eastern Europe countries, in Kiev (Ukraine), on 6-8 March 2012, with participants from 21 Members.

Prof. Belev noted that the seminar held in January 2012 in Bulgaria had been an opportunity to sign an agreement for the establishment of an international centre for the control of diseases in wildlife. The agreement, between the President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Mr Bernard Loze, and the Government of Bulgaria, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Dr Miroslav Naydenov, was signed in the presence of the OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, Prof. Dr Nikola Belev.

Prof. Belev informed the Delegates of his participation in the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (SC4) of the Global Framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) for Europe, held in Brussels (Belgium), specifying that his contribution had been mainly aimed at discussing the GF-TADs draft Action Plan (2012-2016).

Prof. Belev highlighted the fact that, during the reporting period, communication with the Governments of several Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Serbia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Turkey, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan) had been established and maintained.

With reference to the epizootic situation for the first half of 2012, Prof. Belev listed African swine fever (ASF), classical swine fever (CSF) and foot and mouth disease (FMD) as being among the main concerns of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, also reporting the spread of Schmallenberg virus, rabies and West Nile fever in several Western European countries.

Prof. Belev confirmed to Delegates that the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe would be held on 17-21 September 2012 in Fleesensee (Germany). He informed the meeting that a training seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates would be organised on 17 September, before the Conference start.

Finally, Prof. Belev announced that, on 1 May 2012, Dr Valentyna Sharandak (Ukraine) had been appointed as Technical Assistant in the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe in Sofia (Bulgaria).

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, informed the Delegates that, in November 2011, the staff of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation had been reinforced with the appointment of Dr Stéphane de La Rocque, project officer for Veterinary Public Health, who would be specifically in charge of strengthening the collaboration between the OIE and WHO for human/animal interface issues.

Dr Leboucq presented a report on the work programme implemented by the Sub-Regional Representation in the first half of 2012, emphasising its compliance with the regional strand of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2016) and with the recommendations of the most recent OIE world and regional conferences. Dr Leboucq said that the programme had been carried out by focusing on two main areas of activity: the implementation of OIE regional actions in support of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe, and the strengthening of communication with institutions and organisations headquartered in Brussels.

With reference to the first of these two areas of activity, Dr Leboucq stated that, in the period between 1 January and 30 April 2012, the staff of the Sub-Regional Representation had participated in ten regional animal health and welfare coordination meetings, including a seminar for OIE Focal Points for Wildlife (Bulgaria, January 2012) and another for Focal Points for Animal Welfare (Ukraine, March 2012). Among the forthcoming scheduled meetings, Dr Leboucq highlighted the four major events for the region: (i) the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission (Germany, September 2012), (ii) the seminar for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products (November 2012), (iii) the seminar for newly appointed OIE Delegates (Germany, September 2012) and (iv) the regional workshop for Veterinary Statutory Bodies for the countries of Central Asia (venue to be determined, December 2012). Dr Leboucq also reminded the meeting that the Sub-Regional Representation was in charge of managing the OIE regional website (www.rr-europe.oie.int), where all regional and sub-regional activities were published.

Dr Leboucq indicated that the Sub-Regional Representation had met with several European institutions and organisations to discuss both European and global issues. In addition, the Sub-Regional Representation had contributed to handle relations with the European Commission on several technical questions (Animal Disease Information System – ADIS – new animal health legislation, the Schmallenberg virus, OIE PVS self-assessment of European Union – EU – Member Countries, among others).

Dr Leboucq reported that, in its capacity as Secretariat for GF-TADs Europe, the Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, in collaboration with FAO and the EC, had also drawn up the GF-TADs Europe Five-Year Action Plan (2012–2016) and helped with the organisation of the fourth meeting of the GF-TADs Europe Steering Committee (January 2012, Brussels, Belgium), during which the Action Plan had been validated.

Finally, Dr Leboucq highlighted the continuing contribution of the Sub-Regional Representation to the drafting of the FAO-OIE FMD Global Strategy, and to the organisation of the Global FMD Conference (Thailand, June 2012), in the context of its participation in the GF-TADs FMD Working Group.

5. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 82nd General Session:

- Categorisation and prioritisation of animal diseases

6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Fleesensee, Germany, from 17 to 21 September 2012

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was adopted for the 25th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

- “Regional steps towards common Animal Welfare approach in Europe”

Dr Leboucq highlighted that this topic would be redundant with an item already included in the agenda of the 25th Conference (“OIE approach on Animal Welfare in Eastern Europe”) and that the Agenda would be adjusted accordingly.

7. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Delegate of Germany, confirmed that the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe would be held in Fleesensee (Germany) from 17 to 21 September 2012. Dr Schwabenbauer invited all Delegates to attend this important meeting and to register through the OIE website dedicated to the Conference.

8. Veterinary Statutory Body pilot activities in the region

Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, reminded that, although Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) are not part of Veterinary Authority in OIE standards, they are vital in supporting the good governance of the overall Veterinary Services. Indeed, they play a crucial role in the registration of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, as well as in setting minimum standards for the initial and continuing training of such personnel and the code of conduct for the veterinary profession. OIE standards on the quality and on the evaluation of Veterinary Services include specific provisions relating to VSB (or equivalent authorities).

The OIE is planning to hold a regional seminar on the role of VSB in the good governance of Veterinary Services in December 2012, in order to raise awareness among the countries concerned of the importance of VSB. Although the seminar is aimed primarily at Eastern European countries, it will be open to other countries of the region wishing to participate.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)

Prof. Belev invited the Delegates to nominate candidates for the following positions.

Bureau of the Regional Commission

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

President:	Dr Ago Pärtel (Estonia)
Vice-President:	Dr Ivan Bisiuk (Ukraine)
Vice-President:	Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi (Spain)
Secretary General:	Dr Nihat Pakdil (Turkey)

Acknowledging the tremendous contribution of Prof. Belev to the improvement of Animal Health in the Region, it was unanimously decided to appoint him as Honorary President of the OIE Regional Commission.

Council

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) as President of the Council

Dr Evgeny Nepoklonov (Russia) as member of the Council

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Etienne Bonbon (France) as Vice-President of the Commission

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

It was unanimously proposed to reassign the two representatives of Europe that were previously part the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases:

Dr Kris De Clercq (Belgium), as Vice-President of the Commission

Prof. Thomas C. Mettenleiter (Germany), as member of the Commission

Biological Standards Commission

It was unanimously proposed to reassign the two representatives of Europe that were previously part of the Biological Standards Commission:

Prof. Vincenzo Caporale (Italy), as President of the Commission

Dr Paul Townsend (United Kingdom), as member of the Commission

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Delegates of the Region unanimously agreed on the following proposed names:

Dr Franck Berthe (France), as President of the Commission

Dr Brit Hjeltnes (Norway) as member of the Commission

10. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, stressed how important it was for countries to take ownership of the results of the PVS Pathway, as reflected in the reports of OIE PVS initial, follow-up, Gap Analysis and Legislation missions.

Dr Caya summarized the great efforts made by the OIE and PVS Pathway donors to support Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services. He signalled the OIE's concern at the failure by some countries to take ownership of PVS Pathway results, which was why the OIE was implementing new strategies to promote such ownership.

Dr Caya reiterated that since the OIE PVS Tool was introduced in 2006, the OIE, with the permission of the countries concerned, had been distributing reports to donors and other partners such as the FAO. The OIE also currently assigns experts to assist countries in organising round tables with senior officials in their governments involved in budget allocations to Veterinary Services. Donors and international and regional organisations interested in supporting Veterinary Services capacity-building are also invited. During these roundtables, the OIE experts help in explaining the importance and potential use of PVS Pathway results. Recently the OIE had also been assisting countries in distributing the reports, through diplomatic channels, to senior officials able to support Veterinary Service

capacity-building. The OIE would soon be drafting a guide on the ownership and use of reports and, with the permission of the countries concerned, would transmit the reports to relevant regional organisations that had signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE.

For their part, countries requesting OIE scrutiny and support along the various stages in the PVS Pathway should guarantee strong political commitment and support from their governments for implementing report recommendations in their operational plans, based on national priorities.

Dr Caya concluded by stating that the OIE's goal of building the capacity of Veterinary Services with appropriate legislation and the necessary human, physical and financial resources could be achieved only by countries taking ownership of PVS Pathway results and by international solidarity.

11. Proposals for designation of new OIE Collaborating Centres

The Regional Commission for Europe noted that in accordance with the organisation-wide policy agreed upon by the OIE Council in 2011, only one Collaborating Centre can be designated in one region for the same topic. However, in February 2012, the Council decided that the broad topic of animal welfare should be divided into three areas: production animals, laboratory animals and companion animals.

The Regional Commission for Europe received one submission for Collaborating Centre recognition in 2012. Sweden is proposing the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (SCAW) to become an OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare of Production Animals. The Regional Commission invited Dr Leif Denneberg, OIE Delegate of Sweden, to shortly present the rationale for this proposal. The Regional Commission adopted the proposal for submission to the relevant OIE Commission.

12. Update on OIE actions on Schmallenberg virus

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, informed the Delegates that, following the emergence of a new virus called "Schmallenberg virus" in several Western European countries in autumn of 2011, the OIE had been requested by its Member Countries to provide information and guidance.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel stated that, in line with its mandate and with its commitment to ensuring the "scientific excellence and timeliness of the information and advice available to national Veterinary Services and other interested parties" (which is one of the objectives of the OIE's Fifth Strategic Plan), the OIE had decided (i) that a meeting of experts would be convened at very short notice to review existing knowledge; (ii) that answers would be provided to requests from OIE Member Countries.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel explained that the report of the meeting had been endorsed, with minor amendments, by the OIE Scientific Commission and that the outcome had been published on the OIE website in February 2012. Nevertheless, as this information was based on preliminary knowledge, the OIE had organised a second meeting on 14 May 2012 to take new information into account and to update, during this week, what had been published on the OIE website.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel remarked that, with the support of its Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, the OIE had been able to provide consolidated expert opinions to its Member Countries and to share what knowledge was available in a very transparent manner.

Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, OIE Delegate of Germany, expressed some concerns regarding the procedure for the immediate notification of emerging diseases through WAHIS, and the further dissemination of the information to Members. She suggested the procedure to be discussed.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Simona Forcella, Chargée de mission at the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories as well as the number of Questionnaire on Wildlife Disease reported by Members of the region and pointed out those who have not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. 83% of Members belonging to the region have submitted complete Annual reports for 2011. Dr Forcella finally emphasised the importance of countries /territories submitting sanitary information on Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Diseases on a regular basis to the OIE.

14. Outcomes of the first Communication Focal Point Seminar held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 28 to 30 September 2011

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, announced that, following the inclusion of 'Communication' as one of the training components in the OIE Capacity-Building Programme for OIE National Focal Points, the first OIE regional seminar on communication had been organised in Prague (Czech Republic), from 28 to 30 September 2011.

Ms Zampaglione explained that representatives from 37 of the 53 Member Countries of the European region had attended the seminar, along with by five invited external speakers. She also highlighted the fact that 26 countries had been represented by their officially designated Focal Point for Communication, and that 16 of these Focal Points had been professional communicators and/or veterinarians working in communication.

Ms Zampaglione said that the OIE had received many positive comments about the seminar, most of which were either to show appreciation for the OIE initiative of creating a network of communicators in the Region or to ask that the OIE develop a platform where all communication tools and documents could be shared. Ms Zampaglione commented that such a tool would not only serve as a benchmark with regard to animal health-related communication in the region, but would also allow countries with few resources to access material at no or limited cost, for their own use. Ms Zampaglione informed the meeting that the OIE is working on that project.

15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **European Commission (EC)**

Dr Andrea Gavinelli, Head of the Animal Welfare Unit of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission (DG SANCO), reminded the meeting that, through formal resolutions passed at the 74th and 75th General Sessions in 2006 and 2007, the OIE had recognised that regional strategies were important for strengthening the implementation of animal welfare standards; nevertheless, the OIE European region had not yet developed such strategies.

Dr Gavinelli informed the Delegates of the outcomes of the Seminar for OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare, held in Kiev (Ukraine) from 6 to 8 March 2012, explaining that the meeting, focused on Eastern European countries, had examined needs and options to support European countries other than EU Members to implement the OIE animal welfare standards.

Dr Gavinelli reported that, to that end, participants had discussed whether it would be preferable, in the first instance, to work on one or a few specific topics/areas, rather than on a strategy addressing all OIE animal welfare standards. On this basis, it was proposed to explore the possibility to establish project groups working together to help animal welfare improvement in one identified area, and to further assess this option at the meeting of the Regional Commission during the OIE General Session. Dr Gavinelli

explained that, as first step, it would be necessary to identify areas where OIE Member Countries in the region, mainly non-EU Members, would benefit from such cooperation. In this regard, the slaughter of animals for human consumption, particularly as it relates to the import/export of meat and meat products, was identified as a suitable topic. Dr Gavinelli confirmed that the suitability of this and other options would be further appraised.

Dr Gavinelli highlighted that a transfer of knowledge from countries that had already implemented the OIE standards would help other countries in their efforts towards this goal. Moreover, the dissemination of knowledge would be facilitated by the involvement of all stakeholders, international organisations and national competent authorities.

Finally, Dr Gavinelli proposed that the experience gained from the preliminary work on identified areas could help to guide future activities, including, if recognised as necessary at a later stage, the development of a general animal welfare European strategy.

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Andriy Rozstalny (FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia) explained that more than half of the economically active population in most of Europe and Central Asian countries is engaged in the agriculture sector. In this context, livestock production had remained the main source of protein, thus a key factor for the rural economies of these countries.

Dr Rozstalny stated that, for the reasons listed below, these countries are unable to comply with international animal health standards, and that this is the most serious limitation on their ability to promote their livestock sector.

1. **Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses:** Dr Rozstalny commented that the emergence and progressive spread of animal diseases in the region, such as ASF, brucellosis and rabies, posed a serious economic and social problem, and a high risk for neighbouring countries, including EU countries.
2. **Lack of access to animal health services:** Dr Rozstalny pointed out that the animal health support policies of these countries, most of them based on a centralised State, had not yet been improved in order to adapt the livestock sector to a market economy.

Dr Rozstalny reminded the meeting that, since 1989, FAO had made an active contribution to the improvement of animal health policies in Europe and Central Asian countries. In addition, and jointly with other United Nations (UN) agencies and international and regional organisations, such as OIE, WHO, EC and their committees (CODEX, EuFMD, among others.), FAO had assisted governments in the development of the livestock sector, thus helping them to increase the number of potential livestock trading partners.

Among the Animal Health initiatives promoted in the region, Dr Rozstalny mentioned the emergency assistance to help control ASF in Georgia, the assessment of the ASF situation in Azerbaijan, the assistance for brucellosis control in Armenia, the information systems to improve food security decision-making in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) East Area, and the development of veterinary legislation in Tajikistan.

The meeting officially ended at 6:15 pm.

.../Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Paris, Monday 21 May 2012

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe including Focal Point Seminars (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Dr Nadège Leboucq, OIE Sub Regional Representative in Brussels)
5. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014 (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Fleesensee, Germany, from 17 to 21 September 2012 (Dr Nikola T. Belev)
7. Organisation of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, Vice-President of the Council and Delegate of Germany)
8. Veterinary Statutory Body pilot activities in the region (Dr Nadège Leboucq)
9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code Commission, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions) (Dr Karin Schwabenbauer)
10. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes (Dr François Caya, Head OIE Regional Activities Department)
11. Proposals for designation of new Collaborating Centres
12. Update on OIE actions on Schmallenberg virus (Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head OIE Scientific and technical Department)
13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region (Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
14. Outcomes of the first Communication Focal Point Seminar held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 28 to 30 September 2011 (Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head Communications Unit)
15. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
 - European Commission (EC)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 21 May 2012

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 21 May 2012 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by 40 participants, including Delegates and observers from 14 Members of the Commission and representatives from 4 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Afghanistan, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Observer countries/territories: France, Italy.

International/regional organisations: FAO, IFAH, ICFAW, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar), President of the Commission, assisted by both Vice-Presidents, Dr Ali Al-Sahmi (Oman) and Dr Abdul Ghaniy Y.m. Al Fadhli (Saudi Arabia).

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of international organisations.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted. The agenda and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries were a matter of concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they had any. The president added that Member Countries should also contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the budget of the Regional Representation in Beirut in order to ensure the expansion of the programme of activities.

Dr Al-Qahtani said that support for the activities of the Regional Commission and the Regional Representation should be channelled towards finding new sources of funding for their activities. He also informed the meeting that the strategy for approaching potential new donors was discussed by the Bureau of the Commission in its meeting held in Dubai in March 2012.

3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East reminded the meeting of the principal objectives of the OIE Regional Commission, focusing on issues concerning the animal health situation in the region and on the importance of improving the quality of Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE standards. Dr Al-Qahtani said that the Regional Commission had held its 11th Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, in October 2011, and he outlined its fruitful outcomes and recommendations. He stressed that joint efforts would be necessary in order to ensure a harmonised implementation of these recommendations.

Dr Al-Qahtani highlighted the efficient and proactive cooperation between the Commission and the OIE Regional Representation in Beirut, which mostly focuses on implementing programmes to build the capacity of Veterinary Services and to control and manage animal diseases, mainly those of a transboundary nature.

4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, including Focal Point seminars and GF-TADs mechanisms activities

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented the main objectives of the activities that had been implemented by the Regional Representation in the previous year.

Dr Yehia explained that one of the main objectives of the Regional Representation for the Middle East (RR-ME) is to reinforce the capacity of Veterinary Services and contribute to the prevention and control of animal diseases in this region. He reminded participants that the RR-ME is involved in improving animal disease information systems, strengthening collaboration with regional and international organisations, holding conferences and seminars that help to target specific issues related to animal and public health, promoting the creation of regional Reference Laboratories and coordinating the activities of these laboratories in order to ensure they are adapted to regional needs.

Dr Yehia called attention to the fact that the Regional Representation has held the secretariat of the OIE/FAO GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee since 2006. He also emphasised the importance of strengthening the collaboration with other organisations, such as the Mediterranean Zoonoses Control Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO/MZCP), AU-IBAR and AOAD.

Dr Yehia reported on the main outcomes of the information seminars for recently designated Delegates and of the seminars for OIE National Focal Points organised during the year and provided details of the assistance given to countries that wish to take part in Reference Laboratory twinning projects. He also presented the conclusions of the Regional Conference on Glanders, held in Dubai in April 2012, and of the meetings of the regional steering committee of GF-TADs and the FMD PCP Roadmap, which were also held in Dubai in April 2012. Regarding the GF-TADs steering committee meeting, the Regional Representative informed the Commission that, during the meeting, the terms of reference for the GF-TADs Middle East were approved. A five-year action plan was also presented and would be approved after an electronic consultation.

Dr Yehia outlined the activities programmed for the upcoming year, such as the Regional Seminar on Rift Valley fever that will be held in September 2012, jointly with the Eastern African Sub-Regional Representation. He noted that this activity had still to be confirmed.

Dr Yehia concluded by announcing to the Commission that Professor Vincenzo Caporale is currently working as Special Advisor for the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East.

5. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (May 2014)

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 82nd General Session:

- “Improving National Laboratories biosafety measures”

6. Selection of the technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was adopted for the 12th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East:

- “Continuing education and incorporation of the “One Health” concept

The following technical item (without questionnaire) was proposed for inclusion in the agenda, with the provision that it should still be considered a current issue at the time of the conference.

- “Proper application of Halal slaughter”

7. Outcomes of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 3 to 6 October 2011

Dr Yehia presented the outcomes of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Beirut in October 2011.

The OIE Regional Representative reported that participants had discussed the current animal disease situation in the region and the activities to coordinate its surveillance and control. He also reported that the Commission had confirmed its commitment to continue working towards strengthening the technical capacities, management, legislation and overall governance of the Veterinary Services of Member Countries, and to promote OIE Laboratory Twinning programmes in order to improve the capabilities of national laboratories in the region.

Dr Yehia said that it had been suggested that the Regional Commission should discuss a plan to address animal welfare needs in the Region, and that recommendations had been made on two technical items: “Preparation of veterinary strategic plan and cost-benefit analysis” and “Extension programs dedicated to the activities of the veterinary services”.

8. Confirmation of the venue of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East

The Delegate of Jordan, Dr Nasser El-Deen Al-Hawamdeh, proposed to the Regional Commission that the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East be held in Amman, Jordan, in September 2013.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions)

Bureau of the Regional Commission

President:	Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani (Qatar)
Vice-President:	Dr Ali Abdullah Al-Sahmi (Oman)
Vice-President:	Dr Abdulghani Y. Al Fadhl (Saudi Arabia)
Secretary General:	Dr Salah Fadhil Abbas (Iraq)

Council

Dr Nasser El-Deen Al-Hawamdeh (Jordan)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Mustafa Hassan (Sudan)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Dr Prof. Hassan Aidaros (Egypt)

Biological Standards Commission

Dr Ahmad Al Majali (Jordan)

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Dr Mohamed Al Abdullah (Qatar)

10. Outcomes of the Glanders Conference held in Dubai from 23 to 26 April 2012

Dr Susanne Münstermann, from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented the outcomes of the Glanders Conference for the Middle East Region held in Dubai from 22 to 25 April 2012.

Dr Münstermann explained that the Region has experienced a re-emergence of glanders in the past years, especially with four countries (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait and Lebanon) having notified the occurrence of the disease to the OIE and three of them having subsequently put in place eradication programmes; and that the subsequent concern about further spread of this transboundary zoonotic disease as well as the need to better understand the situation in other countries led the OIE to organise this Conference.

She reported that representatives of 14 countries from the Middle East Region had participated in the Conference. Representatives from Brazil, India, the EU, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the National Equestrian Federations of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also attended the Conference, making a total of 97 participants.

Dr Münstermann reported that the OIE concept of “disease freedom” and the different ways of achieving it had been presented by the OIE Director General during the Conference. She also mentioned that Dr Vallat had stated that glanders might be considered by the OIE for inclusion into the list of diseases for which the OIE recognises the sanitary status. She explained that the OIE Director General had also referred to the concept of “sub-populations”, i.e. recognising sub-populations of a particular group of high-end horses, with the aim of introducing special conditions for their international movement, as already done within the EU for registered horses. Dr Münstermann informed the Commission that the OIE, in close collaboration with the FEI, was currently working on the development of

Guidelines for this sub-population and the conditions that would need to be fulfilled in terms of registration, biosecurity, veterinary certification and specific international events with appropriate biosecurity measures.

Dr Münstermann reported that, during the Conference, countries from the Region having experienced outbreaks of glanders had presented the disease control measures that had been undertaken, while the host country, the UAE, had explained the measures put in place to keep the country free from the disease. She mentioned that presentations had been made by the EU on the approach taken to eradicate the disease, by Brazil and India on their surveillance systems and, finally, by experts from OIE Reference Laboratories on diagnostic methods and strategies.

A specific recommendation was adopted at the end of the Conference.

11. Update on Global FMD Control Strategy and on PCP Roadmaps in Middle East

Dr Joseph Domenech from the OIE Scientific and Technical Department explained that the Global FMD Control Strategy had been prepared by a joint OIE-FAO Working Group, established in accordance with the recommendations of the First Global Conference on FMD Control, held in Asunción, Paraguay, in June 2009. An outline of the strategy had been presented at the 79th OIE General Session in Paris, in May 2011, and the OIE World Assembly of Delegates had passed a resolution supporting the proposed writing process of this strategy, under the OIE/FAO GF-TADs mechanism.

Around 50 partners from Member Countries, regional and international organisations, representatives from the private sector and selected experts, including wildlife experts, were involved in the process, as well as the members of the OIE/Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD).

Dr Domenech noted that the Global Strategy addressed the progressive control of FMD within the wider objectives of food security, poverty alleviation, income generation and rural development in developing countries, as well as biodiversity conservation. Implementing programmes for FMD progressive control (Component 1 of the Global Strategy) was taken as an entry point to improve the Veterinary Services environment (Component 2) and to decrease the impact of other major transboundary animal diseases (Component 3). For each component, the objectives, the underlying principles, the tools to be used (in particular the PCP tool for Component 1 and the PVS tool for Component 2, and the surveillance systems, laboratories and vaccines), as well as the activities to be conducted, were all described in the Global Strategy document.

He then explained that the global strategy had been built on the experience of other regions, and that – in addition to country commitment and global coordination – working at the regional level was considered to be a key factor in the control of FMD and other transboundary animal diseases.

Dr Domenech informed the Commission that several regional roadmap meetings had been organised around the world, to assess the PCP FMD stage of each country and to prepare or update regional strategies and visions towards 2022. He gave several examples: the meetings held in South East Asia (SEACFMD Programme), South Asia (Katmandu Workshop and New Delhi Conference in 2012), Africa (Nairobi in 2009 and 2012, Gaborone in March 2011). In regard to the Middle East, he highlighted the workshop held in Istanbul in March 2012 for the West Eurasia region and the workshop in Dubai in April 2012 for the entire Middle East region. The aim of these workshops was to assess the FMD situations and the PCP FMD stage of each country, as well as to prepare a regional strategy and a vision for 2022. The main conclusions of these meetings will be addressed, as will the new and worrying SAT2

situation which prevails in Egypt, Libya and the Gaza Strip. Tackling this issue will require East Africa, West Eurasia and the Middle East to work together closely in the implementation of their programmes.

Finally, Dr Domenech added that the Global FMD Control Strategy, as well as the regional FMD situations, roadmaps and ongoing programmes, would be presented during the FAO OIE Second Global Conference on FMD Control, which will be held in Bangkok, 27 – 29 June 2012.

12. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes

Dr François Caya, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, stressed how important it was for countries to take ownership of the results of the PVS Pathway, as reflected in the reports of OIE PVS Evaluation missions, PVS Gap Analyses, OIE Veterinary Legislation missions and PVS Pathway follow-up missions.

Dr Caya summarised the great efforts made by the OIE and PVS Pathway donors to support Member Countries in building the capacity of their Veterinary Services. He signalled the OIE's concern at the failure of many countries to take ownership of PVS Pathway results, which was why the OIE was implementing new strategies to promote such ownership.

Dr Caya reiterated that, since the OIE PVS Tool was introduced in 2006, the OIE, with the permission of the countries concerned, had been distributing reports to donors and other partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He explained that the OIE also currently assigns experts to assist countries in organising round tables with senior officials in their governments involved in budget allocations to Veterinary Services. Donors and international and regional organisations interested in supporting Veterinary Services capacity-building are also invited. He explained that, during these round tables, the OIE experts help in explaining the importance and potential use of PVS Pathway results. Dr Caya said that, recently, the OIE had also been assisting countries in distributing the reports, through diplomatic channels, to senior officials able to support Veterinary Service capacity-building. He informed the Commission that the OIE would soon be drafting a guide on the ownership and use of reports and, with the permission of the countries concerned, would transmit the reports to relevant regional organisations that had signed a cooperation agreement with the OIE.

For their part, countries requesting OIE scrutiny and support along the various stages in the PVS Pathway should guarantee strong political commitment and support from their governments for implementing report recommendations in their operational plans, based on national priorities.

Dr Caya concluded by stating that the OIE's goal of building the capacity of Veterinary Services with appropriate legislation and the necessary human, physical and financial resources could be achieved only by countries taking ownership of PVS Pathway results and by international solidarity.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented the six-monthly and annual reporting situation for 2011 for countries/territories. He also spoke about the number of Questionnaires on Wildlife Disease that had been received from Members of the region and pointed out those who had not yet submitted parts or all of their reports and urged them to submit them as soon as possible. Seventy per cent of Members belonging to the region have submitted complete Annual reports for 2011. Finally, Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the importance of countries/territories submitting animal health information on terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases on a regular basis to the OIE.

14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Dr Markos Tibbo, from FAO, explained that the FAO's assistance and emergency programmes in the region provide technical, institutional and policy advice through capacity building, knowledge management and the mobilisation of experts in specialised fields, and that this allowed the transfer of technologies in sustainable livestock production. He highlighted the collaboration with the OIE in PVS Gap Analysis missions as well as in projects to strengthen animal quarantine systems.

Dr Tibbo indicated that FAO had prepared a regional animal health strategy and assessed veterinary education in the region. He pointed out the support that FAO had provided to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Egypt, Rift Valley fever (RVF) in Mauritania, and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Algeria and Morocco. He also noted the work done with EuFMD in countries and territories in the region affected by, or at risk from, the ongoing outbreaks of FMD.

The FAO representative concluded by reporting that FAO tools are being used in the region to review the impact of climate change, and the impact of livestock on the environment in peri-urban areas.

15. Other matters

The Regional Commission stressed the need to prepare an action plan for the establishment of a regional strategy on animal welfare.

Dr Peter Stevenson, representative of the International Coalition for Animal Welfare, reminded the Commission of the importance of animal welfare in the world, and specifically in the region, and gratefully acknowledged the active interest of the Commission in the matter.

The Commission noted the upcoming application of the Middle East Veterinary Center in Egypt to be recognised as an OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Education and Training. This application will have to follow the procedure defined by the OIE.

The meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

.../Appendix

Appendix

**MEETING OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, Monday 21 May 2012

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar and President of the OIE Regional Commission for Middle East)
2. Financial contributions of Members to the OIE (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
4. Report on the activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East including Focal Point Seminars and GF-TADs mechanisms activities (Dr G. Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East)
5. Selection of a technical item (with questionnaire) to be proposed for inclusion in the Agenda of the 82nd General Session of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to be held in May 2014 (Dr G. Yehia)
6. Selection of the technical item I (with questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr G. Yehia)
7. Outcomes of the 11th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 3 to 6 October 2011 (Dr G. Yehia).
8. Confirmation of the venue of the 12th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Dr G. Yehia)
9. Proposal of candidates for the election of the Bureau of the Regional Commission, the Council and the Specialist Commissions (Terrestrial Code, Aquatic, Laboratories and Scientific Commissions) (Dr Kassem Al-Qahtani)
10. Outcomes of the Glanders Conference held in Dubai from 23 to 26 April 2012 (Dr Suzanne Munstermann, OIE Scientific and Technical Dept)
11. Update on Global FMD Control Strategy and on PCP Roadmaps in Middle East (Dr Joseph Domenech, OIE Scientific and Technical Dept)
12. Country ownership of PVS Pathway outcomes (Dr François Caya, Head OIE Regional Activities Department)
13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region. (OIE Animal Health Inf. Dept.)
14. Presentations from Organisations that have concluded an official agreement with the OIE:
 - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
15. Other matters