

Reports

**of the Meetings of the OIE Regional Commissions
held during the 76th General Session
in Paris, 26 May 2008**

NOTE FROM THE CENTRAL BUREAU

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 International Committee during the General Session that follows the Regional Conferences.

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

The OIE Regional Commission for Africa met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 128 Delegates and observers from 36 Members of the Commission and 2 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 14 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Observer countries/territories: France, United Kingdom

International/regional organisations: AU-IBAR, AVSF⁵⁵, BVI, CEBEVIRHA⁵⁶, EISMV⁵⁷, FAO, FEI, IDF, ILRI, OBP, PANVAC⁵⁸, SADC⁵⁹, World Bank,

The meeting was chaired by Dr Robert S. Thwala (Swaziland), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr William Olaho-Mukani (Uganda), Vice-President of the Commission, and Dr Mokhtar Fall (Mauritania), Secretary General of the Commission and Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. He also welcomed all partners who support activities in the region.

The president asked for a minute's silence in memory of Dr Jean Jacques Delate who recently died suddenly. He was a special colleague highly committed to supporting animal health activities of AU-IBAR.

The president introduced Dr A. Niang, ex president of the OIE International Committee, to the assembly, informing them that he replaces Dr Samba Sidibé as Regional Representative for Africa and called the assembly to congratulate Dr Sidibé for his excellent work on the region.

⁵⁵ AVSF: *Agronomes & Vétérinaires sans frontières*

⁵⁶ CEBEVIRHA: *Communauté Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques de l'Afrique Centrale*

⁵⁷ EISMV: *Ecole Inter-Etats des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires*

⁵⁸ PANVAC: Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre

⁵⁹ SADC: Southern African Development Community

He also congratulated Dr Modibo Traore who has left the AU-IBAR and joined the FAO. Finally, he congratulated Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi who is the new Acting Director of AU-IBAR.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern. He said that all contribution reminders have been sent out on time and that it is very important that countries promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

He congratulated countries that have returned their contributions to the OIE on time and encouraged remaining countries to do the same.

3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa

Dr Abdoulaye Bouna Niang, OIE Regional Representative for Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa.

He informed the Commission about the planned activities for 2008 that are built on what was achieved on 2007.

He explained that activities in the fields of animal health, zoonoses, public health, animal welfare and other strategic elements from the 4th OIE Strategic Plan should take priority.

It is important to continue implementing the strategic objectives defined in the 4th OIE Strategic Plan that promote capacity building of Veterinary Services, improve economic and social development, encourage regional and international exchanges, and reduce poverty.

He informed the Commission about the agreement between the OIE and CEDEAO which has been signed in the framework of the OIE Regional Representation.

He encouraged countries that have not yet benefited from a PVS evaluation, to make the request.

The report was approved.

4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa

Dr Bonaventure J. Mtei, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, reported on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa.

In line with the OIE's global policy and mandate, the objective of establishing the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa is to contribute to wealth creation in the region. This can be achieved through increased livestock productivity resulting from improved compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards; these reduce sanitary constraints on trade of livestock and livestock products (LLPs).

The OIE Sub-Regional Representation puts emphasis on raising the level of VS capacity of SADC Member States; providing technical advice on matters of legislation, disease surveillance, notification, and food safety; developing sub-regional networks of OIE subject; providing support to SADC Member States and supporting centres of excellence in the sub-region in order to improve their capacities.

The report was approved.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

The role of Veterinary Services in the improvement of global food security

6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

The following technical item was selected for the 18th Regional Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa:

Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets

7. Regional Seminars on Communication

Mme Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE communication Unit, reported on the importance of an effective communication strategy for Veterinary Services, so that they are accessible to the general public and other more specific target populations.

She said that the OIE is planning to organise regional seminars to assist Veterinary Services in strengthening their communication capacities, so that they can respond to national and international demands and improve their visibility and credibility. In 2009 two such seminars are planned for Africa.

She announced that there is to be an annual international veterinary day celebrated each year on the last Saturday of April. This was agreed by the OIE and the World Veterinary Association.

8. Confirmation of the possible venue of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)

Dr Adam Hassan Yacoub, Delegate of Chad, confirmed his country's invitation to host the 18th Conference of the Regional Commission in N'Djamena on February 2009.

The government of Chad has already established an organising committee for the preparation of this Conference.

On behalf of the Minister of the Livestock, Dr Abderrahmane, Director General of the Livestock Development, confirmed and expressed the willingness of his country to host the 18th Regional Conference. He elaborated that budgetary arrangements have been put in place.

Dr A. Niang informed the commission about his mission to N'Djamena and confirmed that the preparations are in progress to host the conference.

9. Recommendations of the 1st OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 16 to 18 January 2008

Dr Patrick Bastiaensen, Programme Officer, OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa, reported on the main recommendations of the seminar on good governance held in Gaborone, Botswana.

This seminar was attended by OIE Delegates from 17 countries in Southern and Eastern Africa (including the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles⁶⁰), as well as 9 representatives from veterinary councils, veterinary associations and farmers' associations, and representatives from the SADC Secretariat, the FAO and AU-CTTBD.

⁶⁰ Non-OIE member country (observer status)

Recommendations approved by the participants focused on the sound governance of Veterinary Services; the use of the PVS Tool; the twinning agreements with OIE Reference Laboratories; the need to revise and review veterinary legislation in a number of countries; and the organisation and functions of Veterinary Statutory Bodies including the involvement of the private veterinary sector.

The facilitation of regional and international trade of livestock and livestock products was also part of the recommendations approved by the participants. This included a request to the OIE for it to continue the development of standards -based on meticulous risk analysis- in order to enable importing countries to base their import conditions primarily on OIE standards and thus avoid carrying out expensive or arbitrary national risk analysis activities before authorising imports.

10. Update on the ALive⁶¹ and GF-TADs programmes

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the GF-TADs - First Global Steering Committee Meeting held on 6 March, 2008 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. He described the main points coming from the meeting. GF-TADs addresses areas where the mandates of the OIE and FAO join up in the field of animal health. For some issues it is clear which organisation has primary responsibility. He explained that the OIE is the leading international organisation devoted to standard setting in the area of animal health and welfare, and that FAO is the leading technical international agency devoted to the development and implementation of animal health and production strategies in developing countries. For other topics the responsibilities between FAO and the OIE have been agreed upon in the GF-TADs agreement, signed in 2007.

Overall, Africa was identified as the continent with the weakest capacity to respond to an animal health crisis. However, thanks to the PARC and PACE programs, implemented over the past 20 years, most of the affected African countries have been able to cope with avian influenza epizootics. This underlines the importance of long-term investment programs in the field of animal health.

The second GF-TADs Steering Committee for Africa meeting took place in Djibouti in March 2007. During this meeting, it was decided that the GF-TADs for Africa be integrated as the animal health part of the ALive platform. This had the following consequences: (i) the GF-TADs for Africa Action Plan is an integral part of the ALive Action Plan and (ii) recommendation made under the GF-TADs for Africa have to be translated into resolutions of the ALive Executive Committee meeting.

The main outcomes of the 11th Meeting of the ALive Executive Committee (EC11) held in Rome, April 8-10, 2008 were as follows:

- Dr. Ahmed El-Sawhaly, acting Director of the AU-IBAR was designated as the acting Chairman of the Executive Committee until after the next Executive Committee Meeting (EC12)
- a branch Office of the ALive Secretariat has been established in the AU-IBAR Office in Nairobi , Kenya for the interim period. It was also agreed that the Secretariat continues to be hosted by the World Bank for the rest of the interim period.

11. PVS evaluations update in the region

Dr Alain Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the African region.

⁶¹ ALive: Platform for African Livestock

Dr Dehove clarified that gap analysis is quantitative and PVS evaluation is qualitative.

To summarize Africa situation regarding PVS evaluation:

- 2/3 of Members of the Africa Region have already requested a PVS evaluation;
- 80% of PVS evaluation requested by African countries already done;
- 89% of draft reports for African countries currently finalised (when mission done);
- 52% of all PVS evaluations carried out to date were in Africa.

In addition, to date 12 African countries (out of total of 13 requests) have requested additional assistance from the OIE for gap analysis (assistance on the preparation of investment programmes) and/or review of national animal health legislation. Moreover, two African countries (out of total of four requests) have already indicated their interest in PVS follow-up missions.

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

Dr Francesco Berlingieri, Deputy Head, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an update on the implementation of the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) in the African region. He recognized the progress made by the members in submitting reports on time, in comparison to 2006.

He encouraged the delegates to report dated on both terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases. He stressed how important it is that Members provide final reports on the events already notified. He clarified that the OIE expects its Members to submit the six-monthly reports one month after the end of the period; this period is extended to 45 days for the annual report. Finally, he stressed the need for CVOs to ensure a transition when there is a change in the national focal points. He concluded by encouraging the delegates to check the accuracy of the digital maps presented in WAHIS.

13. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• AU-IBAR

Dr Ahmed El Sawalhi, Director of AU-IBAR, reported on the new activities of his organisation stressing the importance of the SPINAP programme and the possibility that in the near future they will be able to finance approximately 47 countries.

• SADC

Mr Beedeeanan Hulman, representative of SADC, reported on the activities of his organisation underlining the development of the livestock sector. He remarked on the Print Project, and the FMD programme.

Proposals on BSE, Commodity-Based Trade and Foot and Mouth Disease were presented to the Regional Commission for consideration and submission to the International Committee.

The chairman observed that these proposals are similar to the ones of the 4th AU-IBAR/OIE African Delegates Consultative Meeting and the ones presented last year to the International Committee. These proposals will be discussed during the Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in February 2009.

- **CEBEVIRHA**

Dr Khalidou Bouba, representative of CEBEVIRHA, reported on the activities of his organisation. He talked about the control programmes for African swine fever, Newcastle disease and animal trypanosomoses and their vectors within the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; he expressed the interest of CEBEVIRHA in participating in activities related to capacity building, to the implementation of a study on harmonisation of laws and regulations for veterinary medicines in Central Africa, and to the Regional Animal Health Centre.

14. Outcome of the OIE Workshop on Rift Valley Fever Control and Preventive Strategies

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the OIE Workshop for RVF held in Cairo from 13 to 15 June 2007. He highlighted some of the recommendations such as the application of a proper vaccination strategy, the development of new vaccines, risk analysis, surveillance and effective coordination between Veterinary Services and Public Health Services.

He highlighted the supporting role of the OIE Reference Laboratory in South Africa, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, which is the only OIE RVF Reference Laboratory.

He stressed the importance of establishing twinning agreements for RVF in affected areas. He also stressed the importance of strengthening surveillance in animals, taking into account that currently human cases are detected before detection in animals.

15. Outcome and recommendations of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa

Dr Gideon Brückner, reported on the Conference on Veterinary medicinal products held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008. He said that it was a very successful Conference attended by 160 participants from more than 50 countries. Participants were principally OIE Delegates and OIE focal points for veterinary medicinal products.

Recommendations approved by participants focused on harmonizing and improving the registration, distribution and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa.

He explained that some attempts had been made to harmonize veterinary medicinal products in WAEMU⁶² countries but that it was necessary to reinforce and widen this initiative to the whole continent.

He asked the commission to endorse the two recommendations of the conference.

The representative of Sudan announced that his country is organising a workshop on transboundary animal diseases which will be held from 17 to 21 August 2008. Eastern and Central African countries are invited to attend; the invitations will be sent via AU-IBAR.

The meeting ended at 6:12 p.m.

.../Appendix

62 WAEMU: West-African Economic and Monetary Union

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Africa
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa
5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
6. Proposal of a technical item (without questionnaire) to be included in the agenda of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
7. Regional Seminars on Communication
8. Confirmation of the possible venue of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa (2009)
9. Recommendations of the 1st OIE Seminar on Good Governance for Veterinary Services, held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 16 to 18 January 2008
10. Update on the ALive and GF-TADs programmes
11. PVS evaluations update in the region
12. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region
13. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE
 - AU-IBAR
 - SADC
 - CEDEVIRHA
14. Outcome of the OIE Workshop on Rift Valley Fever Control and Preventive Strategies
15. Outcome and recommendations of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

The OIE Regional Commission for the Americas met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 109 Delegates and observers from 24 Members of the Commission and one observer country, and representatives from 11 international or regional organisations.

Members of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay.

Observer countries/territories: Spain

International/regional organisations: ALA⁶³, AVMA, CIRAD⁶⁴, ICFAW⁶⁵, IDF⁶⁶, IFAH⁶⁷, IICA⁶⁸, OIRSA⁶⁹, PAHO-PANAFTOSA⁷⁰, World Bank, WVA

Dr José Ángel del Valle Molina (Mexico), Vice-President of the Regional Commission, opened the meeting and was followed by Dr Emerio F. Serrano Ramírez, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Dr Víctor Góngora (Belize), Secretary General of the Regional Commission.

Dr José Ángel del Valle Molina welcomed the Delegates and representatives of international and regional organisations, in particular the Agriculture Minister of Belize, the Deputy Agriculture Minister of Cuba, and the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America.

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza (Brazil), President of the Regional Commission, then joined the meeting and took over the chair.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, given in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted and the annexes relating to agenda items were circulated to all participants.

⁶³ ALA: Asociación Latinoamericana de Avicultura (Latin American Poultry Association)
⁶⁴ CIRAD: Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)
⁶⁵ ICFAW: International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare
⁶⁶ IDF: International Dairy Federation
⁶⁷ IFAH: International Federation for Animal Health
⁶⁸ IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
⁶⁹ OIRSA: Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuario (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health)
⁷⁰ PAHO: Pan American Health Organization / PANAFTOSA: Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center

2. Administrative Commission update

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Administrative Commission and Delegate of Uruguay, reported on the matters discussed at Commission meetings.

He discussed the importance of the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund.

He reported that the OIE would be signing a cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

He reminded participants of the OIE mediation mechanism for settling disputes between countries regarding sanitary criteria for trade in animals and animal products and urged Members to make use of this mechanism.

Dr Brian Evans (Canada), member of the Administrative Commission, supplemented Dr Correa Messuti's presentation with information on the work of the Administrative Commission, saying that in September 2008 the Administrative Commission would begin work on drafting the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan 2011-2015, reason why it was important to discuss this item at the Conference of the Regional Commission of the Americas due to be held in Cuba in November 2008.

He said that elections for members of the Specialist Commissions and the Administrative Commission would be held in 2009 and that the region should propose candidates. He added that Dr Correa Messuti would become OIE President with the support of the other regions.

3. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Brian Evans, member of the OIE Administrative Commission, and Dr Luis Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, reported that there had been an increase in the number of Members responding positively to the Director General's request.

He thanked Argentina and Panama warmly for hosting the offices of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, respectively.

He welcomed the fact that, in general, OIE Members in the Americas were complying with their contribution obligations, and urged Members with outstanding contributions to settle their arrears as soon as possible.

4. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Cuba from 17 to 21 November 2008

Dr Emerio Serrano Ramírez, Delegate of Cuba, reminded the Regional Commission of his country's invitation to host the 19th Conference of the Regional Commission in Havana, from 17 to 21 November 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details.

He said that the technical item to be presented at the Conference was 'Biotechnology and its Application to Veterinary Science' and that the technical visit would be to an Engineering and Biotechnology Centre.

5. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)

Dr Barcos reminded the Regional Commission of the Recommendations approved at the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Florianopolis and subsequently endorsed by the 75th General Session of the OIE International Committee, on

‘Animal Welfare’ and ‘Compensation Mechanisms’. Dr Barcos reported that the Recommendations were being followed as part of the Regional Representation’s activities.

6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas

Dr Jamil Gomes de Souza, President of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, presented the Regional Commission’s activities over the past year.

Dr Luis O. Barcos, OIE Regional Representative for the Americas, summarised the Regional Representation’s activities, including the changes to the website. He highlighted the interinstitutional agenda and the list of OIE focal points.

He spoke in particular of the Regional Representation’s ongoing work in support of regional foot and mouth disease programmes, including the recommendations of the latest meeting of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August 2007.

He also discussed the support from countries in the region for economic cost/benefit studies of Veterinary Services.

Dr Barcos went on to present the work programme for 2008-2009, highlighting amongst other activities the Animal Welfare Workshop to be held in Panama, in preparation for the Global Conference in Cairo; the seminar to be held by national laboratories in all countries to identify common needs and assistance possibilities; and a workshop on compensation mechanisms to be held in Panama next July.

He also reported on a plan for translating the reports of the Specialist Commissions and Ad Hoc Groups into Spanish, in draft form, to better enable Spanish-speaking Members to comment on those reports.

Both the report and the work programme were approved.

7. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America

Dr José Oreamuno, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, summarised the activities of the Sub-Regional Representation and also presented the work programme for 2008-2009.

8. Animal welfare

• Reminder on the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, Delegate of Uruguay, reiterated the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 24 and 25 April 2007.

• OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting

Dr José Oreamuno, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Central America, presented the OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting, to be held in Panama City, Panama, on 19 and 20 August 2008 to discuss and prepare a joint regional strategy for the Global Conference in Cairo.

• Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare

Dr L. Stuardo, Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department, presented the Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 20 to 22 October 2008. He pointed out that the Conference would focus on the application of OIE animal

welfare standards and would be based on the practical experience of a number of countries in the matter.

He said that full information on the Conference could be found on the OIE website.

The Delegates would shortly be receiving an official letter of invitation from the Director General of the OIE.

9. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2010

The Regional Commission proposed the following Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session (based on a questionnaire sent to Members):

‘The changing role of Veterinary Services in the management of aquatic animal diseases to support sustainable production and international trade’

10. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (17–21 November 2008)

Following discussions and suggestions, the Commission selected the following Technical Item (not involving a questionnaire):

‘Members’ implementation of OIE international standards’.

11. PVS evaluations update in the Region

Dr Gastón Funes, Head of the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Americas region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps or weaknesses and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE would work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

12. Outcome of the 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication

Ms Maria Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, presented the OIE’s current communication activities and stressed the importance accorded to communication in the OIE Fourth Strategic Plan.

She discussed the successful Communication Seminar that had been held in Buenos Aires in November 2007. As a result of the Seminar, the OIE would be convening an Ad Hoc Group in September to develop the subject of Communication and Veterinary Services.

Dr Luis Barcos presented the recommendations of the Communication Seminar, which were approved by the Commission.

Participants were reminded that the OIE would be staging the World Veterinary Day in 2008 jointly with the World Veterinary Association.

13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region – Progress on the Regional WAHIS agreement between OIRSA and OIE

Dr María Cristina Ramirez, Chargée de mission to the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region.

Dr Ramirez also presented data on animal disease information for 2007 and 2008 (six-monthly and annual reports). She clarified that the OIE expects its Members to submit the six-monthly reports one month after the end of the period; this period is extended to 45 days for the annual report. Finally, she stressed the need for CVOs to ensure a transition when there is a change in the national focal points. She encouraged the Delegates to check the accuracy of the digital maps presented in WAHIS.

She stressed the good overall compliance of countries in the region. She reiterated to non-complying countries the importance of submitting their reports on time.

She reported that three training workshops had been held for the Americas region, and mentioned a few problems that some countries had experienced with implementing the system and with OIE support.

She discussed the status of the Agreement with OIRSA for the implementation of the Regional WAHIS, which would be signed at this year's General Session.

14. Relevant standards to be amended during the 76th General Session

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, stated that the report on the Code amendments to be adopted would be submitted in due course and asked whether any country had doubts or questions. There were no comments on the matter.

Dr Alejandro Schudel, Vice-President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD), reported that it would be of greatest benefit to postpone the discussion on the proposed changes to September, after sending out the report for comments. He described the proposed revisions prepared by the SCAD, for which the respective resolutions would be presented at this year's General Session.

He also reported on current SCAD activities, including assistance to the member countries of the MERCOSUR Standing Veterinary Committee (CVP) in implementing a Regional Programme to control foot and mouth disease in border areas.

The Delegate of Panama reminded the participants that in the past a number of Members had asked the OIE to include Newcastle disease and classical swine fever in the list of diseases for which the OIE officially recognises the disease status.

15. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories

Dr Carlos Correa informed on the following OIE Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratories that the countries had presented for approval and that were approved by the Administrative Commission, stressing their importance in providing technical support for the countries in the region:

- Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Biotechnology in Cuba;
- Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease in Argentina;
- Reference Laboratory for American foulbrood in Argentina.

The Delegate of Chile reported that he presented for approval a Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Chile. He added that his country was working on a twinning project for a Reference Laboratory for infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) virus.

The Regional Commission approved these suggestions.

16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language

Dr Fernando Crespo León, from Spain, Secretary of the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish Language, presented the work of the Steering Committee and the respective Ad Hoc Group.

He pointed out that the translation of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* into Spanish was already complete, saying that it had been published on the OIE website and that a printed version would be sent to the Members.

He provided detailed information on the contributions made by Members represented on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish Language in support of the translation projects.

He discussed the Framework Agreement concluded between the OIE and Spain's Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA), as well as other ongoing projects in connection with the agreement that would be signed shortly.

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

• PAHO-PANAFTOSA

Dr Albino Belloto presented PAHO-PANAFTOSA, its objectives, structure, principal actions and mechanisms used, international coordination bodies, alliances and partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations. He highlighted the three main areas of cooperation in which PANAFTOSA is working: foot and mouth disease, food and zoonoses.

He reiterated the need for good regional coordination.

He reminded participants of the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 11 and 12 June 2008, and invited all those present to attend.

• IICA

Dr Ricardo Molins, IICA Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, presented the activities that IICA is carrying out in cooperation and coordination with other organisations at regional level, in particular assistance to countries in the region.

• OIRSA

Dr Mara González Ortiz, Animal Health Specialist, OIRSA, presented her organisation's activities, highlighting collaboration with other organisations and technical assistance to its member countries.

She also emphasised a number of collaboration projects with the OIE.

18. Other matters

• Latin American Poultry Association (ALA)

Dr Ariel Mendes described the structure and objectives of the ALA.

He discussed the recent creation of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), whose members come from both the official and private poultry farming sectors of all the countries in the Americas.

He described the work of CISA in providing input for the revision of OIE standards.

He called on the Regional Commission for a formal Agreement to be concluded between the ALA and the OIE.

Dr Barcos replied that he would consult with the Director General and the Administrative Commission on the possibility of concluding an agreement with the ALA.

- **World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver**

Dr John Drake, President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, announced the 29th World Veterinary Congress to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in July 2008 and invited all those present to attend.

- **Meeting of the OIE Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases**

The Bureau thanked the Delegate of Mexico for holding the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases in Mexico in September 2008. The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas would support the organisation of the meeting.

- **Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology**

The Delegate of Panama discussed the drafting of a Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology, which had been printed and has been made available to the Members free of charge.

Dr Barcos said that the guide would be published on the website of the OIE Representation for the Americas so as to make it available to Members and for general distribution.

- **World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference**

The Delegate of Paraguay reported that his country had agreed to host the first World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference to be held by the OIE jointly with FAO in April 2009.

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Administrative Commission update
3. Contributions of Members to the OIE
4. Organisation of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas, to be held in Cuba from 17 to 21 November 2008
5. Recommendations of the 18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (Florianopolis, Brazil, 28 November to 2 December 2006)
6. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Commission and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas
7. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America
8. Animal welfare
 - Reminder on the outcome of the Animal Welfare Congress held in Montevideo
 - OIE Inter-American Animal Welfare Meeting
 - Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare
9. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee, to be held in May 2010
10. Proposed Technical Item to be included on the agenda of the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (17–21 November 2008)
11. PVS evaluations update in the Region
12. Outcome of the 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
13. WAHIS/WAHID – Progress on its implementation by Members in the Region – Progress on the Regional WAHIS agreement between OIRSA and OIE
14. Relevant standards to be amended during the 76th General Session
15. OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories
16. Comments on the OIE Steering Committee for the Spanish language

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

- PAHO-PANAFTOSA
- IICA
- OIRSA

18. Other matters

- Latin American Poultry Association (ALA)
- World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver
- Meeting of the OIE Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Diseases
- Guide for Shrimp Pathology and Immunology
- World Foot and Mouth Disease Conference

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

The OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2.25 p.m. The meeting was attended by 86 participants including Delegates and observers from 26 Members of the Commission and 3 observer countries/territories, and representatives from 5 international or regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam

Observer countries/territories: France, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China), Papua New Guinea

International/regional organisations: FAO, FEI, ICFAW, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, World Bank

The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Gardner Murray (Australia), President of the Regional Commission.

The President welcomed the Delegates, observers and representatives of the regional and international organisations. He described the business of the meeting, saying the agenda was most comprehensive. He asked presenters to be disciplined in their approach so the meeting could be managed efficiently. The President stated that the meeting papers provided many details and he hoped Delegates had a chance to read them.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, described in the Appendix, was unanimously adopted with the addition at agenda item 14 of Veterinary Legislation and Governance, Veterinary Education and Training, proposed by India. In addition, short presentations would be made by the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer and by the Republic of Korea, Japan and PR China. Agenda papers and annexes were circulated.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, then reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any. He also recommended that they shift up their contribution categories if possible.

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

The President of the Regional Commission presented his report on the activities of the Commission.

The President stated that items in his report would be considered at other agenda items. However, he mentioned two important issues: the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OIE and ASEAN on technical cooperation; and the ASEAN +3 Workshop on rabies, where the OIE strongly contributed to discussions.

Specific thanks and appreciation were conveyed to the President of the OIE International Committee and Delegate of New Zealand for the excellent organisation and wonderful hospitality of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as well as others such as the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo and Sub-Regional Office in Bangkok.

His report was noted and accepted.

4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Teruhide Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, made a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2008-2009.

The Delegate from India raised two issues: evaluation of programmes and research. Although evaluation mechanisms are required of some projects, it was agreed that evaluation of programmes activities be included to the extent feasible. It was noted that OIE is not mandated to provide direct help for research but had a role in advising on the nature of research needed to support animal health.

His report was noted and accepted.

The President, on behalf of the Regional Commission, thanked the Government of Japan for supporting regional activities and hoped such support would continue.

5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries

Dr Ronello Abila, OIE Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asian countries, gave a comprehensive presentation on the role and activities of the Representation and its work programme for the year 2008-2009. In particular, he discussed the OIE/AusAID Programme for strengthening Veterinary Services and the SEAsia Foot and Mouth disease campaign.

The President noted that an application to AusAID for funding to support the continuation of the SEAFMD programme till December 2010 was being finalised. He advised that New Zealand would provide funding assistance.

The Delegate of India raised the issue of the nature and scope of funding for programmes managed by the Regional Representation in Tokyo and sub-regional representation in Bangkok as well as the issue of regional and global cooperation for sharing information regarding genetic sequencing of avian influenza virus which may help in identifying the source of outbreak of avian influenza. Dr Fujita explained OFFLU arrangements and the chair discussed funding approaches. Regarding HPAI, he also introduced a new HPAI control programme funded by Japan which includes surveillance of Poultry and migratory birds in east, south-east, and South Asia.

The representative of Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, indicated that an application for a PVS review would be made to the OIE, with the support of the People's Republic of China.

The Delegate of Afghanistan advised of problems with controlling FMD because of vaccination issues relating to the circulating A type strain. It was supported that he takes the opportunity to meet with experts and vaccine manufacturers when at the OIE.

The Delegate from Pakistan advised that his country planned to start an FMD campaign and he sought advice on such a programme. It was suggested that the Regional Coordination Unit in Bangkok could, with FAO, provide information.

Dr Abila's report was noted and accepted.

6. Election of two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General for the Regional Commission

Dr Murray explained the rules for elections.

Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Delegate of PR China to the OIE, nominated by New-Zealand and seconded by India and Vietnam, and Dr Davinio Catbagan, Delegate of the Philippines to the OIE nominated by Japan and seconded by Thailand, were unanimously elected as the new Vice-Presidents of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Chaweewan Leowijuk (Thailand) and Dr Tien-Jye Chang (Chinese Taipei).

Dr Toshiro Kawashima, Delegate of Japan to the OIE nominated by Bhutan and seconded by Sri Lanka, was unanimously elected as the new Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, replacing Dr Sri Kamal Ranjith Amarasekara (Sri Lanka).

7. 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam, 10-14 March 2008) and special meeting on "HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries" (14 March 2008)

Dr Murray presented the comprehensive outcome of the 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 10 to 14 March 2008.

A highlight of the meeting was discussion on the long-term SEAFMD 2020 strategic document. An independent Review Team sent by AusAID attended the meeting and interviewed participants on the value of continuing and funding the programme till 2010.

In respect of the specific meeting on "HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries", the recommendations included the need to reinforce Veterinary Services, utilise the OIE-PVS tool, and place emphasis on the need for improved laboratory networks.

He said those meetings had assumed greater importance than ever.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from that meeting as well as those adopted during a special meeting on "HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries" which followed immediately after. The next meeting could be held in Malaysia in March 2009.

8. Outcome of the National Seminar on OIE Standards and Activities (Beijing, People's Republic of China, 26-28 February 2008)

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, outlined the nature and scope of the meeting. The meeting was a great success, with 180 participants. Senior officials from the OIE also met with the Minister of Agriculture and a Vice Prime Minister.

Dr Fujita's report was noted.

9. Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (New Delhi, India, 4-6 December 2007)

Dr Murray said the Conference was extremely well organised by the Indian Government and well attended. Details on the outcomes of the conference were available on the web. He said important outcome included a recognition of the critical importance of Veterinary Services and "One World, One Health" approach. He said the issue of sustainability was critical in dealing with not only HPAI, but other emerging diseases.

The next conference will be held in Cairo in October 2008.

10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010

The Regional Commission proposed that the 2 following technical items (including a questionnaire to Members) be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

“Food security – a global response”

“Biosecurity for small-holdings and the role of community animal health workers”

In proposing the items, it was agreed that aquatic animals would be included and consideration would be given to support one or both topics for inclusion in the agenda of the 2009 Regional Commission Meeting in China.

11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Queenstown, New Zealand, 26-30 November 2007)

The Recommendations adopted at the 25th Conference of the Commission, held in Queenstown, New Zealand, were presented. A number of key issues were discussed. In respect of the plenary items, the importance of OIE developing guidelines on animal biosecurity and food production safety was emphasised.

The next Regional Commission meeting would be hosted by the People's Republic of China in late 2009.

12. GF-TADs update

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, presented the activities of the GF-TADS Programme in the region. The programme focuses on FMD, HPAI, CSF and PPR. The next steering committee will meet later in the year.

13. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region

Mr Stéphane Berlaud, chargé de mission to the OIE Regional Activities Department, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Asia-Pacific region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

14. Other matters

- **WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region – Agreement with NACA**

Dr T. Ishibashi, Deputy Head, OIE Scientific and Technical Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were also presented. Dr Ishibashi emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal information on a regular basis to the OIE.

Questions were raised on matters relative to six month reports, animal reports, and reporting of emergency events. It was agreed that the Central Bureau would prepare a short document answering these questions and make it available to Regional Commission Members for their information. The importance and value of WAHIS training was emphasised.

Dr T. Fujita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific also commented on the OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health held in Bangkok (March 2008). The importance of the OIE Delegate nominating a contact point was stressed, including the coordination of reporting arrangements with WAHIS.

The Regional Commission adopted the recommendations arising from the OIE/NACA Regional Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25-28 March 2008.

Discussion took place on the difference between Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres “twinning” and the need to ensure that the highest standards are met when considering application for Collaborating Centres Status.

- **1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication**

Ms M. Zampaglione, Head of the OIE Communication Unit, outlined the importance of effective communication for Veterinary Services, and presented the OIE Regional Seminar on Communication, due to be held in October 2008 in Bangkok, which will aim to help Veterinary Services to strengthen their communication capacities.

- **Application of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Enhancement**

The President of the Regional Commission advised that the Regional Commission had endorsed an application by AAHL for Collaborating Centre Status. The Standards and Administrative Commissions also supported the application. The Regional Commission endorsed the proposal.

- **Draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy**

Dr David Bayvel, President of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, said that a number of countries in the Region had contributed to the development of the draft Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS), which articulated a number of general principles. If endorsed, a “Think Tank” would meet to consider how the strategy could best be implemented.

The Regional Commission endorsed the RAWS and next steps.

- **OIE/AusAID Workshop: Veterinary Legislation and Performance**

Dr Murray introduced this item. He said that a number of issues were raised in regards to gaps, the skills needs, PVS and governance issues. The importance of the OIE in developing legislative principles and guidelines was emphasised.

The Regional Commission endorsed the recommendations.

- **Other Matters**

The Republic of Korea discussed the development and enactment of aquatic animal health. They introduced the new legislation due to go into effect in December this year, the aim of which is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Delegate of Japan indicated that Japan would apply for a Collaborating Centre in Animal Feed Safety and Analysis in 2008. The Regional Commission supported the application going forward.

The Delegate of India raised the issue of Continuing Veterinary Education and asked whether a list of experts would be drafted who might be able to assist in continuing education. It was agreed that this matter be drawn to the attention of the Director General for follow-up. The subject would be considered as an agenda item in the next regional conference. The Delegate of India also commented on some activities that his country is planning on this issue.

Dr Sit, on behalf of the People's Republic of China, advised that it was hoped a zone or compartment could be developed to support the Asian Games. An expert review team led by the OIE would visit PR China to evaluate this proposal. Dr Sit also asked CVOs to support the August 2008 global Olympic Games equestrian events as much as possible.

15. Presentations of regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

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

Mr Ken Cokanasiga, advisor to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) on Livestock advised on the development of a MOU between SPC and the OIE on utilizing WAHIS as a platform for disease reporting to non OIE SPC Members. He said there was an AusAID review on the avian influenza pandemic preparedness project.

The meeting ended at 6 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report of the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
5. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asian countries
6. Election of two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary General for the Regional Commission
7. 14th Meeting of the OIE Sub-Commission for FMD in South-East Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam, 10-14 March 2008) and special meeting on “HPAI and Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South-East Asian countries” (14 March 2008)
8. Outcome of the National Seminar on OIE Standards and Activities (Beijing, People’s Republic of China, 26-28 February 2008)
9. Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza (New Delhi, India, 4-6 December 2007)
10. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
11. Recommendations of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Queenstown, New Zealand, 26-30 November 2007)
12. GF-TADs update
13. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region

14. Other matters

- WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region – Agreement with NACA
- 1st OIE Regional Seminar on Communication
- Application of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory to become an OIE Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Enhancement
- Draft regional strategy on animal welfare
- OIE/AusAID Workshop: Veterinary Legislation and Performance
- Other Matters

15. Presentations of regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

**REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE
OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Paris, 26 May 2008**

The OIE Regional Commission for Europe met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 109 Delegates and observers from 44 Members of the Commission, and representatives from 7 international and regional organisations:

Members of the Commission: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

International/regional organisations: Copa-Cogeca, EC⁷¹, Eurogroup-ICFAW, FAO-EUFMD, FVE⁷², IZS⁷³, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Nikola T. Belev (Bulgaria), President of the Regional Commission, assisted by Dr Patrick J. Rogan (Ireland) and Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas (Lithuania), Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

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 and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Commission explained that 18 months ago, the OIE Director General sent a letter to 15 countries of the region asking for an increase of contribution category. Most countries answered positively, but answers are still missing from Hungary, Israel, Luxembourg, Poland and Slovenia.

⁷¹ EC: European Commission

⁷² FVE: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

⁷³ IZS: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale

3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe

Dr Nikola T. Belev, President of the Regional Commission and OIE Regional Representative for Eastern Europe, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe for the year 2007. He made reference to the series of National Seminars held in 2007 and in the early part of 2008, in Moldova, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. He also spoke on the mission of the Ukrainian Ministers and Parliamentarians to Italy. He referred to the rabies conference held in May 2007 at OIE Headquarters, to the Special Meeting of the Regional Commission on FMD and ASF held in Paris in July 2007, and the Washington Conference with the World Bank last October.

The Commission accepted the report.

4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the report on the activities of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for the year 2007. She explained the major objectives of this Sub-Regional Representation and the part played by the Representation in the dissemination of information on OIE standards, participation in major OIE programmes, help with the development of the communication system, and assistance in the preparation of further seminars to be held in September 2008 in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The Sub-Regional Representation has been involved in international meetings on AI, PPR, FMD, ASF and bluetongue, meetings pertaining to bio-terrorism, and in the OIE Seminar in China using a similar format to that used for the OIE/EC national seminars. Provision of emergency support was given to Georgia and Armenia for ASF. Development and roll out of the website has been completed and further work is under way. The website is accessible at: www.rr-europe.oie.int.

The Commission accepted the report.

5. Election of the Secretary General of the Regional Commission

The proposal to nominate Dr Nikolay Vlasov, new Delegate of Russia, to the OIE, was seconded by Germany and he was unanimously elected as the new Secretary General of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, replacing Dr Evgueni Nepoklonov (Russia).

6. Outcome of the Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: 'Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia' (OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007)

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented the aims of the Conference and the key elements of the resolution adopted. The next Conference for Eurasia will probably take place in 2010. All information and a full report is available on the OIE website.

7. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010

There were four proposals for a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.

A proposal was made by WSPA drawing the attention of the OIE to the situation of rabies in Eurasia and the need to provide technical and logistical support to Members to help provide services to sterilise dogs and cats, to assist in the elimination of rabies. This is seen as important as vaccination alone will not succeed in the elimination of this disease.

The Delegate of France proposed that the topic of the use of veterinary medication, and particularly the development of resistance to antimicrobials, should be put forward by the Regional Commission for Europe. This proposal was supported by a number of Member Country Delegates including Sweden, Czech Republic, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Albania, Luxembourg and the UK (this Delegate called for effective cooperative surveillance involving both human and animal health experts on the use of antimicrobial and in particular antibiotics). The Delegate of France also mentioned that the topic of animal feed could be worthy of a technical item at some time in the future.

The Delegate of Croatia proposed an item on the importance of biosecurity measures on farms and in particular biosecurity on small farms as a disease control measure. She commented that it would be useful to have guidelines for the different scenarios that may apply. This was supported by Macedonia.

The Delegate of Spain proposed consideration of the role of wildlife, specifically focusing on the movement of wildlife (including domesticated wildlife), the implication of this movement for the spread of different strains of pathogens and the impact of wildlife movement on on-farm biosecurity. This was supported by Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal. In support of the Spanish proposal, the Italian Delegate referred to an article published 4 years ago by CDC in Atlanta pertaining to “trade and wildlife diseases”.

The Regional Commission proposed that the French and Spanish proposals would go forward for consideration by the International Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

8. Selection of a technical item without questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008

The following technical item, not including a questionnaire to Members, was chosen for the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe:

“Strategy for controlling bluetongue, including the application of vaccines”

This item will be presented by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale from IZS of Teramo, Italy.

9. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008

Dr Kazimieras Lukauskas, Vice-President of the Regional Commission and Delegate of Lithuania, reminded the Regional Commission about his country’s invitation to host the 23rd Conference of the Regional Commission in Vilnius, from 16 to 19 September 2008, and reported on the conference venue and organisational details. All information is available on a specially commissioned website: www.oievilnius.lt

10. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE

• **European Commission**

Dr Alberto Laddomada made a presentation on behalf of Bernard Van Goethem, which was divided in two parts : 1) diseases in Europe and 2) GF-TADs . In apologising for the absence of Dr Van Goethem, Dr Laddomada explained that Dr Van Goethem had to return to Brussels to attend a meeting in the Parliament and was particularly sorry not to have been able to play a part in the meeting of the Regional Commission for Europe.

Initially, Dr Laddomada spoke about the animal health situation in 2007, which was not an easy year, particularly because of the continuing spread of bluetongue. The necessity for a common approach was emphasised as was the uptake of vaccination as an essential

part of the overall control programme. He also emphasised the need for more research and greater coordination and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for further discussion on bluetongue and in particular the role of vaccination, at the meeting of the Regional Commission in Lithuania.

He spoke about ASF as a matter of very considerable concern, particularly because of the situation in the Caucasus. He reiterated the willingness of the EC to offer its assistance in the control and the elimination of this disease. He referred briefly to the FMD situation in the UK and Cyprus, which was a matter of some concern at the time, but the situation was brought under control with a rapid return to the status quo. He spoke on the AI situation which is currently stable in the EU, but which could deteriorate when least expected. In speaking about rabies and CSF, he said that they should continue to be considered as priorities in Europe, and he referred to the fact that all the technical skills necessary are available to effectively deal with these diseases.

He went on to inform Delegates of a major communication from the EC to the EU Council and Parliament with the new Community Animal Health Strategy (CAHS). This is the first time such a major policy has been presented by the EC. He thanked the CVOs of the EU for the support in the development of this policy document and went on to indicate that an action plan should be submitted by June 2008. In the context of the CAHS, he spoke of the cost of surveillance as an important issue and the fact that the EC Commission has also asked the OIE to undertake studies to assist in determining the costs and benefits of disease surveillance/early warning, as opposed to simply responding to disease outbreaks. The EC is working with EU Member States on animal health priorities and on new funding arrangements.

He went on to speak about the veterinary week in November 2008, in the planning of which the EC will have the support of the OIE and FVE. He indicated that the EC is very keen to continue its work with the OIE on the development of international standards but would also welcome the greater involvement of other countries.

He also mentioned briefly the next International Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Cairo in October 2008, emphasising the role of the EU as a major sponsor for this important event.

He also spoke about the EC work with a number of countries and stakeholders on the development of Veterinary Services standards, particularly through the programme Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF). Quality of Veterinary Services is another important priority for the EC and it is working closely with the OIE to support the PVS and associated processes. The European Commission sees the PVS procedures as a valuable mechanism for coordination between the OIE, other international organisations, donor agencies and Member Countries. The EU will continue to support the PVS initiative.

In concluding this part of the presentation, Dr Laddomada spoke on the importance of a number of forthcoming seminars.

11. GF-TADs programmes

Dr Alberto Laddomada, reminded Delegates of the role of Dr Van Goethem as president of the Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the European region. He also made the point that the work of this group is fully supported by the EC. He went on to speak about the role of the GF-TADs as an important tool for disease control in Europe. The EC, which is a significant donor to the work of GF-TADs, is keen to see wider and more effective coordination in the work of GF-TADs. He then spoke about the support of the EC for the GF-TADs programme in the western Balkans and the need for more cooperation in the Caucasus, particularly in the development of the Veterinary Services. He also spoke about EU support for the OIE and FAO programmes including on PVS evaluation, stressing the

importance of the OIE-PVS tool. He also suggested that there was a need for a programme of evaluation of veterinary schools.

He went on to speak about the importance of a number of activities which need specific evaluation under the PVS programme, including animal health surveillance, contingency plans, border controls, and laboratory standards. He suggested that the WHO should be an active participant in the GF-TADs Committee. He also spoke about the need to see partners in GF-TADs exerting increased pressure on governments and parliaments to place greater emphasis on the importance of more effective animal health control throughout the European region. He also spoke about the need to focus on the threat posed to the wider European region on the outbreaks of ASF and CSF in the Balkans and the Caucasus. He then went on to speak about the need to engage with southern neighbouring countries, particularly in North Africa to coordinate work on certain diseases including bluetongue.

Prof. Belev expressed his thanks to the EC for its continuing support for the GF-TADs and the OIE Regional Representation.

12. PVS evaluations update in the region

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. She also described the specific status of the European region. She said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to analyse any gaps and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide. She also informed the meeting that a PVS update in the region was available on the Regional website.

13. Other matters

• The emergence of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe

Dr Caroline Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels, presented an overview of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe which have drawn a lot of attention over the last year. Various measures have been taken to limit the spread and control of the diseases. The importance of respecting OIE standards, particularly with regards to notification, monitoring and surveillance activities, was emphasised.

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

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel, OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the new OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of its implementation in the region. Data on animal health information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were also presented. Dr Weber-Vintzel emphasised the importance of countries submitting animal health information on a regular basis to the OIE. She urged the countries which have not yet submitted the information using the WAHIS system to do so.

The meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Report on the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe and of the OIE Regional Representation for Eastern Europe
4. Activities and work programme of the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels
5. Election of the Secretary General of the Regional Commission
6. Outcome of the Joint OIE/WHO/EU Conference: 'Towards the elimination of rabies in Eurasia' (OIE Headquarters, 27-30 May 2007)
7. Proposal of a technical item with questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session of the OIE International Committee to be held in May 2010
8. Selection of a technical item without questionnaire to be included in the agenda of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008
9. Organisation of the 23rd Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 16 to 19 September 2008
10. Presentations of Regional Organisations having an official agreement with the OIE
 - European Commission
11. GF-TADs programmes
12. PVS evaluations update in the region
13. Other matters
 - The emergence of bluetongue and African swine fever in Europe
 - WAHIS/WAHID – Progress in its implementation by Members in the Region

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

The OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East met on 26 May 2008 at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was attended by 36 Delegates and observers from 17 Members belonging to the Commission, 2 observer countries/territories and 3 international organisations.

Members of the Commission: Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Observer countries/territories: France, Palestinian Authorities

International/regional organisations: FAO, ICFAW, WSPA

The meeting was chaired by Dr Salman Abdel Nabi (Bahrain), President of the Commission, assisted by Dr Bashir Taha Mohammed Taha (Sudan), Vice-President, and Dr Fares Al Bakhit (Jordan), General Secretary.

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 and the annexes related to agenda items were circulated.

2. Contributions of Members to the OIE

The President of the Regional Commission reported that outstanding contributions from a number of countries are a matter for concern and urged Members to promptly settle their arrears if they have any.

3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East

Dr Ghazi Yehia, Regional Representative for the Middle East, presented in detail the activities implemented during the last year. He reminded the Regional Commission about themes, conclusions and recommendations of technical workshops that focussed on the main issues affecting the region.

He described the proposed work programme for 2008-2009.

Dr Yehia mentioned that more and more important documents were translated into Arabic. Most of those documents are published on the Regional Representation website that is regularly updated with summaries of the most important diseases affecting the region.

He emphasised the role of the Regional Representation in providing assistance principally on WAHIS, PVS implementation and technical expertise.

The Delegate of Turkey proposed that workshops on compartmentalisation and vector-borne diseases could be organised.

The representative of the Jordanian Veterinary Association expressed his wish to consider National Veterinary Associations as observers to OIE work in the region.

The report on activities and the work programme of the Regional Representation were adopted by the Regional Commission.

4. Recommendations of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Damascus, Syria, 29 October – 1 November 2007)

Dr Salman Abdel Nabi noted that the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, which was held in Damascus, Syria, from 29 October to 1 November 2007, was attended by a large number of Middle Eastern countries and Regional and International Organisations.

Then he described recommendations adopted during the Conference on the two technical items; namely “the role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services” and “the Geographic Information System (GIS) used for animal disease control”.

He explained that during the conference the OIE rinderpest status recognition procedure was presented; this has the objective of recognition of freedom from rinderpest for each Member. A point about WAHIS implementation in the region was also made.

5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.

The Regional Commission proposed the following technical item (including a questionnaire to Members) to be included in the agenda of the 78th General Session:

Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations

6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission.

Dr Kassem Al Qahtani, Delegate of Qatar to the OIE, was elected Vice-President of the Regional Commission in replacement of Dr Mohammed Al Muhanna (Kuwait).

7. GF-TADs programme update

Dr George Khoury (Syria), chairman of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the GF-TADs, reminded the Commission about the creation of the RSC; this has a main objective of adapting policies and programmes related to epidemiology and prevalence of priority diseases to the needs of the region.

He detailed actions carried out in this framework and stressed the role of the newly established Regional Animal Health Centre.

Regional Steering Committee composition was described following question from the Delegate of Iran about the election procedure of the RSC.

8. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region

Dr Pierre Primot, Project Officer, OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East, reported on the status of the OIE programme for evaluating the performance of Veterinary Services using the OIE-PVS tool. He also described the specific status of the Middle East region. He said that, based on the results of this first diagnosis, the next step would be to perform a gap analysis and to prepare priority investment projects, for which the OIE will work in close collaboration with its partner organisations, such as FAO, and with international donors, with the ultimate objective of strengthening Veterinary Services worldwide.

Members wishing to request a gap analysis or a follow-up PVS mission, to assess improvements made since the previous evaluation, should send an application to the OIE Director General.

9. Other matters

9.1. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS and WAHID) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the OIE Animal Health Information Department, presented an overview of the global implementation of the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and described the status of implementation in the region. Data on sanitary information (six-monthly and annual reports) for 2007 and 2008 were presented. Dr Ben Jebara emphasised the importance of countries submitting sanitary information to the OIE on a regular basis. If countries are not satisfied with the map of their country presented in WAHID, they are invited to send updated maps.

9.2. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Beirut, Lebanon

Dr Hassan Aidaros, from FAO, presented the action plan of the FAO ECTAD⁷⁴ Unit and the activities implemented in the region. Dr Yehia followed by reminding the Commission about the establishment of the agreement between OIE, FAO and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, which provides a framework for the coordination and harmonisation of monitoring and control strategies for the main TADs in the region.

He explained that the RAHC is located in the building of the OIE Regional Representation, where the FAO ECTAD Unit has been made welcomed.

The RAHC is newly established and its first activities concern the recognition of rinderpest freedom for all regional countries.

9.3. Focal points

Dr Yehia reminded the Commission about the role of focal points; these are country experts appointed by the Delegates and acting under their authority to address specific issues in their countries.

The OIE recognised five focal points: sanitary information, wildlife diseases, aquatic diseases, animal welfare, and veterinary products. A focal point for food safety will be created soon.

⁷⁴ ECTAD: Emergency Center for the control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

He explained that few countries have nominated their focal points. He invited Delegates to proceed with their nominations.

9.4. Laboratory twinning

Dr Yehia described the possibility for laboratories in the region to make a request to the OIE for assistance for twinning with OIE Reference Laboratories.

Dr Yehia mentioned that there is a need for a Rift Valley fever Reference Laboratory in the region.

He mentioned that there has been an application for twinning between Egypt and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (Germany) for Newcastle disease and avian influenza, this is due to start soon; there have also been expressions of interest from several other countries.

9.5. Nomination of ME experts for Ad Hoc Groups and Working Groups

Dr Yehia talked about OIE Working Groups and Ad hoc Groups. He stressed the importance of including experts from the Middle East in such groups to identify topics pertinent to the region. He explained that currently only one representative from the Middle East participates in such groups.

He invited Delegates to propose national experts for the expert database that will soon be constructed.

9.6. Evolving veterinary education for a safer world

Dr Yehia informed participants that “Evolving veterinary education for a safer world” is an international conference which will take place at OIE's Headquarters in Paris from 12- 14 October 2009. The main purpose of the Conference is to reach consensus in order to recommend to the international veterinary community a new veterinary curriculum. This should ensure that future graduates are increasingly able to work in an international environment applying OIE standards for disease surveillance, veterinary public health, food safety and animal welfare.

He invited Delegates to send the list of Veterinary Schools and Universities in their countries and to schedule participation at this conference.

9.7. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Qatar in 2009.

The following technical item (with questionnaire) was chosen:

Capabilities of veterinary laboratories in the region – Needs to improve animal disease diagnostic.

Delegates advocated that the OIE procedure for Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres should be presented during the Conference.

9.8. World Veterinary Congress

Dr Abedel-Fattah Al-Kilani (Jordan Veterinary Association) summarised the situation for veterinary associations in the region. Some of these have formed a regional federation. He explained that during the next World Veterinary Congress to be held in July 2008 in Vancouver, Canada, the new bureau of the World Veterinary Association will be elected.

The President of the Commission addressed a motion of thanks to countries holding regional conferences, seminars or workshops: Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and Syria.

The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

.../Appendix

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

Paris, 26 May 2008

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Contributions of Members to the OIE
3. Activities and work programme of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East
4. Recommendations of the 9th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East (Damascus, Syria, 29 October – 1 November 2007)
5. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 78th General Session of the International Committee to be held in May 2010.
6. Election of a Vice-President for the Regional Commission.
7. GF-TADs programme update
8. OIE-PVS evaluations update in the region
9. Other matters
 - 9.1. World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS and WAHID) – Progress in its implementation by Member Countries in the Region
 - 9.2. Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Beirut, Lebanon
 - 9.3. Focal points
 - 9.4. Laboratory twinning
 - 9.5. Nomination of ME experts for Ad Hoc Groups and Working Groups
 - 9.6. Evolving veterinary education for a safer world
 - 9.7. Proposal of a technical item to be included in the Agenda of the 10th Conference of the Regional Commission to be held in Qatar in 2009.
 - 9.8. World Veterinary Congress