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Original: English
March 2008

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION**

Paris, 10-14 March 2008

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 10 to 14 March 2008.

The members of the Code Commission are listed in [Annex I](#). The agenda adopted is given in [Annex II](#).

The OIE Director General, Dr Vallat was unable to meet with the Code Commission due to duty travel. Dr Thiermann therefore welcomed members of the Code Commission to OIE Headquarters on behalf of Dr Vallat. Dr Thiermann noted the heavy workload for this meeting, in part due to the fact that Members had provided extensive comments on several Chapters. Dr Thiermann was pleased to note that several Members had provided comments for the first time and welcomed Members' increased participation in the standard-setting work of the OIE. However, the Code Commission again registered its concern at the lack of participation by developing countries, particularly in issues of interest to them, such as the control of stray dog populations, animal identification, compartmentalisation and BSE.

Dr Thiermann reminded the Code Commission that they should focus on the texts to be proposed for adoption at the General Session in May 2008 in the event that they were unable to deal with all agenda items in the time available for the meeting.

The Code Commission thanked the following Members for providing written comments: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the European Union (EU), Guatemala, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United States of America (USA). Comments were also received from the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS), industry organisations and a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The Code Commission strongly encourages Members to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by sending comments on this report. The Code Commission reiterates that it would be very helpful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Members are requested **not to use the automatic 'track-change' function** provided by word processing software in preparation of their comments. The Commission also reminded Members that they should follow the established convention in recommending modification of text in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, i.e. propose new text (shown as double underline) and propose text deletions (shown as ~~strike through~~) and provide a scientific justification for all changes proposed.

The Code Commission was informed that Dr Thiermann had met with Dr Bernoth, President of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, and the two presidents had noted that some Members providing comments on proposed changes to horizontal Chapters of the respective Codes (i.e. the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*) did not seem to be aware that the two Commissions had proposed equivalent changes to matching Chapters (e.g. the Chapter on General obligations). Members are encouraged, therefore, to bear in mind equivalent Chapters in the two Codes when commenting on horizontal Chapters.

The Code Commission examined various draft texts of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) in the light of comments received from Members, as well as comments outstanding from the previous Code Commission meeting. It also reviewed advice received from the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the reports of several *ad hoc* Groups and of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (APFSWG) and the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG).

The outcome of the Code Commission's work is presented as Annexes to this report. Amendments made to the *Terrestrial Code* Chapters before the September 2007 meeting which had been previously circulated are shown as double underlined text, with deleted text in ~~strikeout~~. Amendments made at this meeting (March 2008) are shown in a similar fashion, with a coloured background to distinguish the two groups of amendments.

All Member comments were considered by the Code Commission. However, because of the very large volume of work, certain agenda items were deferred to the next meeting. In the time available, the Code Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not accepting each proposal received.

Members are reminded that if comments are resubmitted without modification or new justification the Code Commission will not, as a rule, repeat previous advice, and encourages Members to refer to previous reports.

The texts presented in Part A of this report are proposed for adoption at the 76th OIE General Session. The texts presented in Part B are provided to Members for comment. Several reports of meetings (working groups and *ad hoc* Groups) are presented in Part C for Members' information.

Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters by **15 August 2008** in order to be considered at the next meeting of the Code Commission in September 2008. Comments should be sent to the International Trade Department at: trade.dept@oie.int.

A. TEXTS SUBMITTED FOR ADOPTION

1. General definitions (Chapter 1.1.1.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed Member comments and modified the text as appropriate.

The revised texts are presented at Annex III of this report for adoption.

2. Model veterinary certificates

- a) **Model international veterinary certificates (Section 4)**
- b) **Notes for guidance on veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin (Appendix X.X.X.)**
- c) **General obligations (Chapter 1.2.1.)**
- d) **Certification procedures (Chapter 1.2.2.)**

The Code Commission noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group, which had reviewed the comments provided by Members at the time of its meeting, and examined comments of Argentina, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, the USA, after the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group. The Code Commission made some further modifications to the text as appropriate.

The revised texts are presented at Annex IV of this report for adoption.

3. Guidelines on import risk analysis (Chapter 1.3.2.)

The Code Commission received comments from the EU, New Zealand and the USA.

Due to inadequate time at this meeting, the Code Commission deferred this item to its September 2008 meeting.

The revised text is presented at Annex V of this report for adoption.

4. Animal health measures applicable before and at departure (Chapter 1.4.1.) and Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country (Chapter 1.4.3.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Canada, the EU, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland and the USA.

During the previous meeting the Code Commission added a definition for “collection centre” and “area of direct transit” to Articles 1.4.1.3. and 1.4.3.4., noting that these definitions had been removed from Chapter 1.1.1. as each of them is used only once in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Due to inadequate time at this meeting, the Code Commission deferred further work on this item to its September 2008 meeting.

The revised texts are presented at Annex VI of this report for adoption.

5. Evaluation of Veterinary Services

The Code Commission received comments from the EU.

- a) **Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.)**

The Code Commission modified Articles 1.3.3.5. and 1.3.4.1. to reflect the changed title of the OIE *PVS Tool*.

The revised texts are presented at Annex VII of this report for adoption.

b) Update on OIE PVS Tool and programme for evaluating Members

Dr Kahn advised that the OIE has completed evaluations of 50 Members. To date, 15 evaluated countries have released their PVS reports on a conditional basis (i.e. to OIE partners and/or donor organizations).

6. Zoning and Compartmentalisation

a) Zoning and Compartmentalisation (Chapter 1.3.5)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission discussed comments of several Members on Article 3, regarding the establishment of a containment zone. The Code Commission agreed with the views of Members who recommended that 'a stamping out policy or another effective control strategy could be applied...'. However, this general consideration should be subject to the implementation of measures consistent with disease Chapters (where these mention containment zones) to support the establishment of a containment zone. The Code Commission undertook to modify the text on a containment zone in Chapter 2.2.10. (see item 8. on foot and mouth disease).

b) General guidelines on the application of compartmentalisation (Appendix X.X.X.)

The Code Commission received comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Serbia, Sudan and the USA.

Texts were amended in response to several comments of Members. One recommendation for much more prescriptive provisions in regard to the role of Veterinary Authorities in approving compartments was not supported as the Code Commission noted that relevant provisions may be found elsewhere in the *Terrestrial Code*, including in Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.

c) Compartmentalisation for vector borne diseases

The Code Commission awaits advice from the Scientific Commission regarding a draft text to propose for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex VIII](#) of this report for adoption.

7. Rabies (Chapter 2.2.5.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Canada, the EU, South Africa and Switzerland.

The Code Commission decided to request advice from the Scientific and Technical Department (the Scientific Department) regarding the scientific rationale for the exclusion of all bat lyssaviruses other than rabies when determining the rabies status of a country. Advice was also sought on the safety of dog semen with regard to rabies.

The revised text is presented at [Annex IX](#) of this report for adoption.

8. Foot and mouth disease

a) Foot and mouth disease (Chapter 2.2.10.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the USA and the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology (EPI-AHG).

The Code Commission proposed a minor amendment to the definition of buffer zone to clarify that a buffer zone is part of, and lies within, a free country/zone (see Annex III).

In response to Member comments, the Code Commission deleted the reference in Article 2 to the conduct of surveillance in accordance with Appendix 3.8.7. in order to justify retention on the list of free countries/zones.

Based on recommendations from EPI-AHG, the Code Commission amended the final paragraph of Articles 3 and 5 to clarify the provisions for countries/zones making the transition from 'free with vaccination' to 'free without vaccination'.

A Member requested the scientific justification for the *Terrestrial Code* provision for a waiting period of a minimum of two incubation periods after the last case. The Code Commission clarified that this was based on a recommendation from the Scientific Commission in relation to requirements for a *containment zone*.

One Member had pointed out that the introduction of the concept of a containment zone represents a compromise to minimize the trade impact of an FMD outbreak in a previously free country/zone. Some Members considered the proposed addition of 'another effective control strategy' to be an unacceptable weakening of the safeguards provided against FMD in the *Terrestrial Code*. While alternative strategies to stamping out were considered acceptable in the General Guidelines (and this text was therefore maintained in Article 1.3.5.3.), the Code Commission agreed that for FMD the requirements to be applied in a containment zone should be no less stringent than those applied to the recovery of free status in the country or zone.

In response to Member comments, the Code Commission deleted "or another effective control strategy" as an alternative to stamping out and made related changes to point 2 of Article 7.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for FMD (Appendix 3.8.7.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU and Switzerland.

A member of the Code Commission identified a difference between English and Spanish version and the Code Commission modified the final sentence of Article 5. It was agreed that Members should be required to provide evidence of the effectiveness of a vaccination programme. The Spanish translation was accordingly corrected to read "Se aportaran pruebas de la eficiencia del programa de vacunación"

c) FMD virus inactivation procedures (Appendix 3.6.2.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and Thailand.

A Member of the Code Commission and the President of the Regional Commission for Africa requested clarification as to the need for the requirement for deboning and maturation of beef originating from an FMD free zone without vaccination. The Code Commission reiterated that deboning and maturation are not required for trading meat from an FMD free country or zone without vaccination. The only requirements for such trade are identified in Article 2.2.10.20.

The Code Commission modified Article 8 to better align it with the conclusions of Wijnker *et al.*, (2007), *Int. J. Food Microbiol.*, **115**(2), 214-9.

The revised texts are presented at Annex X of this report for adoption.

9. Rinderpest

a) Rinderpest (Chapter 2.2.12.)

The Code Commission received comments from Chinese Taipei, the EU and the USA.

In response to Member comments questioning the need for the annual provision of information, based on Appendix 3.8.2., supporting the continued status of country freedom, the Code Commission clarified that the *Terrestrial Code* does not impose a requirement for an annual questionnaire but that the surveillance requirements specified in relevant Chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* should be complied with in order to remain on the list of free countries. The Code Commission deleted the reference in Article 2 to the conduct of surveillance in accordance with Appendix 3.8.2.

The revised text is presented at Annex XI of this report for adoption.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for rinderpest (Appendix 3.8.2.)

The Code Commission received comments from the EU.

The Code Commission commended the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Rinderpest, which had followed the recommendations arising from the Code Commission's previous meeting. Appendix 3.8.2. has been reformatted for congruency with other Appendices in the *Terrestrial Code* and some new information has been added (i.e. Article 8 on the use and interpretation of serological tests for serosurveillance of rinderpest).

The revised text, which is presented at Annex XXXI in Part B of this report, is provided for Member comments.

10. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 2.4.6)

The Code Commission received comments from the IETS.

The Code Commission accepted the recommendations of the IETS and accordingly added two new Articles in Chapter 2.4.6.

The revised text is presented at Annex XII of this report for adoption.

11. Guidelines on Surveillance for bluetongue (Appendix 3.8.10)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, New Zealand and Switzerland.

The Code Commission referred three requests from Members to the Scientific Department for advice: i.e., on the use of bulk milk sampling; the use of an ELISA and recommendations on the use of inactivated vaccines.

The revised text is presented at Annex XIII of this report for adoption.

12. Bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 2.3.3.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, Thailand and the USA.

The Code Commission discussed the comments of several Members on the proposed inclusion of farmed deer in the Chapter and decided to delete the proposed new text on farmed deer. The Code Commission decided to refer all the issues raised by Members on the inclusion of text on farmed deer and goats to the Scientific Commission for further advice. Text in Article 1 (from 'when authorizing' up to and including point 5) was deleted in response to Member comments.

Article 2 was modified by removing 'compartment' from the title and a new Article was drafted with provisions for a compartment for bovine tuberculosis. The proposed amendment of point 3 of Article 2 was also modified, in response to Member comments and advice of the Scientific Commission.

Following the advice of the Biological Standards Commission, the gamma interferon test was introduced into Appendix 3.1.1. Prescribed and Alternative Tests for OIE Listed Diseases. The Code Commission referred Members' questions about diagnostic tests and vaccines to the Biological Standards Commission for consideration and advice.

The revised text is presented at Annex XIV of this report for adoption.

13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

a) BSE (Chapter 2.3.13.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China and the USA, and industry organisations.

The Code Commission again expressed its concern that Members continued to resubmit comments on texts already discussed and adopted in previous meetings without providing any new justification.

With regard to the request of Members to modify the text currently found in Article 1, the Code Commission noted that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has conducted a study on the production of protein free tallow. The results of this study have already been considered by the Code Commission and found not to provide justification for modifying the current text. Some Members raised questions about the safety of deboned muscle meat and proposed that this be removed from Article 1, while other Members are questioning the limitation to 30 months of age. The Code Commission reminded Members that the measures relating to the safety of deboned muscle meat were formulated several years ago, when the magnitude of risk to human health was unknown. These precautionary measures were appropriate at that time. Since that time, scientific understanding regarding the BSE risk classification of countries and the risk to human health associated with BSE in bovine products has progressed. The Code Commission considered that it is timely to reconsider whether there is any need to maintain the current requirement in Chapter 2.3.13. for cattle to be 30 months of age or less for deboned muscle meat to be considered a safe commodity.

The Code Commission agreed with Member comments regarding the need to provide annual updates to support the retention of countries/zones on the list of negligible or controlled risk countries and zones and modified Articles 3 and 4 accordingly.

Members again raised comments on Article 7, proposing to modify this Article by adding the following text: 'or after the date of birth of the last indigenous case if that indigenous case was born after the date of the feed ban'. The Code Commission disagreed with this proposed modification as this principle is already covered in Article 7, i.e. the birth of an indigenous case is an indication that the feed ban has not been effective and the relevant date would be adjusted accordingly.

On the safety of gelatine, the Code Commission reiterated its position that the safety of the gelatine manufacturing process has been well established by peer-reviewed scientific studies and risk assessments on the production of gelatine from bones, regardless of their origin. Recognizing the fact that skulls are not used in the commercial manufacture of gelatine, the Code Commission proposed the exclusion of skulls, thus removing the point of contention raised by Members. Relevant references include the following:

GROBBEN A.H., STEELE P.J., SOMERVILLE R.A. & TAYLOR D.M. (2004). Inactivation of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (ESB) agent by the acid and alkaline processes used in the manufacture of bone gelatin. *Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry*, **39**, 329-338.

GROBBEN A.H., STEEL P.J., TAYLOR D.M., SOMERVILLE R.A. & SCHREUDER B.E.C. (2005). Inactivation of the ESB agent by heat and pressure process for manufacturing gelatin. *Veterinary Record*, **157**, 277-289.

GROBBEN A.H., STEELE P.H., SOMERVILLE R.A. TAYLOR D.M. (2006). Inactivation of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy agents during the manufacture of dicalcium phosphate from bone. *Veterinary Record*, **158**, 361-366.

NZFSA (2005). Officials' Review of New Zealand's ESB Country-Categorisation Measure. New Zealand Food Safety Authority, Wellington and published in "Prions in Humans and Animals". Ed. Hornlimann, B., Riesner, D. Kretzschmar, H. De Gruyter Verlag, Berlin (ISBN 978-3-11-018275-0).

The Code Commission noted that the approach taken to gelatine in Chapter 2.3.13. is fully consistent with approaches elsewhere in the *Terrestrial Code* whereby commodities originating from countries/zones that are not free of specified diseases are identified as safe for trade, based on the processing of the commodity as evaluated by scientific studies and risk assessment.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for BSE (Appendix 3.8.4.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Canada, the EU, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China.

The Code Commission accepted a comment on Article 4, a modification to correct a typographical error in Table 2 (Surveillance Point Values for Samples Collected from Animals in the Given Subpopulation and Age Category).

c) Factors to consider in conducting the BSE risk analysis in Chapter 2.3.13. (Appendix 3.8.5.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina.

The Code Commission also considered recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Atypical Scrapie and Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, as endorsed by the Scientific Commission, and modified texts accordingly.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XV](#) of this report for adoption.

14. Equine influenza (Chapter 2.5.5.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa and Switzerland.

The Code Commission reviewed Member comments and modified the text in two places.

The revised text is presented at [Annex XVI](#) of this report for adoption.

15. Equine diseases (other than African horse sickness and equine influenza)

a) Equine rhinopneumonitis (Chapter 2.5.7.)

b) Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 2.5.10.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed Member comments and modified the text accordingly. The proposed deletion of text in Articles 2.5.10.2. and 2.5.10.3. were referred to the Scientific Department for further advice.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XVII](#) of this report for adoption.

16. African horse sickness

a) African horse sickness (Chapter 2.5.14.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, the EU, South Africa and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed comments and made two relevant modifications to the text.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for African horse sickness (Appendix 3.8.X.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina and the EU.

The Code Commission reviewed comments and made a relevant modification to the text.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XVIII](#) of this report for adoption.

17. African swine fever (Chapter 2.6.6.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, the People's Republic of China, South Africa and the USA.

Members commented on the absence of conditions for the importation of fresh meat (from domestic or wild pigs) for human consumption from African swine fever infected countries or zones. The Code Commission considered that Article 12 does in fact provide for the importation of fresh meat of domestic pigs from such countries or zones, on the basis that the meat comes from a free compartment within an infected country or zone.

The revised text is presented at [Annex XIX](#) of this report for adoption.

18. Classical swine fever

a) Classical swine fever (Chapter 2.6.7.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed Member comments and made relevant modifications to the text. In response to a Member's request to maintain the reference to conducting a risk assessment in Article 2, Dr Thiermann advised that it is always open to Members to conduct a risk assessment as a basis for decisions on disease risks and management, including international trade measures. It is not necessary to include a specific reference to conducting a risk assessment in each disease Chapter. However, specific references will be maintained where the *Terrestrial Code* contains provisions relevant to the conduct of the risk assessment e.g. in Chapter 2.3.13. (BSE).

Members commented on the absence of conditions for the importation of fresh meat (from domestic or wild pigs) for human consumption from classical swine fever infected countries or zones. The Code Commission considered that Article 12 does in fact provide for the importation of fresh meat of domestic pigs from such countries or zones, on the basis that the meat comes from a free compartment within an infected country or zone.

The Code Commission compared the text of Chapter 2.6.7. on classical swine fever with that of Chapter 2.6.6. on African swine fever to ensure that the two were consistent and any differences in approach clearly justified.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for classical swine fever (Appendix 3.8.8.)

The Code Commission received comments from the EU, New Zealand and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed comments and made relevant modifications to the text.

The revised texts are presented at Annex XX of this report for adoption.

19. Avian influenza

a) Avian influenza (Chapter 2.7.12.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, the EU, Guatemala, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

The Code Commission noted that two Members again raised concerns about the definition of poultry in Chapter 2.7.12. The Code Commission confirmed that the rationale for the current definition is to encourage reporting of HPAI in all species and, at the same time, to discourage Members from introducing trade measures in response to findings in wild birds and other birds that are not considered to be part of the commercial sector. The Code Commission agrees with the comments of Members that noted the potential importance of avian species kept in backyard flocks and for hobby purposes in the epidemiology of avian influenza. This is the reason for requiring reporting of HPAI in such species. However, findings in pet birds (which are not defined as poultry according to the current definition) should not be the rationale for introducing trade bans on the commercial sector. If Members responded to such findings by imposing trade bans, the OIE considers that this would be a serious disincentive to transparency in reporting. It is important to encourage reporting of infection in all avian species and the Code Commission considers that the best way to do this is to maintain the current definition of poultry.

A Member's recommendation that the detection of antibodies to avian influenza should be regarded as an outbreak was not accepted. The Code Commission noted that isolated seropositive findings must be investigated and that, in the absence of confirmatory findings (e.g. virus isolation), isolated cases of seroconversion should not be considered as evidence of infection. The Code Commission confirmed that this approach is consistent with that taken to other diseases in the *Terrestrial Code*.

A Member's comment about the inactivation of avian influenza in poultry products was referred to the Scientific Department with a request for advice and the development of an appropriate text and/or tables for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission specifically requested a review of the scientific literature with the aim of improving the current provisions for the inactivation of avian influenza virus in poultry meat and eggs (Appendix 3.6.5) and in poultry products intended for use in animal feeding or for agricultural or industrial use (Articles 21 and 22).

Article 23 was deleted because the fact of trading meat of birds 'other than poultry' effectively means that these birds are being treated as poultry and these products are therefore covered under preceding Articles.

The Code Commission made several amendments to the text in response to Member comments.

b) Guidelines on the inactivation of the avian influenza virus (Appendix 3.6.5)

The Code Commission received comments from Australia, the EU and Guatemala.

The Code Commission did not propose any substantial changes to Appendix 3.6.5.

c) Guidelines on surveillance for avian influenza (Appendix 3.8.9)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, the EU, Guatemala and New Zealand.

The Code Commission made some amendments to the text in response to Member comments.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XXI](#) of this report for adoption.

20. Newcastle disease

a) Newcastle disease (Chapter 2.7.13.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Guatemala, Kuwait, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Animal Health Information Department, joined the Code Commission for this part of the meeting. Several Members commented that there is confusion and/or ambiguity in the definition of Newcastle disease (ND). Specifically, the reporting obligations and the trade implications associated with the detection of ND needed to be clarified. Dr Ben Jebara noted that the definition of ND found in the OIE Manual for Notification of Diseases applies to all avian species. Dr Thiermann clarified that the OIE expects ND, as defined, to be notified, regardless of the species in which it is found. While findings of ND in all birds are notifiable to the OIE, trade measures should only be implemented in response to findings of ND in poultry.

Taking into account the comments of Members, the Code Commission modified Article 1 to clarify the definition of Newcastle disease and of Newcastle disease virus (NDV) and to bring the definition of 'poultry' into alignment with that found in Chapter 2.7.12 (Avian influenza).

Scientific publications provided by a Member and its request that the OIE provide recommendations on the inactivation of NDV in poultry meat and egg products were referred to the Scientific Department with a request for advice and the development of an appropriate text and/or tables for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. At the suggestion of a Member, Article 19 was deleted, because the fact of trading meat or other products from birds 'other than poultry' effectively means that these birds are being treated as poultry and these products are therefore covered under preceding Articles.

The Code Commission made several modifications to the text.

b) Guidelines on surveillance for Newcastle disease (Appendix 3.8.X.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, the EU, New Zealand and the USA.

The Code Commission made several modifications to the text based on Member comments.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XXII](#) of this report for adoption.

21. Animal identification and traceability

a) Guidelines on the design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China and the USA.

The Code Commission commended the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Identification and Traceability, which met in January 2008 and modified the draft text in response to the comments of Members on the text attached to the report of the Code Commission's September 2007 meeting. The Code Commission reviewed the text provided by the *ad hoc* Group in the light of Member comments received after the January meeting and made some further modifications to the draft text.

The revised text is presented at [Annex XXIII](#) of this report for adoption.

b) Update on the OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability

Dr Kahn provided an update on progress in organizing the OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, which will take place on 17-19 March 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

22. Animal Welfare

a) Definition of animal welfare

The Code Commission received comments from Australia, the EU, Japan, Serbia, South Africa and the USA.

In response to these comments, AWWG modified the proposed definition and provided additional, explanatory text. The Code Commission reviewed Member comments and a modified definition for "animal welfare" received from AWWG. The Code Commission proposed to include this new definition in Chapter 1.1.1. as well as an introductory paragraph to Appendix 3.7.1.

The revised text is presented at [Annex III](#) of this report for adoption.

b) Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea (Appendix 3.7.2.) and Guidelines for the transport of animals by land (Appendix 3.7.3.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, Serbia, Japan and the USA, and from an expert. The Code Commission reviewed these comments and modified the two texts accordingly.

The revised texts are presented at [Annex XXIV](#) of this report for adoption.

c) Guidelines for the transport of animals by air (Appendix 3.7.4.)

The OIE prepared an update to Appendix 3.7.4 based on the updated IATA Live Animals Regulations, which came into effect on 1 October 2007. Members should note that the original text of this Appendix was based on the previous IATA Live Animals Regulations.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXIV of this report for adoption.

d) Guidelines for the slaughter of animals (Appendix 3.7.5.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU and the USA. The Code Commission noted that some comments had been submitted previously and dismissed by AWWG and these were not reconsidered. The Code Commission modified the text in response to some Member comments.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXIV of this report for adoption.

e) Guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control purposes (Appendix 3.7.6.)

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU and the USA. The EU comment regarding the use of 50Hz frequency current for electrical stunning was referred to an expert, who confirmed the acceptability of this text. The EU comments on the use of the controlled atmosphere method for killing poultry were referred to AWWG for detailed consideration and advice. The Code Commission modified the text in response to some Member comments.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXIV of this report for adoption.

f) Guidelines on dog population control

The Code Commission received comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, the People's Republic of China, Serbia and the USA and from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The Code Commission noted the extensive comments and varying positions raised by Members. The small number of comments from developing countries was regrettable because this issue is of particular importance to those countries and the Code Commission encouraged developing country National Delegates to identify the relevant Competent Authority in their respective countries and draw this draft text to their attention. The Code Commission considered that it was important to finalise the guidelines in a timely way. However, it was not possible to address all the comments received and the Code Commission referred the text and the comments of Members to AWWG, with a request that the Group prepare advice in time for the September 2008 meeting of the Code Commission.

The Code Commission considers that views and experiences of developing countries on this subject are critical in order to develop recommendations that are truly applicable to those countries where dog borne rabies is a serious concern.

g) Update on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on laboratory animal welfare

Dr Stuardo provided an update on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare. The report of the first meeting, which took place in December 2007, is attached at Annex XL for information of Members. The *ad hoc* Group will hold its next meeting in December 2008. Dr Thiermann drew Delegates' attention to this important new area of OIE work. Given that the competent authority responsible for laboratory animal welfare is not always the Veterinary Authority, the Code Commission encouraged OIE National Delegates to draw this report to the attention of relevant national authorities and collaborate with them in future when a draft *Terrestrial Code* text is formally circulated for consideration and eventual adoption.

h) Update on the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

Dr Stuardo provided an update on progress in the organization of this conference.

i) Update on the work of the *ad hoc* Group on livestock production systems

Dr Stuardo provided a brief update on the work of the *ad hoc* Group, which will hold its first meeting in April 2008.

23. *Aethina tumida* (Chapter 2.9.X.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and New Zealand.

The Code Commission reviewed the comments of Members and made several modifications to the draft text in accordance with these comments. The reference to conducting a risk assessment was removed from Article 3. Dr Thiermann advised that it is always open to Members to conduct a risk assessment as a basis for decisions on disease risks and management, including international trade measures. It is not necessary to include a specific reference to conducting a risk assessment in each disease Chapter. However, specific references will be maintained where the *Terrestrial Code* contains specific provisions relevant to the conduct of the risk assessment e.g. in Chapter 2.3.13. (BSE).

The revised text is presented at Annex XXV of this report for adoption.

24. Guidelines for somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock and horses

The Code Commission received comments from Canada and IETS.

The Code Commission reviewed the Member comments and discussed and modified the draft text from Biological Standards Commissions.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXVI of this report for adoption.

25. Categorisation of diseases and pathogenic agents by the IETS (Appendix 3.3.5.)

The Code Commission examined and endorsed recommendations from IETS on modifications to Appendix 3.3.5.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXVII of this report for adoption.

26. The Role of the Veterinary Services in Food Safety

The Code Commission received comments from the EU.

In light of the proposed restructuring of the *Terrestrial Code* and the relevance of this text to the functioning of national veterinary services, the Director General of the OIE proposed to include this text in Section 6 “Veterinary Public Health” of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXVIII of this report for adoption.

27. Notification Criteria for Listing Diseases (Chapter 2.1.1.)

- a) **Report of the *ad hoc* Group on the notification of terrestrial animal diseases/pathogenic agents**
- b) **Report of the Wildlife Working Group**

The Code Commission noted these reports. Following the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group, the Code Commission modified the OIE list from that provided to Members with its September meeting report.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXIX of this report for adoption.

28. International transfer of pathogens (Chapter 1.4.5.)

The Code Commission agreed that some text should be deleted from Chapter 1.4.5. as it would be included in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* 2008 (also see the Code Commission report in March and October 2006).

The revised text is presented at Annex XXX of this report for adoption.

B. TEXTS NOT FOR ADOPTION / FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

29. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

- a) **CBPP (Chapter 2.3.15.)**

The Code Commission received comments from Chinese Taipei, the EU and the USA.

The Code Commission received a revised Chapter from the Scientific Commission. For consistency with the Chapters on rinderpest and FMD, the Code Commission deleted the reference in Article 2 to the conduct of surveillance in accordance with the relevant Appendix.

- b) **Guidelines on surveillance for CBPP (Appendix 3.8.3.)**

The Code Commission received comments from the EU and New Zealand.

The Code Commission received a revised Appendix from the Scientific Commission.

To facilitate review, the texts are presented as clean text. The texts are presented at Annex XXXII for Member comments.

30. Scrapie (Chapter 2.4.8)

The Code Commission thanked the Scientific Department for convening relevant experts and providing advice on atypical scrapie and atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The Code Commission noted the statement in the report of the *ad hoc* Group to the effect that there is insufficient information to support the establishment of rules or guidelines specific to atypical scrapie, other than in relation to the choice of diagnostic tests used for surveillance. The *ad hoc* Group also observed that scrapie does not represent a public health risk and should not therefore be treated in the same way as BSE. The Code Commission noted that the revised draft Chapter represents a helpful step towards updating the *Terrestrial Code's* provisions on scrapie, bringing it into line with the structure of the BSE Chapter. To facilitate review, the texts are presented as clean texts.

The revised text is presented at Annex XXXIII for Member comments.

31. West Nile fever (Chapter 2.2.X.X.)

The Code Commission received comments from Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission noted that Members had provided extensive comments on this text. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient time to review the comments in detail at this meeting. The Code Commission decided to review Member comments and consider amendments to this Chapter at its September 2008 meeting. The Code Commission referred to the Scientific Department a Member's recommendation to include 'day-old poultry' in Article 1 ('safe commodities').

32. Guidelines for the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

The Code Commission received comments from Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission noted that Members had provided extensive comments on this text. Unfortunately there was not sufficient time to review the comments in detail at this meeting. The Code Commission will examine Member comments at its September 2008 meeting.

33. Salmonella

- a) *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in poultry (Chapter 2.10.2.)
- b) Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries (Appendix 3.4.1.)
- c) Guidelines on the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in poultry producing eggs for human consumption (Appendix 3.10.2.).

The Code Commission received comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, South Africa, and the USA.

The Code Commission commended the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which had addressed Member comments on the draft Guidelines "Salmonella Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption" at its second meeting. Taking into account these comments and the need to eliminate duplication in the *Terrestrial Code*, the *ad hoc* Group revised Appendix 3.4.1. and renamed it "Hygiene and Disease Security Procedures in Poultry Production", and developed a new document, entitled: "Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in Poultry" (Appendix X.X.X.), which also included the control of Salmonellosis in broilers. The Code Commission reviewed these two documents and made some minor modifications to them.

The Code Commission generally supported the *ad hoc* Group's proposals for future work and further proposed that *ad hoc* Group develop recommended Salmonellosis prevention and control measures which could be implemented in markets (for eggs and live birds).

To facilitate review, the texts are presented as clean texts.

The texts are presented at Annex XXXIV for Member comments.

34. OIE/FAO Guidelines on Good Farming Practices

The Code Commission received comments from the EU.

The Code Commission noted that APFSWG discussed this text in detail and produced a revised text. Noting that this document is not intended for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission decided to refer to the International Trade Department with the request that the OIE finalise the Guidelines in consultation with the APFSWG

C. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED AND PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

35. Trade in animal products (commodities)

The Code Commission received comments from the EU, Japan and New Zealand. The Code Commission held a meeting with UK acting CVO, Dr Fred Landeg, and colleagues from DEFRA, to progress the collaboration between DEFRA and the OIE on the need to review and update the commodity based approach in the *Terrestrial Code*. Dr Gideon Bruckner, head of the Scientific Department, participated in this meeting. Dr Landeg outlined the approach to this project proposed by the UK and Dr Thiermann summarised the current status of the OIE's work. Dr Thiermann noted that the *Terrestrial Code* definition of 'commodities' is very broad whereas the 'commodity based approach' specifically addresses animal products for human consumption.

Dr Thiermann noted that an OIE *ad hoc* Group will hold a first meeting after the General Session and will review the current provisions in the *Terrestrial Code* to identify where there is scope to introduce additional provisions for 'safe commodities' and/or sourcing and processing methods that could be used to make animal products safe for international trade. The UK (Department of International Development) has proposed to hold a meeting with veterinary representatives of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in April to discuss the views of African CVOs on impediments to export of commodities and modifications to the *Terrestrial Code* that could improve the situation. Dr Bruckner will attend this meeting on behalf of the OIE. Dr Thiermann stated that it would be important to ascertain the views of industry and other stakeholders in prioritising commodities for further consideration as the priorities need to be matched with the commercial realities of international trade as well as the relevant scientific considerations. It was agreed that BSE and FMD related restrictions on the export of beef should be considered as priorities for review, with a view to taking action (if required) in the short term.

Draft TOR for the *ad hoc* Group on Trade in Animal Products ('commodities')

Taking into account:

- the mandate of the OIE to facilitate safe international trade, including through the provision of standards, recommendations and guidelines on sanitary measures for animals and animal products; and
- considering that the OIE supports strengthening of Veterinary Services to ensure that they meet the OIE quality standards set out in Chapter 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*, including the importance of maintaining efficient disease surveillance networks; and
- the Recommendation No. 4 of the OIE Seminar 'Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the quest for solutions', which called for the OIE "to investigate and promote opportunities with international and regional organizations in developing new standards for risk reduction to trade in livestock commodities".

The *ad hoc* Group is required to:

1. Examine the current recommendations in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) with the aim at facilitating the trade in commodities related to animal products, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries;
2. Identify and analyse impediments or difficulties to trade in commodities arising from existing OIE standards;
3. Based on the most recent scientific information available, make recommendations on how the standards could be modified or applied to assist countries that are not able to achieve or maintain country/zonal freedom, with science based recommendations on safe trade of animal products.
4. Consider how facilitating risk mitigation concepts in the *Terrestrial Code*, including surveillance, zoning and compartmentalization, can be applied to facilitate trade in commodities;
5. If appropriate, identify needs for specific, targeted research needed to support the proposed amendment of the *Terrestrial Code* and/or to assist in further revising the *Terrestrial Code* recommendations in future;
6. Identify diseases for which the respective *Terrestrial Code* chapters could be amended to facilitate trade in animal products irrespective of the disease status of an exporting country.
7. Identify those disease specific requirements that should be forwarded to relevant OIE *ad hoc* Groups for specific consideration and advice.

36. Anthrax (Chapter 2.2.1)

Comments were received from New Zealand and from an expert. The Code Commission briefly discussed the advice provided on the inactivation of *Bacillus anthracis*. A revised text will be prepared for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting.

37. Division of the *Terrestrial Code* into two volumes

Comments were received from the EU. The Code Commission briefly reviewed information provided by the International Trade Department regarding the proposed division of the *Terrestrial Code* into two volumes. The Code Commission agreed with the proposed restructuring of the *Terrestrial Code*.

A summary document prepared by the OIE is provided for information of Members in [Annex XXXV](#).

38. Report of the Working Group and *ad hoc* Groups

The Code Commission endorsed the reports of the APFSWG, the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Identification and Traceability, the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificate, *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, and the *ad hoc* Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare.

These reports are attached in [Annexes XXXVI- XL](#) for information of Members.

39. Future work programme

The updated work programme is shown in [Annex XLI](#).

40. Others

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 29 September to 10 October 2008.

.../Annexes