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

Paris, 4–13 September 2012

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 4 to 13 September 2012. The members of the Code Commission are listed in Annex I.

Dr Monique Eloit, on behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, opened the Code Commission meeting with a particular welcome to Members attending for the first time. Dr Monique Eloit recalled the contribution of Dr Stuart Hargreaves to the OIE and the Commission marked a minute of silence in his memory.

The Code Commission reviewed the documents identified in the agenda, addressing comments that Member Countries had submitted by 3 August 2012 and amended texts in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by double underline and strikethrough and may be found in the Annexes to the report. In Annexes XIII (Chapter 6.9.) and XXIV (Chapters on bee diseases), the amendments made at this meeting (September 2012) are shown with **coloured highlight** to distinguish them from those made prior to the 80th OIE General Session in May 2012.

Member Countries should note that, unless stated otherwise, texts submitted for comment may be proposed for adoption at the 81st OIE General Session in May 2013. Depending on the comments received on each text, the Code Commission will identify the texts proposed for adoption in May 2013 in the report of its February 2013 meeting.

The Code Commission strongly encourages Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments on this report. It would be very helpful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Proposed deletions should be indicated in 'strikethrough' and proposed additions with 'double underline'. Member Countries should not use the automatic 'track-change' function provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the process of collating Member Countries' submissions into the Code Commission's working documents. Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters by 18 January 2013 to be considered at the February 2013 meeting of the Code Commission.

All comments should be sent to the OIE International Trade Department at: trade.dept@oie.int.

## **A. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

In the second week of the meeting, Dr Vallat joined the Commission to discuss some key topics, as follows:

### **1. Clarification of the role of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code**

Dr Alejandro Thiermann informed Dr Vallat that the Code Commission proposed to adapt the text of the *Terrestrial Code* User Guide to clarify this point, as requested by Members. Dr Vallat advised to be very prudent with this topic and to avoid wording that would limit the scope of the Terrestrial Code. According to our practices, all texts in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code* are standards; all other material published by the OIE is considered to be a guideline or a recommendation. Dr Vallat also considered that the use of equivalence should be promoted. Regarding a Member's comment on the consistency of nomenclature used in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*), Dr Vallat emphasised the importance of ongoing collaboration between the elected commissions.

### **2. Proposed delisting of animal diseases**

Dr Thiermann outlined the approach that the Code Commission proposed to take to the proposed delisting of certain animal diseases (see discussion in Part D, Item 5). Dr Vallat agreed that Member Countries should be asked to offer expert comment on the proposed new list of notifiable diseases.

### **3. Diseases of honey bees**

Dr Thiermann commended the *ad hoc* Group's work and recommended that the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) consider convening the *ad hoc* Group regularly to monitor developments in global bee health and diagnostic advances, to ensure that the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* were always up to date.

### **4. Distribution of documents to OIE Members**

Dr Thiermann recalled the difference in approach between the distribution of reports of the SCAD and those of the Code Commission. He asked Dr Vallat to consider the possibility that the OIE distribute SCAD reports as MSWord documents, consistent with the format of the Code Commission reports, to facilitate review and comment by Member Countries. Dr Vallat supported this proposal, which had been endorsed already by the SCAD.

### **5. Ad hoc Group on Peste des petits ruminants and ad hoc Group on Classical swine fever**

Dr Thiermann summarised the work of the Code Commission on these important topics and informed Dr Vallat that the Commission looked forward to seeing the reports of the *ad hoc* Groups.

### **6. Proposed new chapter on disease control**

Dr Thiermann advised that the Commission had received from the Scientific Department a report from the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology containing a proposed new chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* on disease control, which had been endorsed by the SCAD. The Commission did not have sufficient time to give this document proper consideration.

### **7. Joint meetings between the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

Dr Thiermann indicated that the International Trade Department and the Scientific Department were taking steps to ensure an overlap between the meetings of the two Commissions. Dr Vallat recalled that the dates of meetings were prerogative of the OIE administration and agreed that if it was not possible for the meetings to overlap, the SCAD meeting should take place before the Code Commission meeting.

## **8. Rinderpest**

Dr Vallat highlighted the importance of continuing to work on rinderpest global freedom, including the new obligation in the *Terrestrial Code* for countries to provide annual notification of the holding of rinderpest virus or material containing rinderpest virus.

## **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Annex II contains the adopted agenda.

A list of abbreviations used in the report is in Annex III.

## **C. REPORT ON JOINT MEETING OF THE CODE COMMISSION BUREAU AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION**

The Bureau of the Code Commission met Dr Gideon Brückner, the President of the SCAD, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012. The meeting report is in Annex IV.

## **D. EXAMINATION OF MEMBER COUNTRY COMMENTS AND WORK OF RELEVANT EXPERT GROUPS**

### **Item 1. General comments of OIE Members**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the European Union (EU), New Zealand and South Africa.

The Code Commission discussed Members' recommendations for the inclusion of an introductory text explaining the various purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* – e.g. trade, disease control and management, animal production food safety. It was agreed to adapt the *Terrestrial Code* user's guide (between the foreword and the glossary) to make this clear. A revised text will be considered by the Code Commission at its meeting in February 2013 and the views of Members will be sought.

The Code Commission noted the comments of a Member who called for greater consistency in the terminology used in the *Terrestrial Manual* and the *Terrestrial Code*, and asked the Trade Department to forward the comments to the OIE Scientific Department for action.

The Code Commission discussed the concerns of a Member about the WAHIS with the Head of the OIE Sanitary Information Department, who agreed to clarify the matter directly with the Member.

### **Item 2. Horizontal issues**

#### **(a) Development of the *Terrestrial Code* to address wildlife**

Comments on the document on OIE policy as regard wildlife were received from Argentina, Australia, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, the USA and the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

The Code Commission restated its intention to deal with updates to the *Terrestrial Code* in a measured, disease-by-disease manner, with the incorporation of references to wildlife primarily based on the epidemiological significance of the wildlife species to the disease, as outlined in the document.

The Code Commission noted the extensive comments of Members on this important, cross cutting topic and referred these to the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases (WGWD) and the SCAD for review. The Code Commission recommended that this topic be discussed by the relevant OIE Departments (International Trade, Scientific and Sanitary Information) and the two Elected Commissions (SCAD and Code Commission) with a view to finalising OIE policy on the incorporation of wildlife in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission looked forward to receiving advice from the WGWD and the SCAD for consideration in February 2013.

### **Item 3. Glossary**

Comments were received from the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services and *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial resistance.

The Code Commission reviewed the recommendations supported by the SCAD in the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology's meeting of 6–8 March 2012. The Code Commission accepted the proposed modification of 'surveillance' in the glossary but did not see a need to modify the term 'specific surveillance' as the current text is adequate and appropriate.

On the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, with support of the SCAD (see Part D, Item 9), the Code Commission proposed to add two new definitions in the Glossary, as follows:

'Veterinary medicinal products means any product with approved claim(s) to having a protective, therapeutic or diagnostic effect or to alter physiological functions when administered or applied to an animal.' and

'Good manufacturing practice means a production and testing practice that helps to ensure a quality product.'

The Code Commission also proposed to modify the definition of Veterinary Statutory Body as proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services (see Part D, Item 6.)

The amended Glossary is attached as [Annex V](#) for Member comments.

### **Item 4. Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)**

OIE Headquarters presented a proposal to modify the text in Chapter 1.1. with the goal of improving consistency between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Aquatic Code*). The Code Commission accepted several proposed modifications. Some modifications were not accepted, because the Code Commission considered that the existing text in the *Terrestrial Code* was correct, even if the text was slightly different from that in the *Aquatic Code*.

In point 2 of Article 1.1.3., the Code Commission proposed to delete 'by fax or e-mail'. Also in this point, the Code Commission discussed and agreed with a proposal to replace 'it becoming endemic' with 'the situation has become sufficiently stable'.

In Article 1.1.4., the Code Commission modified 'territory' to 'country' and 'OIE' to 'Headquarters'.

The Code Commission proposed to delete Articles 1.1.5. and 1.1.6. as some of the text was obsolete and, in any case, these articles relate to the organisation of work at the OIE Headquarters.

The Code Commission invited the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission to consider further text amendments with a view to improved harmonisation of the two Codes.

The amended Chapter 1.1. is attached as [Annex VI](#) for Member comments.

### **Item 5. Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

#### **(a) Revised disease list proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of animal diseases and pathogenic agents**

The Code Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group's draft decision tree and proposed a revised version to clarify the pathways to disease listing.

The Code Commission noted that the international spread of a disease by vectors is not taken into account in making a decision to list a disease, in contrast to the spread of the agent via live animals, their products and fomites (see point 1 of Article 1.2.2.).

The Code Commission considered each proposal on disease listing that had been made by the *ad hoc* Group. Noting the advice of the SCAD regarding the zoonotic importance of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, the Code Commission questioned the proposal to delist the disease.

The Code Commission also noted the objection of the SCAD to delisting Nipah virus encephalitis. Based on the fact that the virus had been known to spread internationally via trade in pigs for slaughter, and on at least one occasion had caused human infections via occupational exposure, the Code Commission questioned the proposal to delist the disease.

With respect to the proposal to delist porcine cysticercosis (*Taenia solium*), which is a major neglected zoonosis, the Code Commission considered that the rationale for listing trichinellosis would apply equally to cysticercosis and questioned if the approaches to these two diseases were consistent.

On scrapie, the Code Commission noted that the quoted range of morbidity (2-30%) was very wide. If 30% of a flock was affected, this would be significant. There are free countries and the disease can readily be transmitted via trade in sheep. The Code Commission considered that the proposal to delist the disease should be the subject of further advice from OIE Members.

On leptospirosis, the Code Commission noted an advice from an OIE Reference Laboratory supporting the listing of certain serovars but considered that the criterion that at least one country be free from the disease is not met. The Code Commission has referred this advice back to the *ad hoc* group.

With respect to haemorrhagic septicaemia, the Code Commission noted that international spread via live animals occurred and the disease is listed by FAO as a trans-boundary disease (FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/empres/diseases.asp>). The Code Commission questioned the proposal to delist this disease.

Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Head of the Sanitary Information Department, joined the Code Commission for a discussion on the proposed revision of the listed diseases.

In conclusion, the Code Commission decided to ask Members with experience of any of the diseases proposed for delisting to advise on the proposals of the *ad hoc* Group and, if the proposal to delist the diseases is not supported, to provide scientific information relevant to the OIE criteria to justify continued listing.

The Code Commission invited Member Countries to review the report of the *ad hoc* Group as attached in Annex VII and to provide their comments on it. The Commission will present revised Chapter 1.2. with a revised disease list after reviewing those comments in February 2013.

## **(b) Listed bee diseases**

The Code Commission agreed with the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Bee Diseases, which reviewed the listing of bee diseases according to the revised criteria and concluded that the list should not be modified.

## **Item 6. Support for Veterinary Services**

### **(a) Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)**

Comments were received from the EU, the FAO, the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services (*ad hoc* Group on PVS) and the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education.

The Code Commission accepted the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services to modify the definition of Veterinary Statutory Body, as follows:

Veterinary Statutory Body means the autonomous regulatory body for *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*.

Members' comments on Article 3.2.6. subpoint 3 (b) were accepted and the text modified accordingly. Article 3.2.14. subpoint 5 (a) (v) was also amended, consistent with the modification of Article 3.2.6. subpoint 3 (b).

The Code Commission did not agree with the recommendations to move parts of the text in Chapter 3.2. to Chapter 3.4. and instead referred the FAO comments to the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation with a request to ensure that the points raised by the FAO have been addressed appropriately in Chapter 3.4.

On Article 3.2.12., the Code Commission accepted most of the text modifications recommended by the *ad hoc* Group on PVS, with some editorial amendments to make the text shorter and clearer.

On Article 3.2.14., the Code Commission agreed with the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, insofar as the addition of 'and the post-graduate and continuing education topics' in sub-point 2 (a) (vi) but did not agree to include additional text, such as the internet addresses of documents on the OIE website, as this was not consistent with established practice.

The revised Chapter 3.2. is attached as [Annex VIII](#) for Member comments.

#### **(b) Veterinary legislation (Chapter 3.4.)**

Comments were received from the EU and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Noting that the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation would hold its next meeting on 25–27 September, the Code Commission referred the comments of FAO and the EU to the Group for consideration. The *ad hoc* Group's advice will be reviewed by the Code Commission at its February 2013 meeting.

#### **(c) Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services**

##### **(i) Sixth edition of OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services**

The Code Commission noted the updated edition of the OIE *Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services*.

##### **(ii) Chapter 6.3. Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed**

A proposal of the *ad hoc* Group on PVS was not accepted, as the Code Commission did not agree with the rationale provided.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group is attached as [Annex XXXII](#) for information of Member Countries.

#### **Item 7. Semen and embryos**

##### **(a) Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.6.)**

Comments were received from Australia, South Africa and the USA. The Code Commission also received comments from an expert.

The Code Commission noted the support of a Member for the development of a new chapter on equine semen. The Code Commission sought advice from an expert for consideration at the next meeting in February.

A Member's comments on point 2 of Article 4.6.3. has been sent to an expert for advice.

The modifications proposed by a Member to points 3 and 4 of Article 4.6.7. were accepted, with an editorial amendment.

**(b) Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.7.)**

Comments were received from Australia.

A proposal to move sheep scrapie from Category 1 to Category 4 in Article 4.7.14. was not accepted, as the list reflects the International Embryo Transfer Society categorisation, which is developed by that organisation on the basis of a rigorous peer-reviewed process.

The revised Chapters 4.6. and 4.7. are attached as Annex IX for Member comments.

**Item 8. Biosecurity procedures in poultry production (Chapter 6.4.)**

Comments were received from the EU.

In response to one comment, the Code Commission moved the sentence on antimicrobial resistance from Article 6.4.5. Point 2 sub-point (o) to Point 1, new sub-point (f).

Also see Agenda item 1 for the answer to the general comment.

The revised Chapter 6.4. is attached as Annex X for Member comments.

**Item 9. Antimicrobial resistance**

**(a) Work of the OIE on antimicrobial resistance**

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the OIE Scientific Department, outlined current OIE activities relevant to the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She reminded the Code Commission that the revised Chapters 6.7. and 6.8. had been adopted at the General Session in May 2012 and a revised Guideline on Laboratory Methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing added to the latest edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*. At the fourth meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial resistance, in July 2012, the Group had addressed OIE Members' comments on Chapter 6.9. The Group also started to update the List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance ([http://10.0.0.112/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/OIE\\_list\\_antimicrobials.pdf](http://10.0.0.112/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/OIE_list_antimicrobials.pdf)). The next meeting of this Group will take place in December 2012. At this meeting, the Group will address Members' comments on risk assessment and finalise the updating of Chapter 6.10., and complete its work on the List.

Dr Erlacher-Vindel informed the Code Commission that the OIE is working in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the topic of AMR, which is a priority in the OIE/FAO/WHO Tripartite Strategy.

The Scientific Department of the OIE has nearly completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of Focal Point training, with an emphasis on the VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) and AMR.

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel informed the Code Commission that the OIE had sent out a questionnaire to OIE Members on monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobial agents used in animals. The high response rate (133 countries) was very pleasing. The results of the questionnaire will be analysed and presented at the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials for Animals, 'International Solidarity to Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance', which will take place on 13–15 March 2013 in Paris (see [http://www.oie.int/eng/A\\_AMR2013/introduction.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AMR2013/introduction.htm)).

The OIE is hosting an International Symposium on Alternatives to Antibiotics, which is organised by the International Alliance for Biological Standardisation (IABS) and the United States Department of Agriculture, on 25–28 September 2012 (<http://www.alternativestoantibiotics.org/>).

Dr Erlacher-Vindel drew to the Commission's attention the recently published Volume 31(1) of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review on 'Antimicrobial resistance in animal and public health'.

The Code Commission encouraged OIE Members to review information on AMR, which is addressed in a new dedicated place on the OIE website (<http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/veterinary-products/antimicrobials/>) which also links to this topic on the WHO website.

**(b) Chapter 6.6. Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance**

Following recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, endorsed by the SCAD, the Code Commission proposed to add:

'These chapters should be read in conjunction with the standards, codes of practice and guidelines on antimicrobial resistance developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.'

In addition, the word 'entire' was added before 'animal sector' to make it clear that the OIE recommendations on antimicrobial use and resistance apply to all animals covered in the *Terrestrial Code*, not only those used for the production of food.

The Code Commission did not accept several definitions of 'therapeutic use' and 'non-therapeutic use' that were proposed by the *ad hoc* Group, because they were not considered to be necessary at this time.

The Code Commission agreed to add a definition, as follows, in the glossary: 'Good manufacturing practice means a production and testing practice that helps to ensure a quality product.'

The revised Chapter 6.6. is attached as Annex XI for Member comments.

**(c) Chapter 6.7. Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes**

Comments were received from the EU.

The first comment was the subject of advice from the SCAD, which considered that the comment should be addressed by a specifically convened *ad hoc* Group at a later stage.

Following Members' comments, a new point 6 was added to Article 6.7.2. and a new sub-point (e) was added to Article 6.7.3. point 1.

The revised Chapter 6.7. is attached as Annex XII for Member comments.

**(d) Chapter 6.9. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine**

The Code Commission reviewed the reports of the December 2011 and July 2012 meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, which had been endorsed by the SCAD.

The OIE had received comments from Australia, Canada, Chile, Mexico and the USA (considered at the December meeting of the *ad hoc* Group) and from Argentina, China (People's Republic of), Cuba, the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and the AU-IBAR (considered at the July meeting).

The Code Commission noted that the report of the *ad hoc* Group's July 2012 meeting would be provided to Members as an annex to the report of the August 2012 meeting of the SCAD.

The Commission did not agree to modify the definition of *Competent Authority* as proposed by the *ad hoc* Group because the current definition (and also the definition of Veterinary Authority) makes reference to all matters covered in the *Terrestrial Code*; there is no need for an explicit reference to marketing authorisation of veterinary medicinal products.

The following definition of ‘veterinary medicinal products’ was proposed for inclusion in the glossary: ‘any medicinal product with approved claim(s) to having a protective, therapeutic or diagnostic effect or to alter physiological functions when administered or applied to an animal.’ The Code Commission noted that this definition is used by the VICH and had been endorsed by the SCAD.

Several amendments were made to the text of Article 6.9.3., reflecting the correct use of concepts and defined terms in the *Terrestrial Code*. This included the replacement of ‘regulatory authorities’ by ‘Competent Authority’ in this article and elsewhere in the chapter. In addition, the Code Commission deleted several references to VICH guidelines, as the reference in point 4 of Article 6.9.3. was considered to be sufficient.

Following Members’ comments, the Code Commission made several text amendments to clarify aspects relating to the use of antimicrobial agents in food producing animals.

The revised Chapter 6.9. is attached as Annex XIII for Member comments.

**(e) Chapter 6.10. Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals**

Comments were received from Argentina, Chinese Taipei, the EU, Norway, New Zealand, the USA and the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

All comments were referred to the *ad hoc* Group for consideration at its December 2012 meeting. The Group’s report and SCAD advice will be reviewed by the Code Commission in February 2013.

**Item 10. Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates (Chapter 6.11.)**

Comments were received from the EU.

The Code Commission proposed to insert new text reading ‘sourcing in accordance with Article 7.8.7.’ in Article 6.11.1.

The revised Chapter 6.11. is attached as Annex XIV for Member comments.

**Item 11. Animal welfare**

**(a) Animal Welfare Working Group – meeting report June 2012**

The Code Commission noted the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) work programme for 2012–2013, as revised at the June 2012 meeting.

The Commission considered animal production systems to be the top priority topic for the development of standards in 2012–2013 and invited OIE Members to comment on the AWWG proposal to develop a standard on the welfare of working animals.

The report of the AWWG is attached as Annex XXXIII for information of Member Countries.

**(b) Draft new chapter on Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems (Chapter 7.X.)**

The Code Commission reviewed a revised draft chapter resulting from an electronic consultation undertaken in July and August 2012 by the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems.

The Code Commission cross checked the text with that of the recently adopted (in May 2012) Chapter 7.9. on Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production Systems, to ensure a consistent approach to like concepts, as appropriate.

The text in Annex XV shows, in marked up text, the modifications made to the document since it was presented to the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2011.

The key definition, of broilers, was amended to ‘means birds of the species *Gallus gallus* kept for commercial meat production. Poultry in backyard and village flocks are not included.’

The definitions of ‘cage housing system’, ‘deep litter system’ and ‘slatted floor housing system’ were deleted as none of these terms was used in the text.

In Article 7.X.3., the text explaining the terms ‘completely housed systems’, ‘partially housed systems’ and ‘completely outdoors systems’ was modified for greater clarity and precision and all three points were moved into Article 7.X.2 Scope. The Code Commission made several amendments to the text of chapter to remove overly detailed explanations about types of broiler housing.

The Code Commission discussed the importance of retaining, for the information of Members, the scientific references, which will be removed from this chapter after it has been adopted. Scientific references could be included in a document entitled ‘Scientific references for Chapter 7.X’ and placed on the Animal Welfare page on the OIE website.

In Article 7.X.5 Recommendations, the Code Commission made several text amendments to improve clarity and coherence of the text.

The title ‘Social environment’ was replaced with ‘Prevention of feather pecking and cannibalism’, to better reflect the content of sub-point 2.7. The Code Commission also modified the text to clarify that therapeutic beak trimming is a last resort, to be used only when other management strategies are not effective, consistent with sub-point 2.12, which states that painful procedures, including beak trimming, should not be performed routinely.

The revised draft Chapter 7.X. is attached as Annex XV for Member comments.

**(c) Member comments on Chapters 7.1., 7.8. and 7.9.**

**Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for Animal Welfare**

Comments were received from Canada, the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG), and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW).

Following comments of the AWWG, the Code Commission added a new point in Article 7.1.4.: ‘Animals chosen for introduction into new environments should be suited to the local climate and able to adapt successfully to local diseases, parasites and nutrition.’

Following a Member’s comment, the Commission clarified point 5 of Article 7.1.4., by replacing ‘in confined spaces’ with ‘For housed animals’.

Proposals of an organisation to add to the core principles were referred to the AWWG with a request for advice to the Commission for consideration at its meeting in February 2013.

The revised Chapter 7.1. is attached as Annex XVI for Member comments.

**Chapter 7.8. Use of animals in research and education**

Comments were received from Canada and the EU.

In Article 7.8.10. ‘Transportation’, the Code Commission did not accept the addition of ‘transport of animals should be kept to the minimum (, etc.)’ as this is already covered in Article 7.8.7. point 8.

Following Members' recommendations during the 80<sup>th</sup> General Session (2012), the Code Commission added new text to the first paragraph, making reference to the general provisions in Chapters 7.3. and 7.4. The Commission also added text reflecting the fact that animals used in research and education may at times be transported even though their welfare is compromised as a consequence of their use, or intended use, in scientific research.

The revised Chapter 7.8. is attached as Annex XVII for Member comments.

### **Chapter 7.9. Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production Systems**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, the EU and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW).

The Code Commission reviewed comments received and, noting that this chapter was recently adopted (in May 2012), cross checked the text with that of the draft new chapter on broiler chickens (Chapter 7.X.), to ensure a consistent approach to like concepts, as appropriate.

The Code Commission replaced 'reported' with 'recorded' in point 3 of Article 7.9.4., as it did not recognise a need to report mortalities in this context, nor was it clear to whom they should be reported. Following the comments of a Member and an international organisation, the phrase 'unless absolutely necessary' was added to Article 7.9.5. sub-point 1 (b).

Following the comment of a Member and an international organisation, the Code Commission included the sentence: 'Where possible, cattle on slatted floors should have access to a bedded area' in Article 7.9.5. sub-point 2 (f).

The reference for this text is the Scientific Opinion on the welfare of cattle kept for beef production and the welfare in intensive calf farming systems. EFSA Journal 2012;10(5):2669. 166 pp. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2669 ([www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal)).

Following the comments of a Member and an international organisation calling for the addition of recommendations on tethering, the Code Commission discussed the various tethering systems that occur around the world. These vary between intensive farming systems, which are discussed in the EFSA Scientific Opinion (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/de/efsajournal/doc/2669.pdf>), and some traditional farming systems, where individual animals are restrained on a long tether and can graze relatively freely. In conclusion, the Code Commission proposed to add the following text to Article 7.9.5. point 3, sub-point (i):

'Cattle that are tethered should, as a minimum, be able to lie down, turn around and walk.'

The Code Commission did not add a reference to Article 7.1.4., as requested by Members, as it considered that Chapter 7.1. is generally relevant to all subsequent chapters in Section 7.

Following a Member's comment, the Code Commission added 'fire' to sub-point (h) on Emergency plans.

Noting a Member's request to include tables in this chapter (e.g. on husbandry and identification methods), the Code Commission confirmed its intention to review all chapters in Section 7 and to remove tables containing detailed information, as it considered that these would be more appropriately placed on the OIE internet site in the context of guidelines or recommendations, rather than being included in the Code.

The revised Chapter 7.9. is attached as Annex XVIII for Member comments.

#### **(d) Chapters 7.3., 7.5. and 7.6.**

Comments were received from the EU and Canada (on Chapter 7.3.); the EU, Peru, Switzerland, the USA and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (on Chapter 7.5.); and the EU and USA (Chapter 7.6).

The Code Commission deferred consideration of these comments to the February 2013 meeting, at which time it would also review the work to be undertaken by the International Trade Department with the objective of removing excessively detailed information from the *Terrestrial Code* and relocating it to the OIE internet site in the form of guidelines and recommendations.

**(e) Update on proposal of the International Organization for Standardization to develop technical specifications on animal welfare**

Dr Sarah Kahn updated the Code Commission on the decision of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to develop technical specifications on animal welfare based on the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*. This work was undertaken under the aegis of the official agreement between the OIE and the ISO, which aims to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and collaboration in all fields of mutual interest, including in the field of international standards and recommendations on animal health and welfare.

In preliminary discussions between the OIE and ISO on the proposal to develop ISO technical specifications on animal welfare, the following objectives were identified:

- to encourage food chain operators to conform with the OIE animal welfare standards in relation to international trade in food of animal origin;
- to encourage governments to implement the OIE animal welfare standards in relation to international trade in foods of animal origin;
- to promote international harmonisation of animal welfare standards for food-producing animals; and
- by providing global ISO specifications based on OIE standards, to help to prevent the multiplication of private schemes and certification systems, with their associated costs.

This work would take place under the auspices of the ISO Technical Committee 34 (Food Products), following the ISO procedures for standards development. Dr Sarah Kahn indicated that the ISO would convene a first meeting of a technical working group in Paris, during October 2012. The International Trade Department will attend the meeting and will provide an update to the Code Commission at its next meeting.

The Code Commission discussed this development. Noting that ISO standards are references under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement), the Commission considered that technical specifications produced might have legal status in the context of a WTO dispute under the TBT Agreement.

**Item 12. Aujeszky's disease (Chapter 8.2.)**

Comments were received from South Africa.

The Code Commission reviewed these comments but considered that the treatment of Aujeszky's disease (AD) in Chapter 8.2. was appropriate to the disease epidemiology and management and that the differences between the provisions in this chapter and others (e.g. FMD, classical swine fever) were scientifically warranted. On the proposal to make provisions for compartmentalisation of AD, the Commission recalled that Chapters 4.3. and 4.4. apply to AD, as to all diseases. While some disease chapters contain specific provisions on the establishment of compartments, reflecting specific risk factors, the Code Commission did not see a need for such provisions in Chapter 8.2.

### **Item 13. Bluetongue (Chapter 8.3.)**

Comments were received from Chile, the EU, Norway, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission moved the paragraph ‘for the purposes of international trade...’ from Article 8.3.17. to Article 8.3.1.

In response to Members’ comments on Articles 8.3.1. and 3., the Code Commission considered that the term ‘adjacent’ did not need any explanation beyond the standard dictionary definition.

The Code Commission did not see a valid rationale for accepting a Member’s proposal to re-insert the words ‘of the establishment or facility’ in Article 8.3.15. point 1.

On the recommendation of Members, supported by SCAD, the phrase ‘and other susceptible herbivores of epidemiological significance’, was included in the first paragraph of Article 8.3.19., under the title ‘Surveillance strategies’.

The Code Commission noted a Member’s comment regarding surveillance by sampling and testing of bulk milk but considered that no text amendment was warranted because the current text already covers this possibility.

The revised Chapter 8.3. is attached as Annex XIX for Member comments.

### **Item 14. Zoonotic parasites**

#### **(a) Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* (revised Chapter 8.4.)**

Comments were received from the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

The Code Commission reviewed Members’ comments in conjunction with the report of the December 2011 meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic Parasites and made several modifications to the draft text, following Members’ recommendations.

The Code Commission noted that, in the course of revision of this chapter, several parts of the text had previously been inserted or deleted at the request of OIE Members. For this reason, the Code Commission did not accept a number of proposed text modifications on these parts.

As the word ‘hydatid’ is a noun, not an adjective, the Code Commission replaced the term ‘hydatid cyst’ with ‘hydatid’ throughout the chapter. The Commission noted that in French and Spanish, the correct terminology is ‘kyste hydatique’ and ‘cisto hidatiko’.

For clarification of the phrase ‘good food and personal hygiene’, the Code Commission added the word ‘hygiene’ after ‘good food’ in Article 8.4.1. At Members’ request the Code Commission agreed to add processed fat to the list of safe commodities in Article 8.4.2. In addition, the term ‘offal’ was defined, to clarify the provisions of the chapter.

A Member’s proposal to make an article on the importation of sheep was not accepted, because the proposed measures would have the effect of limiting international trade in a manner that is not commensurate with the measures applied for the purposes of domestic control by most countries of the world.

#### **(b) Infection with *Echinococcus multilocularis* (new Chapter X.X.)**

Comments were received from the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

Bearing in mind the modifications made to Chapter 8.4., the Code Commission reviewed comments on the new draft chapter.

In response to a Member's comments, the Code Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents had considered the listing of echinococcosis/hydatidosis and had concluded that listing was justified for both *E. granulosus* and *E. multilocularis* but not for other *Echinococcus* species.

Following Members' comments, the Code Commission removed references to cats in the draft chapter and clarified that the purpose of surveillance for *E. multilocularis* in pig livers (Article X.X.3. point 2) is as an indicator of the parasite's presence in the environment. The text on the use of information on human cases of infection was also clarified.

The Code Commission noted that the distinct epidemiology of the two diseases should be respected, even though the approach to the two chapters was similar.

The revised Chapter 8.4. and the revised draft Chapter X.X. are attached as Annex XX for Member comments.

**(c) Meeting report of the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic parasites (Infection with *Trichinella* spp., Chapter 8.13.)**

The Code Commission noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic parasites, which met on 23–25 July 2012 and reviewed comments provided by Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the USA and the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA).

The Code Commission greatly appreciated the work of this Group, notably the care taken to align the work of Codex and the OIE on this topic and commended the Group on the novel approach taken in the drafting of the chapter, taking into account the unique aspects of this infection. The Commission agreed with the revised text proposed by the Group and provided the revised Chapter 8.13. to Members for comment, with a view to possible adoption in May 2013.

The revised Chapter 8.13., as a clean text, is attached as Annex XXI for Member comments.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group is attached as Annex XXXIV for information of Member Countries.

**Item 15. Foot and mouth disease (FMD)**

Comments were received on Chapter 1.6. from Australia and an EFSA report on the inactivation of pathogens in animal casings was received from the European Commission.

The Code Commission did not review the comments on FMD, as a complete revision of the chapter is under way and the questionnaire may need to be revised consistent with this review. The EFSA report was referred to the OIE Scientific Department for discussion with SCAD and determination if a new article on a model veterinary certificate for international trade in casings would be warranted.

**Item 16. Rabies (Chapter 8.10.)**

Comments were received from Japan and Norway.

The Code Commission took into account the advice of the SCAD that there was no need to make provisions for rabies free regions for the purpose of dealing with overseas territories and therefore did not propose any text amendments.

The recommendation (waiting period between test and export) of a Member was referred to an expert of an OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies. The Commission noted that the expert had advised to modify the current procedure for better efficiency of the test, and decided to review this advice in collaboration with the SCAD in February 2013.

### **Item 17. Rinderpest (Chapter 8.12.)**

Comments were received from Australia, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, the SCAD, the Joint FAO/OIE Advisory Committee on Rinderpest (JAC), the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA).

The Code Commission noted the general support expressed by Members for the revised chapter, and made a number of text amendments in light of comments submitted. The advice provided by the JAC, at times, included some recommendations that were not compatible. In these cases, the Code Commission mainly took into account the advice of the SCAD.

Throughout the chapter, 'RP' was replaced with 'rinderpest' and 'rinderpest virus' with 'RPV'.

The Code Commission changed the title of Article 8.12.2. to 'Definitions and general provisions' and replaced 'for the purpose of this article' with 'for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*' or 'for the purpose of this chapter', as appropriate.

In response to a question from a Member, the Code Commission noted that, for rinderpest, reference laboratories must be approved by both OIE and FAO. Some reference laboratories are also *appointed* for the purpose of holding live rinderpest virus.

Following comments of Members, the Code Commission modified the text in Article 8.12.5. The addition of an 'e-link' to the international contingency plan was not supported, as the inclusion of internet addresses for documents is not accepted practice in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The word 'shall' was changed to 'should' in the sentence 'in the event of the confirmation of rinderpest, the entire country shall be considered infected...', on the basis that the word 'shall' is only used in the *Terrestrial Code* when speaking of the legal obligations of Members, which are set out in the OIE Organic Rules.

Article 8.12.7, point 3, was modified in line with the SCAD recommendation, except that the word 'quarantine' was removed from the new text as the concept of quarantine is covered by 'movement controls'.

The Code Commission modified texts in Article 8.12.8. (Surveillance for recovery of free status of a country), as appropriate, taking into consideration comments from JAC and SCAD's review of them. The Code Commission encouraged SCAD and the JAC to develop new provisions on regaining **global** rinderpest freedom in the case where a country, or group of countries, loses and then regains free status.

In Article 8.12.9., the Code Commission proposed amendments to the 'Model Annual Report on RPV containing material', based on JAC and SCAD recommendations. Based on Members' comments, the Code Commission included some new text concerning the provision of a final report following the destruction of all RPV containing material.

The revised Chapter 8.12. is attached as Annex XXII for Member comments.

### **Item 18. Chapters on bee diseases**

A general comment was received from the Philippines.

#### **(a) Hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries (Chapter 4.14.)**

The Code Commission added the term 'or other Competent Authority' after 'Veterinary Authority' in the entire text, as appropriate, to address the comment of a Member Country, which advised that the Veterinary Authority was not responsible for bees in that country.

The revised Chapter 4.14. is attached as Annex XXIII for Member comments.

**(b) Background information for the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on bee diseases**

The Code Commission considered that the paper ‘Background to the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on bee diseases’ contained very useful background information. While the document was not considered to be appropriate for inclusion in the Code, the Code Commission encouraged the OIE to publish it on the internet website, in The *Bulletin* or in other OIE publications.

**(c) Bee diseases (Chapters 9.1.-9.6. inclusive)**

Following comments of a Member and consistent with the amendment of Chapter 4.14., the Code Commission added the term ‘or other Competent Authority’ after ‘Veterinary Authority’ in all chapters, as appropriate.

**Chapter 9.1. (Infestation of honey bees with *Acarapis woodi*)**

Comments were received from Chile, the EU, Japan and New Zealand.

**Chapter 9.2. (Infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae*/American foulbrood)**

Comments were received from the EU, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

**Chapter 9.3. (Infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius*/European foulbrood)**

Comments were received from the EU, Jamaica, New Zealand and Switzerland.

**Chapter 9.4. (Infestation with *Aethina tumida*/small hive beetle)**

Comments were received from Australia, Chile, the EU and Switzerland.

**Chapter 9.5. (Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp.)**

Comments were received from Chile, China (People’s Republic), the EU and Switzerland.

**Chapter 9.6. (Infestation of honey bees with *Varroa* spp.)**

Comments were received from Chile, China (People’s Republic), the EU, Norway and Switzerland.

Dr François Diaz, of the OIE Scientific Department, joined the Code Commission for discussion on Item 18. The Code Commission reviewed the reports of meetings of the *ad hoc* Group on Honeybee diseases that were held in January and July 2012. The Commission greatly appreciated the work of this *ad hoc* Group and generally endorsed its recommendations. Given the global importance of honeybees and the rapid development of scientific knowledge on pest and disease management in apiculture, the Commission recommended that the Group be reconvened annually to monitor developments in global bee health and diagnostic advances, to ensure that the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* were always up to date.

Some modifications were made to the text in individual chapters, as shown in Annex XXIV for Member Country comments.

The Code Commission noted that the rationales of modifications made by the *ad hoc* Group were detailed in the report of the SCAD meeting in August 2012.

**Item 19. Avian infectious laryngotracheitis (Chapter 10.3.)**

Comments were received from New Zealand.

These comments were not reviewed as the disease has been proposed for delisting and the Code Commission considered that revision of Chapter 10.3. was not a priority at this time.

### **Item 20. Avian influenza (Chapter 10.4.)**

Comments were received from Australia, the EU, India and South Africa.

The Code Commission proposed some text amendments throughout Chapter 10.4., with the goal of clarifying the requirements to address Members' comments. The Commission emphasised that these modifications do not change the provisions in the chapter; rather they present them more clearly.

These text modifications clarify the distinction between highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, the presence of which should be reported for all avian species in which the infection occurs, and low pathogenic avian influenza viruses of subtype H5 and H7 (low pathogenic notifiable AI viruses), the presence of which in poultry should be reported.

The Code Commission highlighted the importance of Article 10.4.4., which sets out the conditions for a country, zone or compartment that is free from infection with highly pathogenic AI viruses in poultry as the basis for safe international trade in poultry and poultry products, regardless of the presence of avian influenza viruses in wild birds.

This revision also took into account a Member's recommendation, on the basis that wild birds carry avian influenza viruses, to delete the concept of a zone in this chapter. However, the Code Commission rejected this recommendation because the treatment of zoning in the chapter reflects the Code definition of notifiable avian influenza as a disease of poultry. Hence, zoning is a practical option regardless of the presence of avian influenza viruses in wild birds. The Code Commission noted Members' comments and modified Article 10.4.33 paragraph 2, as follows: 'The use of antigen detection systems... should be limited to screening clinical field cases...'. In Figure 2, the line between [-] and [S] under [Antigen detection (screening of clinical cases)] will be changed from a solid to a dotted line, to indicate that the result should be interpreted.

The revised Chapter 10.4. is attached as Annex XXV for Member comments.

### **Item 21. Brucellosis (Chapters 11.3., 14.1. and 15.3.)**

The Code Commission noted that a new *ad hoc* Group has been convened to review these chapters.

### **Item 22. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 11.8.)**

On a suggestion from the International Trade Department, the Code Commission modified Chapter 11.8. to clarify the situation with compartments for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). The OIE does not provide official recognition for compartments for CBPP (or for any other disease).

The Code Commission relocated and modified Article 11.8.16 and renumbered it as Article 11.8.5 *bis* and modified the text of Articles 11.8.3., 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 to reflect the distinction between official OIE recognition of free countries and zones and the national declaration of a CBPP free compartment.

The revised Chapter 11.8. is attached as Annex XXVI for Member comments.

### **Item 23. Equine diseases**

#### **(a) African horse sickness (Chapter 12.1.)**

Comments were received from China (People's Republic of) and from the African Union- Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

The Code Commission noted that the SCAD will shortly review Chapter 12.1. and Chapter 8.3. (Bluetongue) for consistency and, on this basis, did not review the text of Chapter 12.1. in detail.

**(b) Equine influenza (Chapter 12.6.)**

Comments were received from South Africa, calling for a more consistent approach to equine influenza and avian influenza. The Code Commission did not propose to modify the text of Chapter 12.6., as it considered that the text in these two chapters was appropriate to the significant differences in the epidemiology of the respective diseases.

**(c) Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 12.9.)**

Comments were received from the USA.

An expert advice was sought by the SCAD with respect to a Member's comment on the transmission of the virus by embryo transfer, to be addressed in the next meeting of the Code Commission.

**Item 24. Infection with *Chlamydophila abortus* (Chapter 14.5.)**

Comments were received from the OIE Biological Standards Commission and from an expert.

The Code Commission noted that peer reviewed scientific references (Storz et al., 1976; Appleyard et al., 1985; Suri et al., 1986; Domeika et al., 1994; Amin 2003) refer to the excretion of *C. abortus* in bull and ram semen and to venereal transmission, even if this route of transmission was not regarded as an important method of spread of the disease (Aitken, 1983., Appleyard et al., 1985).

Noting the conclusions of an import risk assessment carried out by an OIE Member Country (MAF New Zealand, October 2005) and following the advice of the Biological Standards Commission, the Code Commission amended Article 14.5.4. and proposed a new Article (14.5.5.) on the importation of sheep embryos.

With respect to a Member who requested consistent use of the nomenclature of *C. abortus* in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*, the Code Commission noted that the name *Chlamydophila abortus* had been adopted in the *Terrestrial Manual* by the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2012.

The revised Chapter 14.5. is attached as Annex XXVII for Member comments.

**Item 25. Peste des petits ruminants (Chapter 14.8.)**

The Code Commission noted that an *ad hoc* Group will be convened to conduct a further review on Peste des petits ruminants (PPR). The Code Commission asked the OIE to ensure that the terms of reference for the new Group include taking into account the comments already provided by the Commission on the report presented by a previous *ad hoc* Group on PPR.

**Item 26. Scrapie (Chapter 14.9.)**

Comments were received from Australia and from the EU.

As scrapie has been proposed for delisting, the Code Commission decided to do no further work on Chapter 14.9. until the decision on listing has been finalised.

**Item 27. Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.2.)**

The Code Commission noted that the OIE would convene a new *ad hoc* Group on official disease status recognition of classical swine fever.

The Commission made some suggestions on the terms of reference of the Group, for consideration by OIE Headquarters and SCAD.

### **Item 28. Epizootic hemorrhagic disease – new chapter**

The Code Commission reviewed the report of the March 2011 meeting text of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) and a draft new chapter for the Code. In reviewing the draft chapter, the Commission noted that there was insufficient evidence to list bovine embryos as a safe commodity, nor were there relevant recommendations from the IETS.

The Code Commission presented the new draft chapter to Members for a first round of comments (Annex XXVIII).

### **Item 29. Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education**

Comments on the report of the *ad hoc* Group meeting of January 2012 were received from Argentina and Chinese Taipei.

The Code Commission noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group and added an appropriate reference in Chapter 3.2. referring to the Group's report on Continuing Education.

The Code Commission noted that, in the documents prepared by the *ad hoc* Group, the use and presentation of 'Veterinary Services' and 'Veterinary Authority' were not always consistent and asked the Group to check these carefully against the OIE definitions.

In reviewing the draft Guidelines on the OIE Model Core Veterinary Curriculum Guidelines (August 27 2012 Draft), the Code Commission had some difficulty interpreting the following statement:

'The model Core Veterinary Curriculum assumes that the level of competence required of the day 1 graduate in medicine, surgery, diagnostic imaging, theriogenology, and anaesthesiology **are minimal** as related to the functions of National Veterinary Services.'

As the National Veterinary Services include both the public and the private sector veterinarians, the Commission felt that this statement could give rise to confusion and recommended that it be modified by the *ad hoc* Group along the following lines:

'The model Core Veterinary Curriculum assumes that there is less need for the OIE to make specific recommendations on the competence of the day 1 graduate in medicine, surgery, diagnostic imaging, theriogenology, and anaesthesiology than in matters relating directly to the OIE mandate.'

The report of the *ad hoc* Group is attached for information as Annex XXIX.

## **E. OTHER ISSUES**

### **Item 30. Update of Code Commission work programme**

Taking into account current on-going activities and Member comments, the Commission updated its work programme for 2012–2013 (Annex XXX).

### **Item 31. Invasive alien species**

#### **(a) Draft OIE Guidelines for assessing the risk of non-native animal species becoming invasive**

Although comments had not been solicited, a Member provided comments on the Guidelines. The Code Commission did not have time to address the comments at this meeting and decided to wait for 12 months before addressing any comments that may be received.

**(b) Update on OIE activities**

**(i) WTO/STDF workshop on invasive alien species and international trade**

The workshop was attended by Dr S. MacDiarmid and Dr M. Okita. The Code Commission waits to see the final recommendations of this event.

**(ii) Update on proposed OIE/CBD Agreement**

The OIE Headquarters is discussing with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) an official agreement between the OIE and the CBD.

**Item 32. Review of applications for recognition as an OIE collaborating centre**

The Code Commission noted that two of the applications received appear to cover subjects outside the OIE mandate – i.e. the proposed CC on Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Production and the proposed CC on Laboratory Animal Science, Medicine and Welfare. The Commission considered that the names of OIE Collaborating Centres should clearly reflect subjects and disciplines that fall within the OIE mandate. Accordingly, it recommended that these two applications should be renamed as shown below.

**(a) The Universidad nacional autónoma de Mexico (UNAM) proposal to join Chile/Uruguay Collaborating Centre (CC) on Animal Welfare**

The Code Commission noted this application, which had been endorsed by the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) and the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas. The Commission recommended that the combined CC be called: OIE CC on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems.

The Code Commission recommended that OIE Members approve this application.

**(b) Australia/NZ and Malaysia twinning proposal on animal welfare**

The Code Commission noted that the OIE is waiting to receive a revised application.

**(c) Application from the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) for recognition as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Laboratory Animal Science, Medicine and Welfare**

The Code Commission noted this application and recommended that the title be modified to CC on Laboratory Animal Welfare. The Commission sought advice from the AWWG (out of session) and asked the OIE to seek endorsement from the Regional Commission for the Americas, with a view to possible approval of this proposal by OIE Members at the General Session in 2013.

**(d) Other applications**

The Code Commission noted that the OIE had received an application for recognition as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Quarantine, from Brazil, and an application for a Collaborating Centre on Veterinary Education from the Middle East Centre for Veterinary Education and Training, Egypt. The Commission will review the application when full applications are submitted to the OIE.

**Item 33. Generic checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation**

The Code Commission noted that the final version of this document had been sent to the SCAD and looked forward to seeing the document on the OIE internet page.

**Item 34. Replacement of ‘release’ with ‘entry’, to align with the revision of Chapter 2.1.**

The Code Commission proposed appropriate modifications to Chapters 1.6. and 11.5., based on the revision of Chapter 2.1. that was adopted by the World Assembly in May 2012.

The revised Chapters 1.6. and 11.5. are attached as Annex XXXI for Member comments.

**Item 35. Publication on the history of development of the OIE standards on avian influenza**

The Code Commission noted that the International Trade Department is working with experts from OIE Reference Laboratories on Avian Influenza to produce a report for the information of Members.

The Code Commission looked forward to receiving a copy of the report.

**Item 36. Proposed dates for meetings in 2013**

The Code Commission proposed to hold meetings on 19–28 February and 17–26 September 2013.

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.../Annexes