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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES

Paris, 24 May 2008

The meeting of the Bureau of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France, on 24 May 2008 just prior to the 76th OIE General Session. Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE welcomed the participants and indicated that the main purpose of the meeting was to assess the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group for country evaluations for foot and mouth disease status and to review the draft Resolutions on country evaluations that will be submitted to the International Committee for adoption. He reflected on the discussions he had with a delegation from Columbia on their application for foot and mouth disease status and also indicated that a request was received from the Delegate of Brazil to have discussions with the Commission following the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of Brazil for the recognition of foot and mouth disease status. He also invited the Commission to review the comments of the Central Veterinary Committee of the Mercosur countries (CVP) on the report of the OIE mission of foot and mouth disease experts in December 2007 and to participate in discussions with the CVP during the meeting scheduled for 25 May 2008.

The Agenda and List of participants are presented in [Appendices I and II](#).

1. Review of report of the *ad hoc* Group on evaluation of country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD): 29 to 30 April 2008

The Commission discussed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group in respect of the additional information submitted by the Delegate of Columbia with regard to the proposed “protection zone” in the North Eastern zone of the country. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group that the information and proposed measures are satisfactory and recommended the recognition of the FMD free zone practicing vaccination for adoption pending comments by Members during the 60 day period allowed in accordance with the OIE statutes and the stability of the epidemiological situation of the zone.

The Commission emphasised that the protection zone as identified by the Delegate of Columbia, should be considered part of the free zone with vaccination and therefore would compromise the status of all adjoining free zones with vaccination in the country in the event of an outbreak within the protection zone.

The Commission reviewed in detail the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on the application of Brazil for the recognition of FMD status and also evaluated the dossier and the specific issues listed by the *ad hoc* Group in relation to the recommendations in the report of the OIE expert mission on FMD to the Mercosur countries in December 2007. This was followed by detail discussions with a delegation of Brazil on the specific issues related to vaccination, surveillance and virus circulation, movement control and animal identification, especially as it relates to the so called high surveillance zone between Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraguay. The delegation were given the opportunity to respond on the questions raised by the *ad hoc* Group and members of the Commission, but it was concluded that the Delegate of Brazil be offered an opportunity to prepare detailed answers on the questions raised for submission and re-evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group and for recommendation to the Scientific Commission.

Following discussions with the delegation of Brazil, the Commission reviewed the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group and considering several options, decided to apply the mandate given to the Scientific Commission by the International Committee and to reinstate the status for foot and mouth disease freedom with vaccination of the following states of Brazil with the exclusion of the foot and mouth disease free status of Mato Grosso do Sul: Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Tocantins, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Paraná and São Paulo.

The Delegate of Brazil was requested to prepare a separate dossier for evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group for the re-instatement of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul taking into consideration the comments made by the Commission during the discussions and the specific issues raised by the *ad hoc* Group. The next meeting of the *ad hoc* Group could be scheduled in July 2008.

2. Review of the comments of the CVP on the report of the December 2007 OIE FMD mission to Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Bolivia

The Commission took note of the comments by the CVP on behalf of the Delegates of the countries concerned and acknowledged with thanks the clarifications given on several issues raised in the report of the Mission. The Commission also acknowledged that in future missions, specific time should be allocated to have final discussions with the countries concerned to clear out any uncertainties and that the report should be made available for comments by the countries visited as soon as possible after the completion of the mission.

The President of the Commission re-iterated that in terms of Article 2.2.10.6 of the *Terrestrial Code*, the High Surveillance Zone that was established for a specific purpose on agreement between the OIE and the Delegates of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, could not be regarded as part of the free zone with vaccination and that specific control measures in terms of animal identification, movement control and vaccination should be applied within the High Surveillance Zone to prevent the possible entry of virus into the free zone.

In assessing the recommendations of the report, the Commission took note of the concerns over the maintenance of veterinary control in Bolivia and concluded that an assessment of the FMD control measures in Bolivia should be included in the next follow-up mission.

Following the recommendations in the report, the Commission also identified the need of an *ad hoc* Group to advise the Commission on the use and interpretation of NSP tests emanating from sero-surveillance. The Commission also endorsed the recommendation that the Biological Standards Commission should take note of the need to more clearly define the criteria for vaccine potency tests and vaccine purity criteria for FMD vaccines.

3. Review of the Draft Resolutions to be presented by the President of the Commission to the International Committee for adoption at the 76th General Session.

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the draft Resolutions for recognition of status for FMD, CBPP, BSE and rinderpest. The Commission noted with appreciation the two new Resolutions that will be presented to update and consolidate the procedures for country recognition, the obligation of Members in confirming the maintenance of status and the financial obligation of Members. The Commission suggested an addition to Resolution XXII to indicate that in the event of the allocation of an official status to a new zone adjacent to another zone having already the same official status, the Delegate should indicate in writing to the Director General whether the new zone should be merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone or whether the two zones shall be managed as two distinct zones by the Member.

4. Review of comments by Members following the 60 day period allowing for comments on the proposed recommendations on disease status by the Scientific Commission

The Commission took note of the comments by the Delegate of Japan on BSE. The President indicated that he will address these comments during the presentation of his report to the International Committee. The support of the Delegate of Japan for a shortened questionnaire for annual confirmation of status for BSE was noted with appreciation.

5. Proposed revised definitions for a buffer zone and surveillance zone

The Commission took note of the proposed revised definitions but concluded that its view on the status of a buffer zone and the proposed revision of Articles 2.2.10.2 to 2.2.10.5 of the Terrestrial Code remains as stated in previous reports of the Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.

6. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

A meeting of the Bureau of the Commission will be held immediately after the 76th General Session on 31 May 2008 to identify priority issues for the year while the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 29 September to 1 October 2008.

.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**

Paris, 24 May 2008

Agenda

1. Review of report of the *ad hoc* Group on evaluation of country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD): 29 to 30 April 2008
 2. Review of the comments of the CVP on the report of the December 2007 OIE FMD mission to Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Bolivia
 3. Review of the Draft Resolutions to be presented by the President of the Commission to the International Committee for adoption at the 76th General Session.
 4. Review of comments by Members following the 60 day period allowing for comments on the proposed recommendations on disease status by the Scientific Commission
 5. Proposed revised definitions for a buffer zone and surveillance zone
 6. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
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**MEETING OF THE BUREAU
OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**

Paris, 24 May 2008

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