A meeting of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France on 30 July 2008. Dr Gideon Brückner, Deputy Director General welcomed the participants on behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE. He explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc Group for the evaluation of country status for foot and mouth disease and the working program of the Commission for 2008/2009.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Vincenzo Caporale, President of the Scientific Commission and Dr Preben Willeberg was rapporteur.

The agenda and the list of participants are attached as Appendices I and II.


2. Work plan of the Scientific Commission for 2008 and 2009

The Commission reviewed the items listed for the working plan in the report of the Bureau of the Commission of 30 May 2008 and concluded on the following actions to be taken:

2.1. Consider a holistic approach to raise awareness at the OIE of epidemiological factors that favour the global spread of animal diseases

A background paper from an expert to be nominated by the Commission at the meeting in September 2008 will be requested to assist the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology for discussing this topic.

2.2. Develop a manual for animal health surveillance

The Commission took note of the progress on this issue by the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology and which will be further discussed during the next meeting of the ad hoc Group on 3 to 5 September 2008. The members of the Commission were invited to comment on the draft introductory chapter that was already circulated by Dr Willeberg.
2.3. Define criteria to further the establishment of networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases

The Commission agreed to invite the Head of the OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease at Pirbright to attend the next meeting of the Commission to give background on the management of the OIE/FAO FMD laboratories network to enable the Commission to finalise its recommendations to the Director General on the way forward for disease specific OIE laboratory networks. The President requested that the view of the Director General of the OIE on this issue should be sought prior to the meeting.

2.4. Develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling for animal diseases

The first meeting of the ad hoc Group on Epidemiological modelling will be convened in Fort Collins, USA from 11 to 15 August 2008 to discuss the development of guidelines on epidemiological modelling.

2.5. Identify priority chapters in the Terrestrial Code to be updated in view of new scientific knowledge

Chapters in the Terrestrial Code already identified by the Commission are swine vesicular disease (SVD), Brucellosis, Trypanosomiasis and the development of a chapter on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. This will be discussed in more detail during the meeting in September. The Commission also noted that a draft chapter on SVD as well as draft surveillance guidelines will be submitted for recommendations by the Commission during the September meeting as well as the recommendations of the ad hoc Group on porcine reproduction and respiratory syndrome (PRRS).

2.6. Plan and participate in the scientific organisation of a global conference on FMD

The Commission took note that the First OIE/FAO Global Conference on foot and mouth disease will be held in Asunción, Paraguay from 24 to 26 June 2009. Planning of the Conference will commence shortly and it was indicated that the Commission will be consulted in the process.

2.7. Develop a working procedure to integrate more closely the human/animal/wildlife disease pathogen interface in a scientific approach to the development of standards

The Commission identified this issue as a priority for discussion during its next meeting in September 2008. The role of wildlife on the official status of countries or zones for the purposes of trade and in view of concepts such as compartmentalisation, need to be discussed in detail to provide a scientific basis for future development of OIE standards.

2.8. Follow-up on the South American FMD missions

The Commission took note that the dates for the OIE FMD expert mission to the Mercosur countries for 2008 has been proposed for 5 to 14 November 2008. An itinerary will be drafted in consultation with the OIE Regional Representative for the Americas and should include discussions with the OIE Delegates of the respective countries prior and at the closure of the mission. The Commission reiterated that the primary focus of the mission should be to assess the compliance of the Members signatory to the Agreement between the OIE and the CVP, on the implementation of the Agreement especially as it relates to the High Surveillance Zone.

2.9. Consider the use of GIS in disease reporting and the performance of non-structural protein tests in mass screening

The President of the Commission reflected on the workshop on GIS initiated by the OIE Collaborating Centre in Teramo, Italy. He requested to have discussions with the Director General on the implementation by the OIE Central Bureau on the recommendations that emanated from the workshop.
The President in consultation with the Head of the Scientific Department will propose names to the Director General for the establishments of an *ad hoc* Group to discuss the application, use and interpretation of NSP tests in foot and mouth disease surveillance. A tentative date of 3 to 5 December 2008 for the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group will be proposed to the Director General.

**2.10. Establish a procedure for the evaluation of dossiers for the recognition of disease status**

The Commission took note of the need to discuss the obligation by Members when submitting dossiers for the evaluation of disease status. This will be discussed during the next meeting of the Commission in September 2008. The Scientific and Technical Department was requested to prepare a draft document for discussion for the meeting in September 2008.

**2.11. Review of the OIE handbook on Import Risk Analysis**

The Commission took note of the intention to review the current edition of the Handbook and requested that more details should be provided on the rationale for revision and the involvement of the Commission in the review process.

**3. Review of the draft report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on country evaluation for foot and mouth disease: 29 July 2009**

The Commission reviewed the draft report and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group (Appendix III).

**3.1. Brazil**

The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group for the reinstatement of the foot and mouth disease free status of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul as a zone free from foot and mouth disease with vaccination. The Commission emphasised that the approval of the recommendation is within the spirit of the Agreement between the OIE and the CVP that the High Surveillance Zone as is the case for Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, is excluded and do not form part of the allocated free zone.

The Commission requested that the Delegate of Brazil be informed by the Director General on the rationale for the decision and that the maintenance of the requirements of the disease status by the Mercosur countries especially as it relates to the application of the High Surveillance Zone, will be the key objective of the OIE expert mission to the Mercosur countries in November 2008. An inspection visit to Bolivia should be included within the itinerary of the mission as already indicated in a letter by the Director General to the OIE Delegate of Bolivia.

**3.2. Moldova**

The Commission endorsed the recommendation that Moldova be recognised as a zone free from foot and mouth disease where vaccination is not practised. The recommendation will be circulated to Members for comments before it will be submitted for adoption by the OIE International Committee during the 77th General Session in May 2009.

**3.3. Colombia**

The Commission took note of the correspondence between the Director General of the OIE and the Delegate of Columbia and supported the decision by the Director General that the recommendation of the Commission taken during its meeting in May 2008 to allocate disease freedom for foot and mouth disease without vaccination to the Eastern Zone as proposed by the Delegate, should not be implemented following outbreaks of foot and mouth disease within the “protection zone” on the border between Columbia and Venezuela.

The Commission also supported the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group that the Delegate of Columbia be requested to submit detailed information on the control measures applied to protect the disease free status of the existing disease free areas of Columbia.
4. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission

The Commission took note that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 30 September to 2 October 2008 at the OIE headquarters.
MEETING OF THE
OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES
Paris, 30 July 2008

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Agenda


2. Work plan of the Scientific Commission for 2008 and 2009
   2.1. Consider a holistic approach to raise awareness at the OIE of epidemiological factors that favour the global spread of animal diseases
   2.2. Develop a manual for animal health surveillance
   2.3. Define criteria to further the establishment of networks of OIE Reference Laboratories for specific diseases
   2.4. Develop guidelines for epidemiological modelling for animal diseases
   2.5. Identify priority chapters in the Terrestrial Code to be updated in view of new scientific knowledge
   2.6. Plan and participate in the scientific organisation of a global conference on FMD
   2.7. Develop a working procedure to integrate more closely the human/animal/wildlife disease pathogen interface in a scientific approach to the development of standards
   2.8. Follow-up on the South American FMD missions
   2.9. Consider the use of GIS in disease reporting and the performance of non-structural protein tests in mass screening
   2.10. Establish a procedure for the evaluation of dossiers for the recognition of disease status
   2.11. Review of the OIE handbook on Import Risk Analysis

3. Review of the draft report of the meeting of the ad hoc Group on country evaluation for foot and mouth disease: 29 July 2009
   3.1. Brazil
   3.2. Moldova
   3.3. Colombia

4. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission
Appendix II

MEETING OF THE
OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES

Paris, 30 July 2008

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP
FOR THE EVALUATION OF COUNTRY STATUS FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Paris, 29 July 2008

1. Opening and Agenda

The meeting of the OIE ad hoc Group on the Evaluation of country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD) was held at OIE Headquarters, Paris on 29 July 2008. Dr Gideon Brückner, Deputy Director General welcomed the Group on behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE and outlined the importance and purpose of the meeting and thanked both the members of the ad hoc Group and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases for being willing to attend at such short notice in support of the activities of the OIE. Prof. V. Caporale chaired the ad hoc Group and Dr A.-E. Füssel acted as rapporteur. The ad hoc Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The Agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I and II, respectively.

2. Evaluation of country applications for recognition of FMD free status

2.1. Brazil (Mato Grosso do Sul)

The ad hoc Group evaluated a request by the Delegate of Brazil for the reinstatement of a FMD free zone practising vaccination in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul (MS).

The analysis of the documentation submitted with regard to the designated zone was considered compliant with the corresponding provisions outlined in chapter 8.5. of the Terrestrial Code 2008 and the Group recommended to the Scientific Commission the recovery of status of the MS FMD free zone practising vaccination considering that:

- Twelve (12) months have elapsed since slaughter of the last case in June 2007, and there was sufficient active clinical surveillance during this time and enough time for passive surveillance to demonstrate absence of virus circulation;
- Regular vaccination has been carried out after February 2007 and this is different to the situation in 2005 where emergency vaccination was explicitly prohibited;
- The revised dossier did not present new data on recent serological surveys; therefore some of the previous concerns remain valid. However, the shortcomings that were identified by the Group in the sero-surveillance data, have largely been compensated for by the additional measures taken and the time that have elapsed without an outbreak of FMD as outlined in Article 8.5.8.2 of the Terrestrial Code;
- The uncertainty of the Group related to the sampling data, relates mostly to the High Surveillance Zone (HSZ) which in accordance with the agreement between the CVP and the OIE, is not part of the free zone;
The Group acknowledged that specific measures are now implemented for the movement of animals from the HSZ to the rest of the country which now also includes other additional measures of which not all of them were reflected in the initial application;

The acceptance of the application is further justified by the new information provided that reflects on commendable actions carried out in Mato Grosso do Sul since the beginning of 2008 by the Veterinary Services in particular in the HSZ in compliance with the OIE Terrestrial Code, and the recommendations of the 2006 and 2007 OIE FMD missions to the Mercosur countries.

The Group noted the commendable effort carried out by the State authority concerned under the coordination of the Federal Government. The Group welcomed the proposed work plan submitted as additional information by the Delegate of Brazil which will constitute the basis for the follow up OIE mission to the Region.

2.2. Moldova

The group evaluated the submitted dossier for the recognition of a FMD free zone without vaccination. The group recommended to the Scientific Commission to recognise the status of a FMD free zone where vaccination is not practiced.

2.3. Colombia

The Group took note of the correspondence between the Director General of the OIE and the Delegate of Columbia following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the “protection zone” on the border between Colombia and Venezuela during April 2008 as well as the latest outbreak in the same area reported to the OIE on 28 July 2008.

The Group concluded that the recommendation to the Scientific Commission during its meeting in April 2008 to grant FMD free status with vaccination to the Eastern Zone of Columbia identified by the Delegate of Columbia and which also includes the “protection zone”, should not be implemented following the outbreaks of FMD. The Group supported the letter of 4 June 2008 from the Director General to the Delegate of Columbia confirming that the Eastern zone retain its non-free status.

The Group recommended to the Scientific Commission that the Director General be requested to consider obtaining a complete dossier from the Delegate of Columbia for evaluation of the control measures applied to prevent the entry of virus into the existing free zones.

3. Next meeting of the ad hoc Group

The Group took note that the next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 24 to 26 November pending the submission of applications for evaluation to the OIE Central Bureau.
MEETING OF THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP FOR EVALUATION OF COUNTRY STATUS
FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Paris, 29 July 2008

Agenda

1. Opening and Agenda

2. Evaluation of country applications for recognition of FMD free status
   2.1. Brazil (Mato Grosso do Sul)
   2.2. Moldova
   2.3. Colombia

3. Next meeting of the ad hoc Group
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MEETING OF THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP FOR EVALUATION OF COUNTRY STATUS
FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
Paris, 29 July 2008

List of participants

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