



Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

Original: English  
July 2008

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

Paris, 30 July 2008

---

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.

### **1. Reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases of 24 and 30 May 2008**

The Commission reviewed and adopted the reports of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission of 24 and 30 May 2008.

### **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.

---

.../Appendices

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

**Paris, 30 July 2008**

---

**Agenda**

- 1. Reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases of 24 and 30 May 2008**
  - 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**
-



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

**Paris, 30 July 2008**

---

**MEMBERS**

---

**Prof. Vincenzo Caporale** (*President*)  
Director  
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale  
dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale'  
Via Campo Boario  
64100 Teramo  
ITALY  
Tel: (39.0861) 33 22 33  
Fax: (39.0861) 33 22 51  
direttore@izs.it

**Dr Preben Willeberg** (*Secretary General*)  
Center for Animal Disease Modelling  
and Surveillance  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California Davis  
California 95616  
USA  
Tel: (1-530) 752.0336  
Fax: (1-530) 752.1618  
pwilleberg@ucdavis.edu

**Prof. Dr Salah Hammami**  
Director General  
National Institute of Veterinary  
Research  
20 rue Djebel Lakhdar  
La Rabta 1006  
Tunis  
TUNISIA  
Tel: (216-71) 561 070/ 562 602 / 564  
321  
Fax: (216-71) 569 692  
hammami.salah@iresa.agrinet.tn

**Dr Alejandro Schudel** (*Vice-President*)  
*Participated by phone*  
Urraca 1366  
C.P. 7167 Carilo  
Partido de Pinamar  
Provincia de Buenos Aires  
ARGENTINA  
Tel.: (54-22) 5457 1563  
Fax: (54-22) 5457 1563  
alejandro.schudel@gmail.com

**Dr Kenichi Sakamoto**  
Chief of Exotic Diseases Research Team  
National Institute of Animal Health  
(NIAH)  
6-20-1, Josui-honcho, Kodaira  
187 0022 Tokyo  
JAPAN  
Tel: (81-423) 21 14 41  
Fax: (81-423) 25 51 22  
skenichi@affrc.go.jp

**OIE CENTRAL BUREAU**

---

**Dr Bernard Vallat**  
Director General  
12 rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel: 33 - (0)1 44 15 18 88  
Fax: 33 - (0)1 42 67 09 87  
oie@oie.int

**Dr Gideon Brückner**  
Deputy Director General  
g.bruckner@oie.int

**Dr Lea Knopf**  
Recognition of countries' animal disease status  
Scientific and Technical Department  
l.knopf@oie.int

---



**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 Columbia 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.

---

.../Appendices

Appendix I

**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**
-

Appendix II

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE AD HOC GROUP FOR EVALUATION OF COUNTRY STATUS  
FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE  
Paris, 29 July 2008**

—————  
**List of participants**

**MEMBERS****Prof. Vincenzo Caporale**

*(President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases)*  
Director, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale'  
Via Campo Boario  
64100 Teramo  
ITALY  
Tel: (39.0861) 33 22 33  
Fax: (39.0861) 33 22 51  
direttore@izs.it

**Dr Victor Emmanoel Saraiva-Vieira**

Foot and Mouth Disease Center/PAHO-WHO  
Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa  
Caixa Postal 589  
20001-970 Rio de Janeiro  
BRAZIL  
Tel: (55-21) 3661 9000  
Fax: (55-21) 3661 9001  
vsaraiva50@yahoo.com

**Dr Alf-Eckbert Fuessel**

Head of Sector, DG SANCO/D1  
Rue Froissart 101-3/67  
B-1040 Brussels  
BELGIUM  
Tel: (32-2) 295 0870  
Fax: (32-2) 295 3144  
alf-eckbert.fuessel@ec.europa.eu

**Dr Alejandro Schudel**

*(Vice-President of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases)*  
*(invited but could not attend)*  
Urraca 1366  
Carilo (7167), Partido de Pinamar  
Provincia de Buenos Aires  
ARGENTINA  
Tel.: (54-22) 54 57 15 63  
Fax: (54-22) 54 57 15 63  
alejandro.schudel@gmail.com

**Dr David Paton**

*(invited but could not attend)*  
Head of the Epidemiology Division  
Institute for Animal Health  
Pirbright Laboratory  
Ash Road, Woking  
Surrey GU24 0NF  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel: (44-1483) 231012  
Fax: (44-1483) 232621  
david.paton@bbsrc.ac.uk

**Dr Paul Kloeck**

Chief Director, Department of Agriculture & Land Administration  
Directorate: Veterinary Services  
Mpumalanga Province  
Private Bag X 11309  
16 Reitz Street  
Nelspruit 1200  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Tel: (27 13) 741 3218  
Fax (27 13) 741 5087  
paul@nelvet1.agric.za

**Dr Howard Batho**

European Commission, Health and Consumer Protection Dir.-Gen.  
Directorate D - Animal health and welfare.  
D1 - Animal health and the committees  
Head of sector D1 Imports  
Rue Froissart 3rd Floor, room 72  
B-1049 Bruxelles  
BELGIUM  
Tel.: (32-2) 296.29.59  
Fax: (32-2) 295.31.44  
Howard.Batho@ec.europa.eu

**INVITED EXPERT****Dr Cristóbal Zepeda Sein**

Coordinator of International Activities, Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health  
OIE Collaborating Center for Animal Disease, Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis  
USDA-APHIS-VS-CEAH, 2150 Centre Ave, Building B  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8117  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Tel.: (1-970) 217.85.87  
Fax: (1-970) 472.26.68  
cristobal.zepeda@aphis.usda.gov

**OIE CENTRAL BUREAU****Dr Bernard Vallat**

Director General  
12 rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel: 33 - (0)1 44 15 18 88  
Fax: 33 - (0)1 42 67 09 87  
oie@oie.int

**Dr Gideon Brückner**

Deputy Director General  
g.bruckner@oie.int

**Dr Lea Knopf**

Recognition of countries' animal disease status  
Scientific and Technical Department  
l.knopf@oie.int

---

© **World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), 2008**

This document has been prepared by specialists convened by the OIE. Pending adoption by the International Committee of the OIE, the views expressed herein can only be construed as those of these specialists.

All OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) publications are protected by international copyright law. Extracts may be copied, reproduced, translated, adapted or published in journals, documents, books, electronic media and any other medium destined for the public, for information, educational or commercial purposes, provided prior written permission has been granted by the OIE.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed in signed articles are solely the responsibility of the authors. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.