



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

Paris, 8–11 September 2009

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A meeting of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases was held at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France from 8 to 11 September 2009. The members of the Commission were congratulated on their election and welcomed by Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE. He explained the crucial role of the Scientific Commission in providing scientific advice to the OIE and its Members, including by ensuring scientific integrity of Terrestrial Animal Health Standards. Dr Vallat outlined the current strategic plan (2006–2010) of the OIE and the topics relevant to the Commission that are most likely to be included into the new strategic plan of 2011–2016, subject to adoption by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in May 2010. He invited the Commission to evaluate and align its priorities with the Strategic Plan of the OIE and to give inputs for the draft strategic plan for consideration by the Council of the OIE during its meeting in October 2009. He emphasised several priority issues for consideration by the Commission such as the possible expansion of the current list of diseases officially recognised for country status; the possible inclusion of selected equine diseases for official country or zonal status recognition; and the growing importance of the interface between domestic and wild animals in the global epidemiology and spread of animal diseases and its linkage with the “*One World One Health*” concept and emerging diseases. He welcomed the decision of the Commission to review the current chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* on bee diseases and invited the Commission in doing so to also take into consideration the implication of pesticides and the subsequent impact of bee diseases on food security and food safety. He expressed the wish that the Commission would also be proactive in identifying potential new working areas of scientific importance to the OIE.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Gideon Brückner, President of the Scientific Commission and Dr Kenichi Sakamoto was designated as rapporteur.

The Agenda and the List of Participants are given as [Appendices I](#) and [II](#).

### **1. Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases of 12 June 2009**

The Commission reviewed and adopted the report of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission of 12 June 2009.

The President of the Commission, in reviewing the report, briefly explained the mandate of the Commission and clarified administrative matters such as the supportive role of the Scientific and Technical Department and the inputs expected from members of the Commission. He emphasised the importance of having the draft report of each meeting ready for provisional approval on the last day of the meeting and of circulating the working documents and draft agenda of forthcoming meetings at least 3 weeks before meetings. He also reiterated the decision of the Bureau of the Commission to have overlapping meetings at least once a year with other relevant Specialist Commissions to discuss cross-cutting issues. He indicated that there would be a need

for members of the Commission to attend selected *ad hoc* Group meetings as observers and to provide guidance when needed. Commission members will not however preside over *ad hoc* Group meetings requested by the Commission.

## **2. Terms of reference of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The Commission reviewed its terms of reference as approved by the General Assembly of OIE Delegates in 2003 and noted that certain amendments would be necessary to reflect changes since their initial adoption such as the change in the composition of the Commission. Amendments were also proposed for consideration by the Council of the OIE to reflect the need for confidentiality of data and impartiality of members and for a declaration of vested interest, not only by members of the Commission but also by members of OIE Working and *ad hoc* Groups. The Commission discussed and approved a draft Agreement in this regard for consideration by the Director General and the Council of the OIE. It was noted that the name of the Commission was not consistent with that of other Commissions and it was proposed to request the Council to change the name from *Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases* to *Scientific Commission for Terrestrial Animal Health*, which would also reflect the extended scope of interest of the Commission to render scientific support to the OIE and other Specialist Commissions.

## **3. Working programme of the Commission for 2009/2010**

The Commission reviewed, updated and adopted the working programme for 2009/2010. The dates for meetings of *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases were confirmed with the Scientific and Technical Department as well as tentative dates for the newly identified *ad hoc* Groups on Swine Vesicular Disease and on the Evaluation of Country Status for Equine Diseases. The attendance of selected *ad hoc* Group meetings by members of the Commission was also clarified and confirmed.

### **3.1 *Ad hoc* Groups – working programme and terms of reference**

The constitution of *ad hoc* Groups and the names of possible experts were discussed for consideration by the Director General. The Commission also reviewed, amended and adopted the terms of reference for the following *ad hoc* Groups that would meet during the course of the year:

- *Ad hoc* Group to Review and Update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Rabies
- *Ad hoc* Group to Review and Update the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on Bee Diseases
- *Ad hoc* Group to Review and Update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on Brucellosis
- *Ad hoc* Group to Consider the Development of a Chapter for Inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* on Crimean–Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
- *Ad hoc* Group to Review and Update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR)
- *Ad hoc* Group to Assess the Requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* to Allow Official OIE Recognition of Disease Status for OIE Listed Equine Diseases, commencing with an assessment of the requirements to allow the official recognition of country or zonal freedom from African horse sickness.
- *Ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology
- Working Group on Wildlife Diseases

The terms of reference of these *ad hoc* Groups and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases are reflected in [Appendix III](#) of this report. No changes were made to the terms of reference of the other existing *ad hoc* Groups such as the *ad hoc* Groups for the evaluation of country status for foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

### **3.2 Programme of scientific meetings**

The Commission took note of the scientific meetings listed on the programme of the Scientific and Technical Department and confirmed those that would be attended by members of the Commission. It was concluded that the list will be reviewed and updated at forthcoming meetings of the Commission.

#### **4. Review of reports of *ad hoc* Group meetings**

##### **4.1 Report of the *ad hoc* Group meeting of experts on bluetongue, 14 April 2009**

The Commission reviewed and adopted the report after corrections were made. The changes relate especially to the fact that scientific evidence established the implication of maternal transmission for BTV-8; it must be remembered that the *Terrestrial Code* will have to be amended should scientific evidence indicate the need for similar considerations for other BTV serotypes. The Commission also concluded that the geographical boundaries indicated in the *Terrestrial Code* for the known occurrence of the BTV should allow for more flexibility, and therefore recommended to refer to historical perspectives of known BTV occurrence to allow for changes in these boundaries as occurred recently by northward spread of BTV-8 in Europe.

The report is attached at [Appendix IV](#)

##### **4.2 Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, 15–16 April 2009**

The Commission took note of and adopted the report of the *ad hoc* Group. Concern was expressed over the perceived slow progress with the development of the *Handbook on Surveillance for Animal Diseases*. The proposed contents of the *Handbook* were discussed and it was concluded that it should not be just another textbook on animal disease surveillance but should focus on being a practical guide to animal disease surveillance for use by veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals alike. The *Handbook* should therefore maintain an acceptable balance between academic and theoretical concepts, and the need for being practical and usable under field conditions. The approach and recommendations of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* on proving absence of disease or infection and surveillance guidelines to demonstrate freedom from disease and infection for the purpose of disease status recognition, should receive prominence. The Commission requested that at the next meeting of the *ad hoc* Group, the concerns of the Commission be clearly conveyed and that the *ad hoc* Group be requested to finalise a time schedule for the completion of the *Handbook*.

The Commission also considered the progress on the development of Guidelines on the use of Epidemiological Modelling for Animal Health Decisions following the Resolution adopted at the 75th General Session of the OIE after the presentation of this Technical Theme. It was concluded that the *Handbook on Animal Disease Surveillance* should incorporate within its contents a brief, easily understandable explanatory chapter on this subject. The designated *ad hoc* Group should finalise and complete its task for developing a chapter for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code* on Epidemiological modelling at its next meeting.

The proposed agenda of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology was discussed and amended accordingly.

The report is attached at [Appendix V](#).

##### **4.3 Technical Item presented at the 77<sup>th</sup> OIE General Assembly: May 2009: The impact of climate change and environmental changes on emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and animal production**

Following discussions between the Director General and the Bureau of the Commission on many cross-cutting implications related to this concept, the Commission agreed that it would be advisable to first develop a draft policy document for the OIE on this topic and then to assess the need for a dedicated *ad hoc* Group. The Commission took note of the concerns expressed by Members during the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session that the facts on the alleged impact of climate changes need to be conveyed in the correct perspective so as not to have a negative impact on animal production and management practices. The President of the Commission was tasked to develop a document for discussion during the next meeting of the Commission.

## **5. Official recognition of disease status for OIE listed equine diseases**

Following a request by the FEI (International Equine Federation) to the Director General that the OIE give consideration to the official recognition of disease status of OIE listed equine diseases, the Commission, after a detailed discussion, concluded that such a process should be initiated under the auspices of the Commission. It was decided that the same single disease approach should be applied as is currently used for FMD, CBPP, BSE and rinderpest. African horse sickness (AHS) and Glanders were identified as the two priority diseases, starting with AHS. The Director General would be requested to convene an *ad hoc* Group to revise the current chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* on AHS and amend it accordingly to allow for procedures to obtain country or zonal freedom for AHS. The Commission resolved to first establish a template for future use by developing and applying it to the chapter on AHS and then do the same for Glanders and possibly other OIE listed equine diseases. The terms of reference for such an *ad hoc* Group was discussed and approved and is reflected in [Appendix III](#). The first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group was scheduled for 10–12 January 2010.

## **6. Guidelines for surveillance and control of outbreaks of influenza A/H1N1**

The Commission was requested by the OIE Scientific and Technical Department to consider developing guidelines for surveillance and control of outbreaks of influenza A/H1N1 and emerging zoonotic diseases in general. The Commission took note that within OFFLU through its technical groups, this issue was already being addressed and concluded that the Steering Committee of OFFLU be requested to develop a specific guideline document on influenza A/H1N1, with the assistance of its designated technical groups. The Commission, however, acknowledged the need for a more generic guideline document on the surveillance and control of new emerging zoonotic diseases and decided to request the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to consider this during their next meeting in September 2009.

## **7. OIE Reference Laboratories networks**

### **7.1 OIE/FAO FMD reference laboratories network**

The Commission invited Dr Jef Hammond from the OIE Reference Laboratory at Pirbright, who also manages the OIE/FAO Reference Laboratories network and ReLAIS database, to provide an overview on the current global status of FMD and activities of the network. Dr Hammond provided a detailed overview on the current global situation in a presentation to the Commission that will be incorporated in the annual report of the network and shared with the World Assembly of OIE Delegates during the report of the President of the Commission at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2010. A markedly increased number of samples were submitted to the Pirbright FMD Reference Laboratory in the first half of 2009 compared with previous years – mostly originating from the Middle-East region and all for the O and A serotypes of the FMDV. Feedback was given on the meeting of the OIE/FAO FMD network held in Lanzhou, in the People's Republic of China and the activities of the network. Dr Hammond shared the concerns of the OIE on the need for further research on an effective vaccine against the SAT-2 FMDV and he indicated that Pirbright was already involved in a research project on vaccine matching related to the SAT-2 FMDV and also other activities related to new generation FMD vaccines.

### **7.2 OIE Bluetongue reference laboratories network**

The Commission also expressed the need to be regularly updated on the activities of this network as it had a direct relevance to the ongoing work and future discussions on this disease in the Commission. The Commission agreed to invite a representative of this network to its next meeting to provide an overview on their activity.

## **8. Progress with the OIE *Handbook on Animal Health Surveillance***

The discussions of the Commission on this topic can be found in section 4.2 above (*ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology). The next meeting of the *ad hoc* Group was scheduled for 29 September to 1 October 2009. The President of the Commission was tasked to liaise with the chairman of the *ad hoc* Group to convey the concerns and recommendations of the Commission on this issue.

## 9. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies

The Commission invited Dr Tony Fooks, head of the OIE Reference Laboratory for rabies, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, United Kingdom and designated chairman of the *ad hoc* Group, for discussions with the Commission on the approach needed for a review of this outdated chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*. The draft terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group were discussed and amended to reflect the need for a wider and comprehensive approach, the possibility of developing surveillance guidelines for rabies, Member concerns on declarations of freedom from rabies, the role of wildlife and bat-related rabies viruses and the importance of control of canine rabies taking into consideration the current guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* on dog population control.

Dr Fooks also provided a brief overview on the world rabies situation and shared information with the Commission on ongoing activities around the globe related to rabies. It was concluded that planning for the scheduled OIE global conference on rabies to be held in 2011, should now proceed taking into consideration other stakeholders such as the European Community and World Health Organization and also the dates of other conferences already planned for 2011.

The terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Group are reflected in [Appendix III](#).

## 10. Working Group on Wildlife diseases

The Commission invited the Chairman of the Working Group (WG) for discussions on the terms of reference of the WG and the need to align the priorities and activities of the Group with that of the Commission. The terms of reference were amended accordingly to reflect the responsibilities and mandate of the WG. The Commission took note with appreciation of the report of the meeting of the WG of January 2009 and the work already initiated and completed by the Group. Aspects of the report were discussed with the Chairman of the WG.

The Commission conveyed the urgent need for the WG to consider and draft a policy document for the OIE to reflect the future approach of the OIE to issues related to the domestic and wildlife interface as it relates to OIE standards, evaluation of disease status, surveillance strategies to obtain disease free status, applying trade facilitation measures such as zoning and compartmentalisation, trade in wildlife species as well as the impact of wildlife within the “*One-World-One-Health*” concept and emerging diseases – including zoonotic diseases. It was concluded that the WG, in preparation for its next meeting in January 2010, should focus its attention to producing a draft policy for consideration by the Commission. Following the adoption of the draft policy, the Commission would, in consultation with the WG and the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, identify specific disease topics against which the application of this policy should be tested with possible amendments to the relevant *Terrestrial Code* chapters if needed. The Commission decided to also request the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to consider the same issues but with the emphasis on disease status recognition and related surveillance implications. Both documents would be discussed by the Commission during its next meeting in March 2010.

The following terms of reference were formulated for the development of a draft policy for the OIE on the wildlife–domestic animal interface following the discussions:

- Develop and propose a definition for *wildlife* for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Assess the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches in the *Terrestrial Code* to recognition of disease status for those diseases where wildlife plays a role in the epidemiology of the disease.
- Assess the trade facilitation procedures such as zoning and compartmentalisation in the *Terrestrial Code* in relation to the wildlife/domestic animal interface and how this should/could be amalgamated or harmonised.
- Assess current disease–specific surveillance guidelines for those diseases where wildlife is implicated in terms of need, cost, implementation and impact.
- Trade issues related to wildlife – trade in wildlife *per se* and commodities of wildlife species origin.
- Review of the policy for reporting of disease occurrences in wildlife taking into consideration trade concerns.

- The need to alter the focus on wildlife diseases to a pathogen approach versus a species approach and how this would impact on the current policy for developing international standards.
- The implications in the development of OIE standards of the role of wildlife in the “*One-World-One-Health*” concept and the recommended approach the OIE should consider.

Owing to the proximity of the forthcoming meetings of the WG and of the Commission, the Chairman of the WG was requested to attempt to finalise the report of its meeting of January 2010 for consideration by the Commission at its meeting in March 2010. It was noted that taking into consideration that the WG no longer needed to wait for returns on annual wildlife disease questionnaires as these had now been incorporated within the WAHIS system, moving the annual meeting of the WG to an earlier date, e.g. November could be considered, to allow more flexibility for consideration of the recommendations of the WG by both the Scientific and Terrestrial Code Commissions.

The Commission briefly discussed the OIE international conference, on the wildlife/domestic animal interface proposed by the WG on Wildlife to be held in 2011. The Commission urged the Chairman of the WG and the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE to reach an agreement on the stakeholders/co-organisers of the intended conference. The suggested theme of the conference appeared to be uncertain at this stage and needed to be finalised and to preferably reflect the current focus of the OIE and the needs of OIE Members.

Regarding a request for observership at a meeting of the WG on Wildlife Diseases, the Chairman of the WG was informed that the request for observer status could not be granted according to OIE rules and practice. Should the WG be in need of specific expert input that it cannot obtain from members, an expert can be invited to attend a specific meeting for that specific topic.

The amended terms of reference of the WG are given at [Appendix III](#).

## 11. Update on the training programme of the OIE for national focal points

The Scientific and Technical Department provided an update to the Commission on the initiatives by the OIE to launch training programmes for national focal points. Terms of reference and the contents of training programmes had been developed for all the identified national focal points (wildlife, animal production food safety, veterinary products, animal welfare, animal health information systems, aquatic animal diseases). Courses had already commenced for focal groups on wildlife with the first course currently being conducted in the Americas.

## 12. Disease specific issues

### 12.1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

Several issues related to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter and the application of the concepts of the chapter to country status evaluation were raised and discussed:

- **Compartmentalisation for FMD:** The Commission re-confirmed its support for the application of this concept for FMD but acknowledged that special attention should be paid to the application of biosecurity and HACCP<sup>1</sup> principles in applying the concept for FMD. The risk of possible airborne spread of the FMD virus was acknowledged but should not be regarded as a primary risk for not applying the concept. The Commission was of the opinion that the requirements in chapter 4.4 of the *Terrestrial Code* for the application of compartmentalisation should offer sufficient guidance to a Member and would not necessitate the development of specific guidelines for the *Terrestrial Code* for compartmentalisation for FMD. The Commission however, resolved to also request the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on this issue as it was tasked to develop the original chapter for the *Terrestrial Code*.

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<sup>1</sup> HACCP: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

- ***Procedural and epidemiological aspects to be considered for the establishment of a containment zone:*** Following the discussions on a recent application by a Member for the establishment of a containment zone in response to an outbreak of FMD in that country within a designated OIE free zone, the Commission reviewed and confirmed the previous decision on managing such an application. It was confirmed that speed of a decision on the application is a critical factor to allow a Member to take full advantage of this concept and not to interrupt trade. It was re-iterated that once an application was received by the OIE, the Scientific and Technical Department would first assess whether the application fulfils the requirements of Article 8.5.7 of the *Terrestrial Code*. In consultation with the President of the Commission the application would then be sent electronically for urgent comment and opinion to other members of the Commission as well as the *ad hoc* Group for Country Status Evaluation for FMD. If a consensus opinion was reached by electronic communication between the members of the Commission, this decision would be conveyed to the OIE headquarters. Should it however be deemed necessary, the President of the Commission could request the Director General to convene an urgent special meeting of the Bureau of the Commission at the OIE headquarters on the cost of the applicant country.
- ***The possibility of applying zoning in the absence of natural or geographical borders between subpopulations of different health status:*** The Commission in discussing this possibility, confirmed that the current requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* were clear on this concept with the emphasis on animal disease control measures that would sufficiently prevent the introduction of the FMD virus. Although natural or geographical borders in a specific application might be absent or not possible to apply, the applicant country should nevertheless provide convincing evidence that the subpopulations of different health status could be efficiently separated and that this separation can be maintained by the application of such animal disease control measures.
- ***Applying for country freedom from disease where vaccination is partly practised:*** Following the request of a Member for the OIE to consider granting country freedom from disease in a country where vaccination continued to be practised selectively for disease control purposes, the Commission resolved that the *Terrestrial Code* does not provide for country freedom under such circumstances. The Member could however consider zonal freedom for two zones – with and without vaccination - provided the two subpopulations of different health status can be effectively separated as required in the relevant chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*.
- ***Epidemiological and administrative consequences for the application of a protection zone:*** The Scientific and Technical Department requested guidance from the Commission as the *protection zone* (former buffer zone or, in some instances, high surveillance zone) may be included within the free zone or not included and thus outside the allocated free zone. The Commission resolved that the *Terrestrial Code* is not prescriptive as to whether a *protection zone* should be outside or inside a free zone. However, Members should be aware of the trade implications of having a protection zone inside or outside the free zone. In the event of an outbreak of FMD in a protection zone inside the free zone, the country would sacrifice its entire free status if such an outbreak could not be isolated by the application of a *containment zone*. In the event of an outbreak of FMD in a protection zone not included in the free zone, the status of the free zone would not be affected provided the outbreak does not affect or spill over to animals within the adjoining free zone.
- In the event of two adjoining countries free from FMD and one of these countries experiencing an outbreak of FMD, it was the right of the non-affected country to establish a protection zone to protect its status. The Commission however, strongly recommended that the OIE should be notified prior to or in the event of establishing such a protection zone so as not to legally compromise the status of the entire country in the event of spill-over of the disease from the adjoining infected country into the protection zone. It would also be appropriate to reflect the establishment of a protection zone in the annual confirmation of free status of a country should such a precautionary measure be implemented.

- The Commission resolved that to facilitate the procedures to be followed for the evaluation of country status in the event of an outbreak of FMD, the Director General be requested to consider requesting confirmation of those Members with official zonal status for FMD, to inform the OIE whether their existing *protection zones* are inside or outside the officially OIE allocated free zone – with or without vaccination – and the control measures applied within these *protection zones*. In some instances certain Members also apply the application of a surveillance zone in addition to the former buffer zones (*protection zones*). It should also be indicated if these surveillance zones are now incorporated within the *protection zone* as the concept of a surveillance zone has been deleted from the *Terrestrial Code* after the adoption of the concept of a *protection zone* during the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session.
- The Commission identified the need for more specific guidance to Members on the application of animal health measures to separate animals of different health status or to prevent the introduction of virus as indicated in the newly adopted definition of a *protection zone*. The Commission resolved that it would be to the benefit of Members to include an article within chapter 4.3 of the *Terrestrial Code* describing briefly the desired and appropriate animal health measures for a *protection zone* such as animal movement control, animal identification, etc. It was decided to request the *ad hoc* Group on country status evaluation for FMD to consider developing a draft text for consideration by the Commission.
- ***The transition period for changing status from a country/zone with vaccination to a country/zone without vaccination and the desired vaccination coverage in a country/zone free with vaccination:*** The Commission confirmed that the requirements of Article 8.5.5 of the *Terrestrial Code* on this issue was clear and allowed for a transition period of 12 months between the change of status. The Commission concluded that Members wishing to follow this pathway should remain transparent on the issue with other Members as well as with trade partners.
- The *Terrestrial Code* was not prescriptive in the desired vaccine coverage that needs to be achieved to maintain the status of a country or zone free with vaccination as it is difficult to prescribe or calculate an exact number depending on the animal health and production practices applied. As a general rule however, a Member should strive to maintain at least a 80% immune status and vaccination coverage for each vaccinated species.
- ***Virus inactivation of bovine casings for FMD:*** Following the request of a Member during the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session for guidance on the inactivation of bovine casings, the Commission obtained the necessary scientific evidence to confirm that the same inactivation procedures recommended for casings of small ruminants and pigs also apply to bovine casings and thus scientifically justifies an amendment to the existing requirements in the *Terrestrial Code*
- ***Outcome and further actions of the OIE/FAO Global FMD conference in Asunción, Paraguay, June 2009:*** The Commission took note of the Resolution and Recommendations of the Conference and confirmed its commitment to remaining involved in appropriate further actions indicated by the Director General. It was decided that the Head of the Regional Activities Department of the OIE would be invited to briefly inform the Commission at its next meeting on the further actions on the global FMD control programme within the GF-TADs<sup>2</sup> initiative.

Following discussions on the presentations at the conference on the application of non structural protein (NSP) tests in the surveillance for FMD, the Commission resolved that there was not an immediate need to again convene an *ad hoc* Group to review this issue but that OIE Members need to be guided and where indicated, be also trained in the correct application of the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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<sup>2</sup> GF-TADs: OIE/FAO Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases

- **SEAFMD<sup>3</sup> programme:** The Commission discussed the activities of the SEAFMD programme in relation to the Resolution of the OIE/FAO Global Conference on FMD that was held in Asunción, Paraguay in June 2009 and expressed the need to be regularly updated on this programme. A member of the Commission, who regularly attended the meetings related to the SEAFMD programme, was tasked to provide a brief feedback on this programme during the next meeting of the Commission.
- **Request for status evaluation by Members:** The Commission considered two applications by Members. The application for the establishment of a *containment zone* by a Member following an outbreak of FMD in a zone free from FMD with vaccination was discussed in depth. The Commission concluded that the data provided by the Member did not yet fulfil all the requirements of Article 8.5.7 of the *Terrestrial Code* and that additional information should be requested by the Scientific and Technical Department.

The request of a Member for the re-instatement of its status as a country free from FMD without vaccination was referred to the *ad hoc* Group for country status evaluation for FMD for consideration during its next meeting in December 2009.

The Commission also concluded that to maintain consistency and transparency in the evaluation of country applications for status evaluation, all applications for status recognition would first be evaluated by the relevant *ad hoc* Group before the Commission would consider such an application. The only exception would be applications by Members for the establishment of a *containment zone* following an outbreak of FMD unless otherwise requested by the Director General.

## 12.2 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

- **BSE surveillance model (BsurvE):** The Commission took note of the problems encountered with the application of surveillance guidelines for BSE for those countries with a small bovine population or where the demography of the bovine population does not meet all the criteria for surveillance. The Commission however, also noted that this was not a new problem encountered by the relevant *ad hoc* Group and requested that the Group discuss this during its next meeting with the aim of providing definite recommendations on alternative strategies for surveillance for consideration by the Commission.
- **Historical freedom for scrapie:** Taking into consideration the requirements of the amended chapter for the *Terrestrial Code* on scrapie and the focus of the chapter on animal and not public health, the Commission concluded that it would not support the deletion of the section of the chapter providing for the allocation of disease free status for scrapie on historical criteria.
- **Query of a Member to consider a change in their BSE risk status allocation from a controlled risk to negligible risk status before the expiry of the required period indicated in the Terrestrial Code:** The Commission considered the query from a Member in this regard and concluded that it would not be in the interest of Members to grant such a dispensation. The *Terrestrial Code* requires that a case diagnosed in a foreign country also should be considered as an indigenous BSE case and the date of submission of a dossier should be 11 years after the birth date of the youngest indigenous BSE case.

## 12.3 Rinderpest

The Commission took note of the update provided by the Scientific and Technical Department on the progress with country evaluations for freedom from rinderpest and acknowledged that there were still pending political and other obstacles to be resolved before the ultimate goal of global eradication could be achieved.

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<sup>3</sup> SEAFMD: South-East Asia Foot and Mouth Disease campaign

#### 12.4 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

The Commission took note of the fact that since the process for the official recognition of country status for CBPP had been initiated in 2003, to date only six Members are listed as free from CBPP and therefore questioned the usefulness and rationale of continuing with evaluating countries for CBPP status. The Commission wondered whether the disease was still regarded by both developed and developing countries as of sufficient trade significance or concern to achieve official disease status recognition. The Commission requested the Director General to raise this issue with the Council of the OIE to consider the deletion of CBPP from the official list of diseases recognised by the OIE for country status and thereby creating possible space for the addition of another disease of more immediate trade concern.

#### 13. Items referred by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission for discussion by the Scientific Commission

- ***Inactivation procedures for avian influenza and Newcastle disease:*** The Scientific and Technical Department obtained an opinion from an OIE Reference Laboratory and forwarded it to the Terrestrial Code Commission. However the Terrestrial Code Commission requested additional supporting information, which would thus be obtained and forwarded again.
- ***Virus inactivation of bovine casings for FMD:*** See par 11.1 above. The information was obtained and forwarded to the Terrestrial Code Commission.
- ***Guidance document on paratuberculosis:*** The Commission, in discussing this request, concluded that considering the lack of reliable diagnostic procedures for paratuberculosis, it would not be advisable to develop such a guidance document. The Commission was also not in favour of the OIE getting involved on the perceived public health issues if there was no clarity on reliable and recommended control measures and diagnostic procedures in animals.
- ***Official recognition of OIE listed equine diseases for country or zonal freedom:*** The discussions and decision of the Commission is reflected in section 5 above.
- ***Comments by Members on amendments/changes to chapters in the Terrestrial Code:*** Comments on the following chapters had been referred to the Scientific Commission for their inputs:
  1. ***Animal health surveillance:*** The entire chapter was referred to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology for its input and subsequent consideration by the Scientific Commission.
  2. ***Vector surveillance:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs on the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission.
  3. ***Anthrax:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission.
  4. ***Foot and mouth disease:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided direct inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission. Certain aspects of the comments were referred to the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology (compartmentalisation) and the *ad hoc* Group on Country Evaluation for FMD (protection zone) for additional comments.
  5. ***Bluetongue:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission.
  6. ***Brucellosis:*** The entire chapter would be reviewed by an *ad hoc* Group under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. Comments at this stage were considered premature.
  7. ***Scrapie:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission. The Scientific Commission indicated that it would not support the removal of the concept of historical freedom for scrapie.
  8. ***Avian influenza:*** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission. The *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology would be requested to align the format and outlay of the section for surveillance for classical swine fever to be consistent with those used for avian influenza.

9. **Newcastle disease:** The Commission would obtain further information on the inactivation procedures for Newcastle disease.
10. **Classical swine fever:** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission. The surveillance guidelines would be aligned with the format and outlay applied for avian influenza by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.
11. **Swine vesicular disease:** In view of extensive Member comments on this newly developed chapter, the Commission referred it back to the responsible *ad hoc* Group to again evaluate the proposed text in the light. A meeting of the *ad hoc* Group was scheduled for February 2010.
12. **Official recognition of country or zonal freedom for OIE listed equine diseases:** The Commission discussed this matter in detail. The decision of the Commission is reflected in section 5 above.
13. **Honey bee diseases:** The Commission did not comment on the individual chapters as they would be reviewed *in toto* by an *ad hoc* Group under the auspices of the Scientific Commission.
14. **BSE:** The Scientific Commission reviewed all the comments and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission.
15. **Quarantine station:** The Scientific Commission reviewed the proposed amended text and provided inputs in the text provided by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

#### 14. Joint meeting between the Scientific and Terrestrial Code Commissions

A joint meeting was held between the two Commissions to discuss issues of mutual interest and to align approaches to Member comments on proposed amendments to chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Chairman of the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases was invited to join the meeting and to report on the progress with ongoing work and to be informed on the future work intended by both Commissions on the aspects related to the wildlife/domestic animal interface and the relationship with the “*One-World-One-Health*” concept. The Terrestrial Code Commission was informed that the Scientific Commission had requested a draft policy document from the Working Group on this issue. The terms of reference for the task would be drafted by the Scientific Commission. The *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology would also be requested to compile such a draft policy document with the emphasis on issues related to animal health surveillance and declaration of country or zonal freedom from disease.

The Scientific Commission also confirmed that it would request the Director General to convene *ad hoc* Groups to consider the issue of country and zonal freedom for OIE listed equine diseases; to review the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies; and to review the extensive comments on the proposed chapter on swine vesicular disease. The Scientific Commission also indicated that it intended to request the *ad hoc* Group for the Evaluation of Country Status for FMD to develop a draft article for the *Terrestrial Code* on the requirements for animal health measures in a *protection zone* and also to request the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to consider the comments on the chapter on animal health surveillance and issues related to compartmentalisation for FMD. Detailed comments on the other *Terrestrial Code* chapters would be forwarded to the Terrestrial Code Commission after discussion by the Scientific Commission.

#### 15. Draft Strategic Plan of the OIE: 2011–2016

On the invitation of the Director General, the Commission reviewed the OIE’s draft 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan that would be submitted through the Council to the World Assembly of OIE Delegates at the 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Commission acknowledged that it was a very valuable and useful document to assist in aligning its work priorities with that of the OIE. No specific additions were proposed but the following suggestions were offered for consideration by the Council of the OIE during its meeting in October 2009:

- The role of national focal points was only briefly mentioned once (par. 98). The Commission regarded the implementation of the concept of focal points as essential to assist OIE Delegates and suggested that specific text could be considered for insertion to highlight the important role of national focal points.

- Paragraphs 144 and 145 explained the roles of Regional Commissions. The Scientific Commission suggested that emphasis in the text should also be placed on the closer cooperation and alignment of priorities and actions between the OIE Regional Representations and OIE Regional Commissions as in some OIE regions there was still room for enhancing cooperation and coordination between these two important OIE entities.
- The Commission noted that in par. 146 it was indicated that the terminology of OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Collaborating Centres could be replaced by a single term referring to OIE Reference Centres (a term already applied by the FAO) and suggested that the rationale for this change should be clearly conveyed not only to Members but also to existing OIE Reference Laboratories and OIE Collaborating Centres – especially in relation to the terms of reference that currently differentiates between the two OIE entities and also differs from the terms of reference of FAO Reference Centres.

#### **16. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

The next meeting of the Scientific Commission was scheduled to take place at the OIE headquarters from 2 to 5 March 2010.

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.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES**  
**Paris, 8 - 11 September 2009**

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**Agenda**

- 1. Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases of 12 June 2009**
- 2. Terms of reference of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**
- 3. Working programme of the Commission for 2009/2010**
  - 3.1 *Ad hoc* Groups – working programme and terms of reference
  - 3.2 Programme of scientific meetings
- 4. Review of reports of *ad hoc* Group meetings**
  - 4.1 Report of the *ad hoc* Group meeting of experts on bluetongue, 14 April 2009
  - 4.2 Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology, 15–16 April 2009
  - 4.3 Technical Item presented at the 77<sup>th</sup> OIE General Assembly: May 2009: The impact of climate change and environmental changes on emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and animal production
- 5. Official recognition of disease status for OIE listed equine diseases**
- 6. Guidelines for surveillance and control of outbreaks of influenza A/H1N1**
- 7. OIE Reference Laboratories networks**
  - 7.1 OIE/FAO FMD reference laboratories network
  - 7.2 OIE Bluetongue reference laboratories network
- 8. Progress with the OIE *Handbook on Animal Health Surveillance***
- 9. Review of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies**
- 10. Working Group on Wildlife diseases**
- 11. Update on the training programme of the OIE for national focal points**
- 12. Disease specific issues**
  - 12.1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD)
  - 12.2 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)
  - 12.3 Rinderpest
  - 12.4 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP)
- 13. Items referred by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission for discussion by the Scientific Commission**
- 14. Joint meeting between the Scientific and Terrestrial Code Commissions**
- 15. Draft Strategic Plan of the OIE: 2011–2016**
- 16. Next meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**



**MEETING OF THE BUREAU  
OF THE OIE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION FOR ANIMAL DISEASES  
Paris, 8 – 11 September 2009**

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## **WORKING GROUP ON WILDLIFE DISEASES**

### **Terms of Reference**

1. The WGWD functions under the auspices of the Scientific Commission and will report to the Scientific Commission of OIE.
2. Maintain global perspective and foresight on wildlife health and disease issues of importance to the OIE.
3. Assist the Scientific Commission to incorporate wildlife issues into OIE Standards, as appropriate.
4. Assist the OIE including OIE Members to build or improve their capacity to meet OIE standards and obligations with respect to diseases in wild animals.
5. Assist the OIE to receive, record, and interpret information on wildlife disease occurrence from official sources through WAHIS, and maintain an international network to provide information on wildlife disease occurrences from non-official sources.
6. Advise the Scientific Commission on risks, surveillance, responses and management with respect to disease issues associated with wildlife.
7. Address specific issues brought to the WGWD by the Scientific Commission.
8. Assist the OIE to communicate and disseminate information about wildlife disease issues, and represent OIE as requested.
9. Assist the OIE to incorporate wildlife appropriately in its educational and scientific programmes and publications.
10. Assist OIE in supporting the activities of Collaborating Centres on wildlife diseases.

### **Mode of Operation for the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases**

1. The WGWD normally will hold annually one face-to-face mid-year meeting in Paris.
  2. The WGWD will meet by teleconference two or more times each year. These teleconferences will include representation from the Scientific and Technical Department of the OIE.
  3. The WGWD will establish a secure Internet forum through which to manage discussion, document reviews and related matters and through which OIE personnel also can access output from the WGWD's activities.
  4. The WGWD President will maintain additional regular communication with the OIE Scientific and Technical Department, as appropriate.
  5. The WGWD will revise its work plan annually.
  6. All meetings of the WGWD will be conducted in English.
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## OIE AD HOC GROUP ON EPIDEMIOLOGY

**Next meeting: 17–19 November 2009**

### Terms of Reference

The OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Health reiterated the need for a core group of epidemiologists to be involved in issues related to disease surveillance, general provisions on zoning, regionalisation and compartmentalisation. Additionally, participants of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology repeatedly served other *ad hoc* Groups as invited experts by providing supplementary expertise on epidemiology if needed; e.g. in respective *ad hoc* Groups on evaluation of OIE Members' disease status or *ad hoc* Groups in charge of drafting or revising disease-specific provisions on surveillance as a guidance for OIE Members.

#### Terms of Reference:

The *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology is requested to support the work of the Scientific Commission by:

- developing general provisions for animal disease control,
- developing specific recommendations for disease surveillance, when requested,
- review the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on zoning, regionalisation and compartmentalisation,
- participating in other *ad hoc* Group or Working Group meetings as invited experts, when necessary,
- participating in Member disease status recognition procedures, when necessary,
- proposing procedures for formally recognising the animal health status of OIE Member.

The *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology will be formed by experts who are well recognised specialists in this field and who are from renowned institutions involved in veterinary epidemiology (e.g. OIE Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres, institutions having an agreement with OIE).

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**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON OFFICIAL DISEASE STATUS RECOGNITION  
OF AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS)**

**Next meeting: 27–29 January 2010**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Review and update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on AHS taking into consideration the existing concepts on free country, zoning and compartmentalisation.
  2. Analyse the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter for consistency with the official disease status recognition procedures.
  3. Draft a questionnaire for Members to submit applications for official recognition of disease status.
  4. If necessary, provide recommendations for updates to the *Terrestrial Manual*.
- 

**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON BRUCELLOSIS**

**Next meeting: 24–26 November 2009**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Review the recent research developments and research initiatives on brucellosis (bovine, porcine and ovine & caprine brucellosis, including wildlife).
  2. Review and update the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis taking into consideration the approach in the revised chapter on bovine tuberculosis.
  3. Review the approach used for brucellosis in ruminants.
  4. If necessary, provide recommendations for updates to the *Terrestrial Manual*.
  5. Advise the OIE on the need for brucellosis-specific surveillance guidelines.
-

**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS**

**Next meeting: 1–3 December 2009**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Provide an update on the current situation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in the world.
  2. Review the recent research developments and research initiatives on PPR.
  3. Review and update the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on PPR.
  4. Make recommendations for the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter on PPR.
  5. Advise the OIE on the selection of vaccines available against PPR, also with regard to the global eradication of rinderpest.
  6. Advise the OIE on the need for PPR-specific surveillance guidelines
- 

**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON CRIMEAN–CONGO HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER (CCHF)**

**Next meeting: 28–29 October 2009**

**Terms of Reference**

5. Update on the current situation of CCHF in the world with special emphasis on CCHF infection in terrestrial animals, the relevance of infected animals for public health (e.g. slaughtering of infected animals), and implications for the safety of animal products
  6. Review the recent research developments, research initiatives of CCHF and trade implications (also commodities)
  7. Review the current state of surveillance for, diagnosis of, and control measures for CCHF among animals, including vector related issues
  8. Evaluate existing OIE guidance relevant to CCHF, and determine whether it accurately reflects current diagnostic standards, surveillance methods, and control measures for CCHF including vector related issues
  9. Advise the OIE on the need for specific guidelines for diagnosis, surveillance, and reporting of CCHF in terrestrial animals
  10. Discussion on the appropriateness to advise OIE Members on drafting of chapters for other zoonotic haemorrhagic fevers
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**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON RABIES**

**Next meeting: 12–13 January 2010**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Review of the current chapters on rabies (*Terrestrial Code* and *Manual on diagnostic tests and vaccines*).
2. Additional considerations on recommendations in the chapter on stray dog population control (cross references to the *Manual* and *Code* rabies chapters).
3. Control strategies related to available vaccines (and diagnostic tests), dog rabies.
4. Requirements for declaring rabies free status, domestic animals or – and wildlife.
5. Trade safety and facilitation options.
6. Clarify the need for specific guidelines for rabies surveillance.
7. Advise the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission, respectively.
8. Provide an update on the current situation of rabies in the world.
9. Review the recent research developments and research initiatives for rabies.
10. If appropriate, develop a revised *Terrestrial Code* chapter on rabies taking into consideration recent developments and epidemiology of the different bat lyssavirus strains.

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**OIE AD HOC GROUP ON DISEASES OF HONEY BEES**

**Next meeting: 26–28 January 2010**

**Terms of Reference**

1. Provide an update on the current global health situation regarding the bees.
2. Consider bee health in relation to food security and safety and use of pesticides.
3. Review the role of wild bees in disease transmission to domestic bees.
4. To review, if necessary, the OIE list of bee diseases and the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual* and of the *Terrestrial Code* with the general aim of providing greater security in international trade in bees and bee products.
5. Review and address Member comments on the chapters on bee diseases.
6. Consider the necessity of drafting general guidelines for bee health surveillance.
7. Propose any recommendations to the OIE to improve its strategy concerning the health of honey bees.



## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON BLUETONGUE

Paris, 14 April 2009

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### 1. Welcome of participants and purpose of meeting

A special, one-day expert consultation was convened at the OIE Headquarters on 14 April 2009 on request of Dr Bernard Vallat, the Director General of the OIE. The Terrestrial Code Commission received several Member comments on the revised *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* chapter on bluetongue that was circulated to Members with the intention to present the amended chapter for adoption by the OIE International Committee at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2009. In consultation with the Director General of OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat and the Scientific Commission it was agreed to convene an expert consultation. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain scientific justification from experts to enable finalisation and adoption of the proposed amendments to the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Gideon Brückner. He welcomed the participants on behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General and expressed the appreciation of the OIE to the experts for coming to Paris to discuss this important matter and to support the work of the Scientific Commission and the Terrestrial Code Commission.

The comments of Dr Philip Mellor who could not attend the meeting, were made available to the other participants of the Group.

The agenda and list of participants are presented at Appendices I and II, respectively.

### 2. Amendments to *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bluetongue

Dr Thiermann, President of the Code Commission explained the most recent changes in the revised bluetongue chapter as reflected in the report of the last meeting of the Code Commission in March 2009. He explained that the Code Commission received a number of Member comments on the previously proposed changes in the chapter and that some of the Members had clearly opposing or even conflicting comments. For these reasons it was not possible for the Code Commission to take a decision based on Member comments only and the Director General was requested to convene an emergency meeting of experts on bluetongue in collaboration with the Scientific Commission to obtain a scientific backing for the proposed amendments. Dr Thiermann provided an overview of the Member comments on maternal transmission of the bluetongue virus (BTV), the defined infective period of bluetongue in the *Terrestrial Code* and on the safety of the recommended post-vaccination in respect to modified live virus vaccines and inactivated vaccines for bluetongue. He reiterated that the Code Commission would need scientific justification to defend any decision taken by the OIE International Committee. The Group was informed that at the meeting of the Commission in March 2009, it was agreed that the outcome of this expert meeting would be circulated electronically to members of the Commission for agreement, followed by circulation to Delegates and inclusion of the changed version in the last report of the Code Commission. This would allow the finalized chapter to be presented for adoption to the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2009.

### 3. Infective period for bluetongue (*Terrestrial Code*)

The experts were consulted on the duration of the infective period of bluetongue as defined in the *Terrestrial Code* for the purpose of safe trade. Some experts called for consistency in the way the infective period was generally used in the framework of safe trade and the *Terrestrial Code* respectively. The risk of infectivity of an animal to be moved would further depend on various factors such as the number of animals moved, species, season/presence of competent vectors at destination, surveillance activities in place, characteristics of diagnostic tests (herd versus individual animal) serotypes, time point of infection, effect of neutralising antibodies, effect of vaccination on viraemia, type and the quality of vaccines used.

The experts considered available scientific evidence on the duration of virus shedding in days for different species, different serotypes of BTV and experiences in different regions of the world. The data available are scattered and some publications state that virus shedding even after 30 days are not an unusual observation, independent of the species. Some concern was raised on data on virus isolation from animals under purely experimental conditions as compared to data derived from field conditions. The current availability of data lead the experts to the conclusion that 60 days for the purpose of trade would be safer than 30 days only. The experts further indicated that the infectivity period should remain with 60 days, regardless whether the animal was vaccinated or not, as shedding of wild type BTV can not be excluded beyond that time frame, also in vaccinated animals.

### 4. Vaccines for bluetongue (attenuated and inactivated vaccines)

The expert Group was invited to consider the effect of administration of different vaccine types (inactivated versus attenuated bluetongue vaccines) on duration of infectivity of animals. The majority of participants agreed that vaccination and which type of vaccination used can not be judged in isolation. Further no other chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* makes different provisions for the purpose of trade depending on the type of vaccine used. The Group consequently recommended that should the data indicate a need for separate provisions due to vaccine type used, other disease specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* should likewise be reconsidered.

It was reiterated that factors such as the epidemiological situation in the country (bluetongue endemic, epidemic and free countries, seasonality), the guarantees provided by the trading partner (e.g. surveillance activities, specific risk mitigating measures), the serotypes present, livestock species and the prevailing environment should all be considered. The experts considered the suitability and disadvantages of using the two types of vaccines under different conditions and concluded that available data indicated no scientific evidence that vaccination, independent of the vaccine type, would lead to accelerated clearance of viraemia (wildtype and attenuated virus).

Considering the scientific data on the epidemiology of bluetongue available, the experts indicated that the infectivity period for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code* should remain with 60 days, regardless whether the animal was potentially infected with the wild-type virus or vaccinated with an attenuated vaccine.

### 5. The risk of maternal transmission of the bluetongue virus

The field data available on maternal transmission and viraemic, living offspring are very limited (e.g. single case reports) and has only been demonstrated for BTV 8 and eventually cell culture adapted virus strains. The experts questioned the epidemiological relevance of the maternal transmission in the context of the disease spread (via trade and in general). For other serotypes there was no documented evidence of maternal transmission of infection under field conditions. It was stated that transplacental transmission depended on many factors, such as on the stage of pregnancy of the dam getting infected, the mating season (small ruminants) and that the epidemiological evidence (except for BTV 8) and importance of maternal transmission of the BTV need yet to be established. Therefore the Group concluded that with the current available knowledge, the chapter should be reviewed taking into account stricter rules for pregnant animals or additional provisions for trade with embryos.

## 6. Other matters

Dr Thiemann additionally asked the experts on their opinion on the inclusion of wildlife in the provisions of general surveillance programmes for bluetongue against surveillance of wildlife exclusively for trade of wildlife. The purpose of the general surveillance programme for trade would be to support claims for absence (or presence) of bluetongue to trading partners. Considering that the primary cycle of bluetongue infection occurs usually in livestock and not in wildlife, there would be no additional value to include wildlife in the general surveillance programmes for bluetongue.

## 7. Recommendations to OIE - update of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter

Following the discussions and recommendations of the experts, only minor changes to the revised chapter on bluetongue were suggested. The additions referring to waiting periods prior to shipment of vaccinated animals as inserted by the Code Commission were deleted or reverted to the original version (60 days). The edited document was transferred to the Code Commission for further processing and preparation for adoption by the International Committee.

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.../Appendices

Appendix I

**MEETING OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON BLUETONGUE**

**Paris, 14 April 2009**

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**Agenda**

1. Welcome of participants and purpose of meeting
2. Amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bluetongue
3. Infective period for bluetongue (*Terrestrial Code*)
4. Vaccines for bluetongue (attenuated and inactivated vaccines)
5. The risk of maternal transmission of bluetongue virus
6. Other matters
7. Recommendations to OIE - update of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* if relevant

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## MEETING OF THE EXPERT CONSULTATION ON BLUETONGUE

Paris, 14 April 2009

## List of participants

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## MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON EPIDEMIOLOGY

Paris, 15 - 16 April 2009

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The Group was welcomed by Dr Lea Knopf who gave an overview on the two main topics on the agenda.

### 1. Meeting agenda

The agenda and list of participants are indicated in Appendices I and II. The agenda was discussed and additional explanations and documentation were given to the Group. The Group adopted the agenda.

### 2. Handbook for Animal Health Surveillance

The process for developing the Handbook was discussed again in the light of updated information available. The OIE policy of not giving financial support to contributing authors or involved institutions for writing the handbook lead to discussion of alternative strategies. The Group suggested that instead of financial support the logos of the contributing institutions could figure on the cover of the handbook to acknowledge the institutions' efforts.

The strategy to develop the handbook will involve the OIE Collaborating Centres (CCs) related to epidemiology which is welcomed as an opportunity for these CCs to establish a more close collaboration. Identification of potential authors from other institutions is envisaged to develop particular sections of the handbook and first suggestions were discussed in the Group.

It was re-iterated that ideally an editor from each of the CCs and other contributing institutions should be identified to lead the development by forming an editorial board. OIE will address a letter to the CCs and associated institutes to raise awareness for the handbook and seek active collaboration. This mailing will include the introduction and the outline of content of the handbook as refined and reconfirmed by the *ad hoc* Group, in order to enquire for potential authors of chapters. In the same time the OIE will contact individual authors by a similar letter to encourage their collaboration and contributions to the handbook. The Group highlighted the option that the Scientific Commission and the OIE consider convening a specific *ad hoc* Group that implicate the authors involved to better coordinate and enhance the progress of the drafting of the individual chapters.

The Group agreed to include in the title the word "terrestrial" (Handbook on Terrestrial Animal Health Surveillance) to differentiate it from the "Handbook on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance" to be published in 2009.

It was suggested that the handbook should follow certain selected practical examples of surveillance systems or options throughout the chapters. These examples should reflect conditions in different parts of the world, as well as diseases prevalent in the majority of continents. The Group considered using as paradigmatic examples wide spread contagious diseases such as foot and mouth disease, vector-borne diseases such as bluetongue, zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis, and avian diseases.

### 3. Follow up of the draft Guidelines on Use of Epidemiological Models for Animal Health Management

The Group reviewed the draft guidelines of the *ad hoc* Group on the use of epidemiological models for animal health management which was slightly revised since the last time the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology met. The Group took note of the intention to extend the draft chapter to include a section on the use of models for endemic disease circulation (including surveillance and the use of models to support claims for disease freedom).

The Group re-discussed the fundamental objective of such a chapter or guidelines to advise Veterinary Services in their task of animal health decision making, whether it would deserve to be placed in the *Terrestrial Code* or alternatively in the *Terrestrial Manual* and how the guidelines could impact international trade. The current version of the draft addressed one additional purpose; how and when to use the model in animal health decisions. The following observations emerged: Article 4 and 6 were considered to be the core of the draft chapter addressing the minimum requirements for standardization of models. The Article 5 of the draft chapter was perceived as being more technically oriented and the Group suggested merging Article 3 with Article 5. Two proposals were made:

1. To split the text in two parts
  - Harmonisation: mainly covered by Article 4 and 6
  - Other sections: Article 5 could be made available as a more technical guideline document (similar to the PRRS document on the OIE website)
2. To merge Article 3 with Article 5 and to move the merged section to the beginning of the chapter (after the introduction and the definitions). This would restructure the draft chapter into a guideline-like section (Article 1 to 3 and 5) and more standardisation oriented section (Article 4 and 6)

The Group emphasised that epidemiological models are only one of the tools to assist decision making by Veterinary Services. However, modelling could be used in international trade relations to justify measures (e.g. in the framework of import risk assessments), therefore some standardization is required. The Group considered that the aspects of the guidelines mentioned above should be revisited as the draft document evolves.

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.../Appendices

Appendix I

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON EPIDEMIOLOGY  
Paris, 15 – 16 April 2009**

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**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of a rapporteur
  2. Follow up on the outline of the future “Handbook on Animal Health Surveillance”
  3. Discussion on coordination of contributors and editing of the handbook with staff of the Scientific and Technical Department
  4. Identification of chapters and potential authors to consider
  5. Follow up on the guidelines on the use of epidemiological models for animal health
  6. Other matters
  7. Finalisation and adoption of draft report
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Appendix II

**MEETING OF THE  
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON EPIDEMIOLOGY  
Paris, 15 – 16 April 2009**

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**List of participants**

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