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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND OTHER EPIZOOTICS COMMISSION

Paris, 25, 26 and 31 May 2002

A meeting of the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Other Epizootics Commission was held at the OIE headquarters on 25, 26 and 31 May. The Agenda and List of Participants are given at [Appendices I](#) and [II](#), respectively.

1. Joint meeting with the International Animal Health Code Commission

The Commissions considered the comments that had been submitted on the draft FMD chapter for the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*).

2. Application from South Africa for the recovery of the status of a foot and mouth disease free zone without vaccination

Prior to the OIE General Session, the South African Delegation presented details of surveillance and other measures carried out after the introduction of FMD into its previously free zone in September 2000. Only 19 months had passed since the last outbreak; according to the then current (tenth edition, 2001) edition of the *Code*, the status of a free zone without vaccination cannot be reinstated if there has been an outbreak during the past 2 years. However, during the General Session held from 27 to 31 May 2002, the OIE International Committee adopted a modified draft *Code* chapter on FMD; according to this chapter, the status of FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised can be recovered if no outbreaks have occurred during the past 12 months. Therefore, the Commission, at its 31 May meeting, completed the review of the technical file of the application from South Africa and granted the recovery of the FMD free zone without vaccination.

3. Zoning and Regionalisation

The Commission was asked to address the problem of countries that are declared by the OIE to be free of a disease that then have an outbreak and want to use zoning as a means of managing the outbreak. The FMD Commission would need to develop procedures according to which countries could seek rapid recognition of free zones. These zones could include, but not be limited to, overseas territories. In order to take this emergency action, the International Committee would need to grant authority to the Commission to evaluate such requests as well as the authority to make appropriate decisions without recourse to the International Committee in all cases. The Commission decided to develop such a procedure at its July 2002

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meeting and present a proposal to the International Committee in May 2003. The Central Bureau will develop for the Commission's review a draft questionnaire that interested countries must complete and submit to the Director General. Also at the July meeting, the procedure for reviewing the applications and for taking the necessary action will be developed.

4. Other matters

- 4.1. If comments are received on the draft guidelines on FMD surveillance or the draft *Code* chapter on Rift Valley fever (RVF), they will be reviewed at the joint meeting between the FMD Commission and the International Animal Health Code Commission in July 2002. The surveillance guidelines of FMD and RVF chapter will then be sent to Member Countries for final comment before the November 2002 meeting.
- 4.2. In reviewing the mission and functions of the FMD Commission, the following comments were made:
 - The mission of the FMD Commission is to provide scientific and technical background to both the OIE Standards and Code Commissions. In the event that more expertise in a given matter is needed, the FMD Commission will request the Director General to appoint an appropriate expert, Ad hoc Group or Collaborating Center.
 - It was agreed that the FMD Commission will meet jointly with the Code Commission in the first week of July 2002 to address those FMD and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) items identified as urgent by the OIE International Committee during the General Session. With regard to FMD, this includes procedures required to regain the status of freedom with or without vaccination (Article 2.1.1.6 bis). During this joint meeting, comments made by the representatives of OIE Member Countries both before and during the General Session will also be discussed.
 - Two issues were identified that will need to be addressed in the future.
 - a) The existence of mild strains of viruses that cause list A diseases (e.g. rinderpest, swine vesicular disease, classical swine fever and avian influenza) needs to be addressed in the individual disease chapters.
 - b) The new guidelines for assessment of veterinary services would create difficulties for certain countries complying with the provisions for freedom from rinderpest, FMD, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and BSE as well as impeding free trade in animals and animal products.
- 4.3. The present name of the FMD Commission does not adequately describe the purpose and activities of the Commission. Therefore, a better name will be developed in the next 12 months and will be proposed to the International Committee in May 2003.

.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE OIE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
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Agenda

1. Joint meeting with the International Animal Health Code Commission
 2. Application from South Africa for the recovery of the status of a foot and mouth disease free zone without vaccination
 3. Zoning and Regionalisation
 4. Other matters
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