

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
AND OTHER EPIZOOTICS COMMISSION
Paris, 16, 17 and 22 May 2003**

A meeting of the OIE Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Other Epizootics Commission was held at the OIE headquarters in Paris, France on 16, 17 and 22 May 2003. The agenda and list of participants are given at Appendices I and II, respectively.

The President of the Commission, Dr Gavin Thomson, who chaired the meeting, welcomed the Members and Observers and opened discussions on the agenda.

1. Status of freedom from foot and mouth disease

1.1. Taipei China

The dossier submitted by Taipei China was initially evaluated for its compliance with the requirements of Article 2.1.1.3 of the *International Animal Health Code* (The Code) to be considered as a new application for country freedom from FMD with vaccination. Taipei China has a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting to the OIE. There has been no outbreak of FMD for the past 2 years. There is an effective system of surveillance for FMD and regulatory measures for the prevention and control of FMD are in place. The vaccines used comply with the Standards described in the OIE *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines* (The Manual). Demonstration of the absence of infection for the last 12 months was supported by extensive serological surveillance using appropriate tests including tests for non-structural proteins (NSP). However, no information was provided on follow up tests on the small proportion of animals that responded positively to the NSP tests to refute the possibility that those results were consistent with infection. The delegation was invited to submit documentary evidence to that effect. The submitted documents were evaluated by the Commission on 22 May and found to be satisfactory. The Commission therefore decided that Taipei China qualified for freedom from FMD with vaccination.

However, in view of the amendment adopted by the International Committee on 21 May 2003 whereby the last paragraph of Article 2.1.1.7 regarding the period within which a country should apply to regain its status, was eliminated altogether, the Commission decided to approve that Taipei China regain the status of FMD free with vaccination as from 22 May 2003.

1.2. Uruguay

The Commission evaluated the dossier presented by Uruguay to regain the status of FMD free with vaccination in the eventuality that paragraph 2 of Article 2.1.1.7 of the *Code* would be amended during the 71st General Session to accommodate countries which do not carry out *stamping-out policy* but where emergency vaccination and serological surveillance based on the detection of antibodies to non-structural proteins of FMD virus demonstrates the absence of infection and where no case of FMD has been recorded for the past 18 months. However, questions were raised on the sampling methodology and the demonstration of absence of evidence of infection. The Delegation of Uruguay provided satisfactory explanations to these queries and the Commission was satisfied that the positive serological NSP results were consistent with absence of infection.

The above amendment having been accepted by the International Committee on 21 May 2003, the Commission decided to approve Uruguay as free from FMD with vaccination as from the 22 May 2003

1.3. Argentina

The Commission reviewed the dossier submitted by Argentina to regain the status of zone freedom from FMD with vaccination. The zone covers the whole of Argentina except one zone of Patagonia which is already free from FMD without vaccination. The review of the dossier was conditional to the proposed amendments to Article 2.1.1.7 being accepted by the International Committee. In addition to the amendment mentioned in paragraph 1.2 above, the review was also conditional to the last paragraph of Article 2.1.1.7 to consider countries where the application for the recovery of status is made to the OIE within 2 years of the loss of status instead of 2 years of the occurrence of the first case of FMD outbreak or the first detection of FMDV infection. The Commission noted that the last outbreak of FMD in Argentina occurred on 6 January 2002 and 18 months of waiting time will only be completed on 7 July 2003. The Commission sought additional documentary evidence from the Delegation of Argentina to rule out the presence of infection in view of a small proportion of animals having responded positively to the NSP tests. The documentary evidence was provided to the satisfaction of the Commission which then decided to recommend that Argentina regain the status of zonal freedom from FMD with vaccination on 7 July 2003 provided that all the proposed amendments to Article 2.1.1.7 are accepted by the International Committee.

The International Committee having on the 21 May 2003, accepted the amendment mentioned in paragraph 1.2 above, and having also decided to eliminate the last paragraph of Article 2.1.1.7 altogether, the Commission decided to approve the zone of Argentina as free from FMD with vaccination on 7 July 2003 provided that Argentina submits documentary evidence that there has been no outbreak of FMD or any evidence of FMD virus infection between 21 May 2003 and 7 July 2003 in Argentina.

2. Joint Meeting with the OIE International Animal Health Code Commission –Discussion Items

2.1. **Definition of vaccination:** The proposed text on the definition of vaccination was accepted and will be incorporated into the *Code* Chapter.

2.2. **General definition for treatment of swill:** The proposed text was accepted and will be incorporated in a *Code* Chapter.

3. Other matters

3.1. **Comments on FMD guidelines:** Comments from Argentina, Brazil, European Union and Uruguay were evaluated and amendments where appropriate, will be considered.

3.2. **BSE freedom recognition process:** Comments from Australia, New Zealand and the draft resolution on BSE were dealt jointly with the Code Commission. (This item will be included in the report of the Code Commission).

- 3.3. **Use of organ hydrolysates in cattle:** Correspondence from Paraguay was deferred to the next FMD Commission and BSE Ad hoc Group for consideration.
- 3.4. **Vaccine banks:** The proposal of Argentina to create an international vaccine bank to face emergency situations was accepted. To further develop its use, an ad hoc group should be created to study the vaccine strains and the procedures pertaining to their use. The final results if available will be discussed by the next Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases.
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.../Appendices

**MEETING OF THE OIE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
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Agenda

- 1. Status of freedom from foot and mouth disease**
 - 1.1. Taipei China
 - 1.2. Uruguay
 - 1.3. Argentina

- 2. Joint Meeting with the OIE International Animal Health Code Commission –Discussion Items**
 - 2.1. Definition of vaccination
 - 2.2. General definition for treatment of swill

- 3. Other matters**
 - 3.1. Comments on FMD guidelines: Argentina, Brazil, European Union, and Uruguay
 - 3.2. BSE freedom recognition process: comments from Australia, New Zealand, draft resolution on BSE
 - 3.3. Use of organ hydrolysates in cattle: correspondence from Paraguay
 - 3.4. Vaccine banks: correspondence from Argentina

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List of participants

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