

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Submission by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The following communication, received on 6 October 2010, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

1. The OIE is pleased to provide this update for the information of SPS Committee Members. The key topics covered in this paper are developments in the OIE's standard setting work on terrestrial animals and their products and an update on OIE activities supporting the veterinary services of OIE members that chose to follow the OIE PVS pathway.

I. TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION (CODE COMMISSION)

2. The Code Commission met in September 2010 to consider OIE member comments on the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) and to follow up the discussion at the 78th OIE General Session in May 2010. In the light of these comments and input from other specialized OIE Commissions, the Code Commission proposed several new and amended chapters of the Terrestrial Code. The Code Commission will review member comments on its proposals at its next meeting (1-10 February 2011) and will propose revised texts for possible adoption at the 79th General Session of the OIE, 22-27 May 2011.

A. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD): OIE ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL FMD CONTROL PROGRAMMES

3. The OIE is considering mechanisms to encourage members to move towards national control of FMD, including through a proposal for OIE endorsement of national FMD control programmes for members that are working towards improved animal health status.

4. In early 2012, the OIE will hold a second Global Conference on FMD, which will be a forum for discussion of scientific and technical questions relevant to FMD and for encouraging donors to pledge financial support to national control programmes.

5. A revised chapter on FMD will be provided for member comments with the Code Commission report in October 2010.

B. AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS (AHS): OIE RECOGNITION OF DISEASE FREE STATUS

6. The OIE is considering the possibility of providing official recognition of members' AHS status. A proposed approach will be provided for members' comments with the Code Commission report in October 2010.

C. NEW CHAPTER ON PET FOOD

7. The OIE is developing recommendations on pet food (heat treated, shelf stable food for dogs and cats), with the objective of minimising disruption to this large international trade in pet food caused by the imposition of trade restrictive measures that are not based on science. The OIE notes that properly controlled processing of pet food provides a very wide margin of safety in respect of most disease agents.

D. TRANSPARENCY OF DISEASE NOTIFICATION

8. As highlighted in the OIE 5th Strategic Plan, OIE members have an obligation to report information on animal diseases in a transparent and timely manner, especially when there is a change in disease status. New obligations are being introduced in respect of OIE listed diseases in wildlife. The OIE has published detailed guidance on the notification obligations, which may be found in the document "Notification of animal and human diseases: global legal basis" (<http://www.oie.int/eng/PDF/notification-EN.pdf>).

9. The OIE wishes to remind Members of the WTO that, based on the measures in the OIE Terrestrial Code, Members should not impose trade bans in response to the notification of disease in wildlife.

E. THE "LEGALLY BINDING" NATURE OF OIE STANDARDS

10. In response to questions from some OIE members about the "legally binding" nature of OIE standards, the Code Commission clarified that WTO Members have a legally binding obligation under the SPS Agreement to base their sanitary measures on the standards in the OIE Codes (for terrestrial and aquatic animals) and Manuals.

F. PRIVATE STANDARDS FOR SANITARY SAFETY AND ANIMAL WELFARE.

11. The OIE continued to work on this issue, consistent with Resolution 26 passed at the OIE 38th General Session (May 2010). A meeting was held with global private standard-setting organizations (GlobalGAP and GFSI) in September 2010. The OIE is considering the development of formal agreements and other mechanisms to encourage closer collaboration with these organisations to address the concerns of OIE members.

II. UPDATE ON OIE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING MEMBERS' VETERINARY SERVICES

12. The OIE continues its work in supporting veterinary services to comply with the international standards of the OIE and the WTO SPS Agreement by encouraging members to follow the "OIE PVS Pathway". This is based on assessments of the quality of veterinary services using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, and related activities, including missions for strengthening veterinary legislation and for evaluating needs for investment (PVS GAP).

13. Annex 1 shows the current status of the OIE Global PVS Initiative.

14. The OIE will hold the First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, in Djerba, Tunisia, on 6-8 December 2010. Strong participation in this first global conference is expected as the topic of veterinary legislation is crucial to animal health, food safety and WTO Member obligations. Detailed information on the Conference may be found at: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_LEG_VET2010/Home_eng.htm

15. The OIE is supporting the participation of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (VSB) from developing countries of Africa and Asia in this important event, because these bodies can make an important contribution to the strengthening of performance of veterinary services worldwide.

16. The creation of OIE National Focal Points on six key topics, under the authority of the OIE National Delegate, is an ongoing initiative. This will contribute to global OIE expertise and strengthen communication between the OIE, its members and the focal points of other global organizations, including the SPS contact point and national Codex representatives. Specific training for all National Focal Points is underway on an ongoing global basis.

III. THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND INVASIVE SPECIES

17. The OIE recently published two volumes of the OIE Scientific and Technical Review dedicated to the issue of invasive species. The publication gives an overview of animal invasions and their mechanisms and impacts, both negative and positive. The OIE was pleased to include an article written by the CBD Secretariat in the publication, which may be obtained from the OIE online bookshop at: <http://www.oie.int/boutique/index.php?lang=en>

ANNEX

OIE PVS Evaluation Missions (as at 24 September 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed	Reports available
Africa	46	43	33
Americas	21	17	15
Asia/Pacific	16	13	11
Europe	12	12	9
Middle-East	12	11	4
Total	107	96	72

*Official requests:

Africa (46): *Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Rep., Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Congo(DR), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia (non OIE member), Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*

Americas (21): *Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.*

Asia/Pacific (16): *Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Korea (PDR), Laos PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam.*

Europe (12): *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.*

Middle-East (12): *Afghanistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian National Authority (non OIE member), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Yemen.*

Italics: Completed missions

PVS Gap Analysis Missions (as at 24 September 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	28	15
Americas	8	2
Asia/Pacific	11	4
Europe	5	3
Middle-East	5	2
Total	57	26

Legislation Missions (as at 24 September 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	16	8
Americas	2	0
Asia/Pacific	3	3
Europe	3	1
Middle-East	4	2
Total	28	14

Official requests:

Africa (16): *Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (DR), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia*

Americas (2): Bolivia, Honduras

Asia/Pacific (3): *Bhutan, Cambodia, Viet Nam*

Europe (3): Armenia, Kazakhstan, *Kyrgyzstan*

Middle-East (4): Afghanistan, *Kuwait, Lebanon, UAE*

Italics : Completed missions