

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Communication from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The following communication, received on 14 March 2011, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

The OIE is pleased to provide this update for the information of SPS Committee Members. The key topics covered in this paper are:

1. Developments in the OIE's standard-setting work, including the implications of adoption of the OIE 5th Strategic Plan in May 2010;
2. An update on OIE activities under the OIE PVS Pathway, aimed at helping Members to improve their compliance with international standards and thereby help to improve food safety and facilitate participation in international trade in animals and animal products;
3. Information on OIE global conferences in 2011.

I. STANDARD SETTING

1. The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) met on 1-11 February 2011 to prepare new/revised Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) Chapters for adoption at the 79th General Session, May 2011.

A. PRIVATE STANDARDS

2. Based on the work of an ad hoc expert group, the OIE has established a set of recommendations with the objective of helping to ensure that private standard setting organizations respect international standards of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Information on the OIE's activities and policy on private standards can be found on the OIE internet site at: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/implications-of-private-standards/>.

3. The OIE continues to monitor developments in this area.

B. OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

4. The OIE has developed procedures for members wishing to request OIE endorsement of official control programmes for FMD, with the objective of encouraging countries to take systematic

steps towards the control and eradication of FMD in the national territory. The procedures are proposed for adoption at the General Assembly in May 2011. The OIE emphasises that this procedure is entirely voluntary. It could provide a valuable function for governments and donors that wish to establish reference programmes for funding at national, regional and global levels

C. OIE 5TH STRATEGIC PLAN (2011-2016)

5. In 2010 the OIE adopted its 5th Strategic Plan (2011-2016). In addition to maintaining a focus on the role of the OIE as a reference standard-setting organization to the WTO, the 5th Strategic Plan establishes new priorities in relation to wildlife and the interface between humans, animals (domestic and wild animals) and ecosystems. It also recognizes the risks of invasive species, especially in the context of climate change and emerging diseases.

6. The WTO defines SPS measures with reference to "the protection of human, animal and plant health". In considering the relationship of invasive species to SPS measures, the OIE notes that the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) covers not only diseases, but also pests and plants that are considered to be invasive species. In contrast, the OIE has, to date, focused its standard setting work programme on listed diseases, based on criteria that are adopted formally by the World Assembly of Delegates and published in the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes.

7. The OIE participates in the Interagency Liaison Group (IALG) established by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). At the recent meeting of the IALG in Geneva, in February 2011, the CBD secretariat again raised concerns about gaps in coverage of risks associated with invasive alien species. The CBD Conference of the Parties has requested that the OIE consider providing guidance on measures to address risks associated with invasive species that are not OIE listed disease agents (See <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11647>). The OIE is considering this request in consultation with members and elected Commissions, notably with respect to the implications for the organization's mandate and resources.

II. UPDATE ON THE OIE PVS PATHWAY

A. OVERVIEW

8. As part of the OIE global initiative for Good Governance of Veterinary Services, and at a member's request, the OIE may conduct an evaluation of the quality of a member's Veterinary Services using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool). As of 10 February 2011, 110 requests have been received and 91 per cent of the missions have been done.

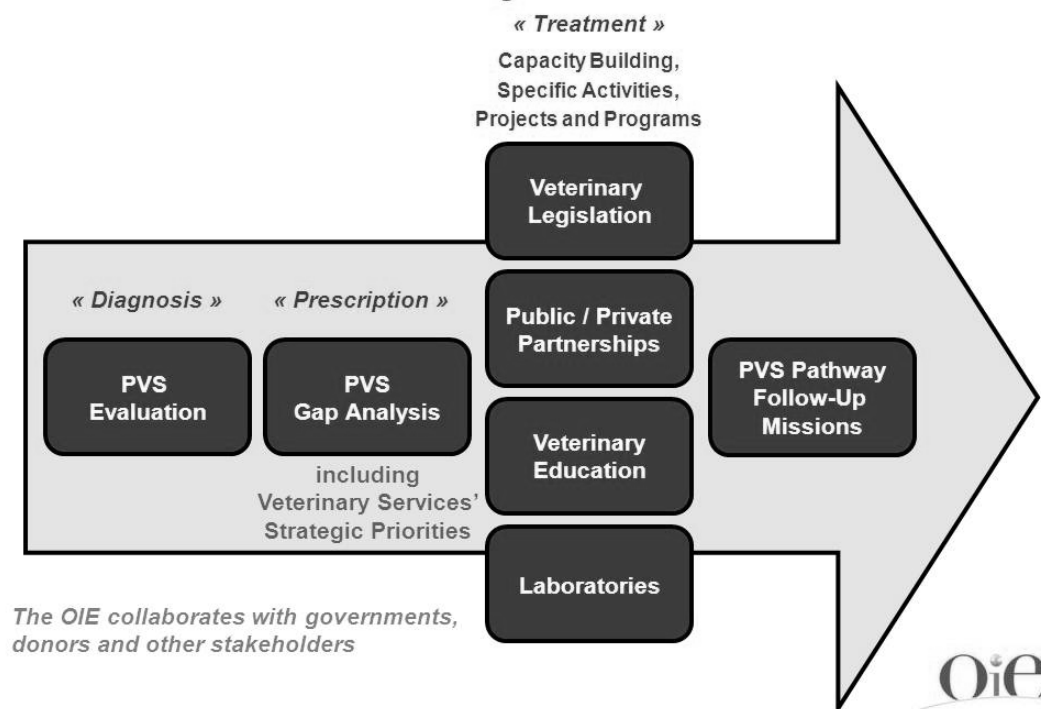
9. The current status of OIE PVS evaluations is summarized in Annex 1.

10. The 5th edition of the OIE PVS Tool was published in 2010.

11. The OIE has addressed the specialized needs of aquatic animal health services (AAHS), with a pilot mission to a member and the development of a modified PVS Tool for the evaluation of AAHS. The OIE encourages all countries with an interest in the export of aquatic animals and their products to consider requesting an assessment of AAHS as a basis to strengthen good governance and to reinforce the credibility of national certification arrangements.

12. The steps in the OIE PVS Pathway are illustrated in the following graphic.

The OIE PVS Pathway



B. PVS GAP ANALYSIS

13. The PVS Gap Analysis is a quantification of needs and the corresponding indicative budget to address compliance for priority critical competencies discussed with the country concerned and based on the report of the initial PVS evaluation of the country. The OIE, working in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations, conducts PVS Gap Analysis missions as the basis for the preparation of investment programmes, following an initial PVS Evaluation.

14. The current status of PVS Gap Analysis missions is summarised in Annex 2.

C. VETERINARY LEGISLATION

15. Members may request a specific mission to evaluate the national veterinary legislation and, if appropriate, the implementation of an agreement with the OIE providing expert assistance over a one-to two-year period to help strengthen the veterinary legislation. Normally, the Legislation mission would take place after a PVS assessment, where this has detected gaps or inconsistencies in the veterinary legislation. Members may also request a PVS Gap Analysis mission to be undertaken in parallel, to help secure investments from governments and donors to strengthen the veterinary legislation by bringing it into closer alignment with the international quality standards of the OIE.

16. The current status of OIE legislation missions is summarised in Annex 3.

17. The OIE held the First Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation in Djerba, Tunisia, on 7-9 December 2010. Representatives of more than 120 countries attended the conference, which welcomed close to 400 participants. The conference highlighted the significance of veterinary legislation as a cornerstone of national good veterinary governance and infrastructure. It was recognized that many countries of the world - especially developing countries - do not have veterinary legislation that is adequate to address the animal health and welfare challenges of today and future years.

18. The Djerba conference recommendations are available on the OIE website: "http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences_Events/docs/pdf/recommendations/ANG_Recommendations.pdf".

D. VETERINARY EDUCATION

19. At the request of members, the OIE is developing recommendations on the very important topic of veterinary education. Members of the OIE have identified a need, especially for developing countries, to improve the quality of veterinary education, including veterinarians in both the public and the private sector. The OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education "Evolving veterinary education for a safer world", which took place in Paris on 12-14 October 2009, was the first step in the development of a global OIE strategy, including the concept of a core curriculum, to support high quality veterinary education. Following the conference, the OIE convened an *ad hoc* expert group to address the recommendations of the conference. The Group held two meetings in 2010 and developed recommendations regarding the key competencies needed by new veterinary graduates to perform the necessary OIE and public policy tasks, notably those defined in the OIE *Codes*, taking into account contemporary threats and opportunities and societal expectations.

20. The recommendation of the Conference may be found at: "http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences_Events/sites/deans2009/Conclusions_and_recommendations_FINAL_30_novembre_09_ANG_b.pdf".

21. As part of the celebration of 250 years of the veterinary profession in 2011, the 2nd Global Conference on Veterinary Education will be held in Lyon, France on 13–14 May 2011. This conference will feature presentations on the OIE's work to strengthen initial and continuous veterinary education.

22. Information may be found at the internet site: "<http://blanc.vet-lyon.fr/test/cmev2011/?q=node/56>".

III. OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCES IN 2011

A. WILDLIFE ANIMAL HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY, PARIS, 23-25 FEBRUARY 2011

23. Around 400 participants attended this very successful conference. It was generally acknowledged that the need to feed a growing human population, the globalized movement of people and goods and human impact on the environment, all fuel serious health risks for the health of humans and animals, both domestic and wild animals, and for biodiversity.

24. Veterinary Services and partners have a pivotal role. Participants at the conference recommended an enhanced cross-sector communication and cooperation among all relevant parties including the tourism industry and relevant NGOs such as foundations, naturalists, hunters and fishermen associations and many others, to ensure coordinated risk management approaches at the wildlife / domestic animal / human ecosystems interface.

B. AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES: THEIR BENEFITS FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY PANAMA CITY, PANAMA, 28-30 JUNE 2011

25. The conference will provide a forum for OIE members and other participants to exchange the latest information on a science-based approach to the management of aquatic animal health and food safety at the production level. Key topics of the conference include:

- roles and responsibilities of Aquatic Animal Health Services and Veterinary Services;

- awareness of the OIE standards and recommendations for aquatic animals and practical advice on how to comply with the standards;
- the education of veterinarians and aquatic animal health professionals in the public and the private sector on their role and responsibilities;
- improvement of governance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services using the OIE PVS Pathway.

26. For further information see: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_aquatic/home.htm

C. RABIES CONTROL: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PREVENTION AT THE SOURCE SEOUL, KOREA
7–9 SEPTEMBER 2011

27. This conference will address good governance decisions on the distribution of public or private, local, national and international resources for priority actions to address rabies at the animal-human interface. The benefit of preventive intervention at the animal source, in comparison to post-exposure medical treatment, will be highlighted. The conference will discuss success stories in the control of rabies, including diagnosis, vaccination and control of relevant animal populations, and governance systems for Veterinary Services, Public Health Services, municipalities, NGOs and relevant stakeholders in the public and private sector. For further information, see: http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences_Events/docs/pdf/rage_Annonce.pdf

ANNEX 1

PVS Evaluation Missions (as at 7 February 2011)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed	Reports available
Africa	47	43	33
Americas	21	20	15
Asia/Pacific	17	14	11
Europe	13	12	10
Middle-East	12	11	4
Total	110	100	73

*Official requests:

Africa (47): *Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, 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, Seychelles, 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 (17): *Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Korea (PDR), Lao (PDR), Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Viet Nam*

Europe (13): *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan*

Middle-East (12): *Afghanistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian A.T. (non-OIE member), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen*

Italics: Completed missions

ANNEX 2

PVS Gap Analysis Missions (as at 7 February 2011)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	30	18
Americas	9	4
Asia/Pacific	12	7
Europe	5	3
Middle-East	6	2
Total	62	34

ANNEX 3

Legislation Missions (as at 7 February 2011)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	17	10
Americas	2	2
Asia/Pacific	4	3
Europe	3	1
Middle-East	4	3
Total	30	19

Official requests:

Africa (17): *Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (DR), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zambia*

Americas (2): *Bolivia, Honduras*

Asia/Pacific (4): *Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam*

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

Middle-East (4): *Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates*

Italics: Completed missions
