

REPORT ON HEALTH STATUS DEVELOPMENTS

Statement by Paraguay at the meeting of 30-31 March 2011

The following communication, received on 1 April 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

1. Foot and mouth disease: Restoration of status of foot and mouth disease free country with vaccination

Background

1. No cases of foot and mouth disease have been recorded in Paraguay since July 2003. In January 2005, the Scientific Commission of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) restored Paraguay's sanitary status as a "foot and mouth disease free country with vaccination".

2. In December 2006, the region was audited by an OIE mission and, on the basis of the Mission's recommendations, the heads of the veterinary services of the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), with the support of the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Centre (PANAFTOSA), agreed to create so-called "high surveillance zones" in the frontier region and defined joint activities to be carried out with a view to reducing the risk of foot and mouth disease entering and spreading into other areas.

3. The high surveillance zone was made up of a strip of land approximately 15 kilometres wide on either side of the border with Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, so that the sanitary status granted to Paraguay by the OIE was that of a "country with a foot and mouth disease free zone with vaccination", excluding the high surveillance zone.

4. As from 4 February 2011, the OIE lifted the high surveillance zone classification and restored the classification of a foot and mouth disease free zone with vaccination. Paraguay is therefore once again certified as a "foot and mouth disease free country practising vaccination".

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

5. At the last General Session of the OIE, held in May 2010, and on the basis of the documents submitted on the country's health status in regard to the disease, Paraguay was recertified as a "BSE negligible risk country".