



1 September 2016

(16-4637)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**STATEMENT REGARDING BOVINE SPONGIFORM
ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) RISK STATUS**

COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

The following communication, dated 31 August 2016, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Costa Rica.

-
1. Official recognition by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of the animal health status of member countries has a significant impact on the expansion of international trade and the development of international reference standards to define the animal health measures enforceable under World Trade Organization disciplines.
 2. To facilitate safe international trade in animals and animal products, and at the request of members, the OIE may take official decisions regarding risk and animal health status with respect to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
 3. During its 67th General Session, the OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) established a procedure for annually updating the list of member countries and zones categorized by their BSE risk, according to the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code).
 4. During the 83rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 15, which specifies and updates the procedure for member countries to follow to achieve official recognition and maintenance of their status for certain animal diseases, including BSE risk status.
 5. Costa Rica submitted to the OIE the form for the annual confirmation of the BSE risk status of member countries, together with the respective evidence, with a view to being included in the list of countries having a negligible BSE risk status.
 6. During the 84th General Session in May 2016, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 20 – "Recognition of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status of Member Countries" – which included Costa Rica in the list of member countries recognized as having a negligible BSE risk in accordance with Chapter 11.4 of the Terrestrial Code.
 7. In the interests of transparency and in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, we invite Members to take note of this recognition, which reflects intensive efforts by both the public and private sectors to promote animal and public health both in Costa Rica and at global level.
-