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Page: 1/6

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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67TH MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 12 October 2016, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is pleased to provide this report for the information of WTO Members attending the 67th meeting of the SPS Committee.

The report summarises key developments in the OIE's standard-setting work programme, along with updates on the OIE's Capacity Building activities.

1 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OIE STANDARDS FOR TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMALS

1.1. The Biological Standards Commission met from 30 August to 2 September 2016 and reviewed comments from member countries and experts on the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*. It revised twenty Chapters as well as the Glossary. These will be circulated for member country comments which will be considered at its February 2017 meeting.

1.2. The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) met from 5 to 16 September 2016 and reviewed comments from member countries and experts and prepared new and revised texts for the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. Twenty-three new or revised Chapters as well as the Glossary and work programme will be circulated for member country comments which will be considered at its February 2017 meeting.

1.3. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases met from 5 to 9 September 2016. The Commission examined comments from member countries on specific *Terrestrial Code* chapters under discussion. Advice in relation to the comments was then provided to the Code Commission for their consideration.

1.4. The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission) met from 12 to 16 September 2016 and reviewed member country comments and prepared new and revised texts for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*. The Commission revised sixteen chapters and the Glossary in the *Aquatic Code* and eight chapters in the *Aquatic Manual* which were circulated for member country comments and which will be considered at its February 2017 meeting.

1.5. The full reports of the above four Commission meetings will be available on the OIE website by the end of November 2017. The OIE draws the attention of WTO Members to the following important developments in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*.

1.1 Terrestrial Code

1.1.1 OIE procedures relevant to the WTO SPS Agreement (Chapter 5.3.)

1.6. Chapter 5.3. has been updated taking into account the comments from member countries. Notably, a sentence was added to Article 5.3.7. to clarify that the OIE definition of "zone" has the same meaning as "region" and "area" as used in the SPS Agreement.

1.1.2 Infection with African swine fever virus (Chapter 15.1.)

1.7. The first draft of the updated chapter, circulated for member countries' consideration in February 2015, generated many comments that have now been reviewed by experts and the Specialist Commissions.

1.1.3 Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (draft new Chapter 8.X.)

1.8. Following the merging of chapters on *Brucellosis* into a single multispecies chapter in 2014, the Code Commission adopted the same approach and develop new draft chapter on *tuberculosis* by merging chapter 11.6. on bovine *tuberculosis* and Chapter 11.7. on bovine *tuberculosis* of farmed Cervidae.

1.1.4 Lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.11.)

1.9. Given the difficulties faced by many parts of the world in controlling lumpy skin disease, the Code Commission undertook to review member countries' comments on the revised text of Chapter 11.11.

1.1.5 New chapter on Infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome

1.10. The first draft of a new chapter circulated for member countries' consideration in 2014 generated many comments that were reviewed by experts. The amended draft will be circulated for member countries' further consideration.

1.1.6 Glossary

1.11. Several definitions related to "zone" were further amended, reflecting comments from member countries. In addition, the Code Commission undertook an extensive review of the terms defined in the Glossary to edit some terms for clarity and consistency.

1.2 Aquatic Code

1.2.1 Criteria for the inclusion of diseases in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.)

1.12. Member country comments supported the amendments made to this chapter which is now aligned with the corresponding chapter in the *Terrestrial Code*.

1.2.2 Infection with *B. salamandrivorans* (Bsal)

1.13. Member country comments on the proposed listing of Bsal were considered and the Commission agreed that the criteria for listing have been met.

1.2.3 General obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1.)

1.14. In response to a number of member country comments Article 5.1.4. was amended to improve consistency with the corresponding article of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter, Criteria for the inclusion of diseases in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.).

1.2.4 Glossary

1.15. The definition for zone was revised taking into account the existing definition of compartment in the *Aquatic Code*, and amendments being proposed by the Code Commission for the term zone in the *Terrestrial Code*.

2 CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

2.1 OIE PVS Pathway

2.1. The OIE continues its global initiative to support member countries wishing to strengthen Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) using the OIE PVS Pathway. Although more than 130 countries have received PVS evaluations to date, recently there has also been engagement by major high income nations, with Australia receiving an OIE PVS evaluation in 2015, Japan in 2016, and Canada planned for 2017. In 2017, the OIE is also planning a review of its flagship PVS Pathway programme to ensure that it continues to evolve to best serve the needs of its member countries.

2.2. A summary of OIE member countries' engagement in the PVS Pathway may be found at Annex 1.

2.2 Regional Seminars for OIE National Focal Points

2.3. OIE capacity-building activities also include Information Seminars for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates and Regional Seminars for OIE National Focal Points appointed for eight different areas (Animal Disease Notification to the OIE, Veterinary Products, Communication, Animal Production Food Safety, Animal Welfare, Veterinary Laboratories, Wildlife and Aquatic Animals). The aim of this programme is to provide good governance concepts for improving animal health, animal welfare and food safety of animal-origin products at the national, regional and international levels, and to explain and clarify the role and responsibilities of newly-appointed OIE Delegates and of OIE National Focal Points with respect to OIE activities.

2.4. A revised list of Regional Seminars scheduled for 2016 is attached as Annex 2.

ANNEX 1**A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON PVS PATHWAY EVALUATIONS****PVS Evaluation missions: State of play up to 15 October 2016**

	OIE members	PVS Evaluation requests received	PVS Evaluation missions implemented	Reports available for restricted distribution to Donors and Partners	Publication on the OIE website
Africa	54	53	51	34	9
Americas	29	26	24	10	9
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	25	25	11	3
Europe	53	19	19	10	1
Middle East	12	13	11	5	1
TOTAL	180	136	130	70	23

PVS Evaluation missions of the Aquatic Animal Health Services*: State of play up to 15 October 2016

	OIE members	PVS Evaluation requests received	PVS Evaluation missions implemented	Reports available for restricted distribution to Donors and Partners	Publication on the OIE website
Africa	54	4	3	0	1
Americas	29	7	3	0	0
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	3	3	0	0
Europe	53	1	1	0	0
Middle East	12	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	180	16	10	0	1

* Does not include PVS Evaluation of the AAHS Follow-Up missions (1).

PVS GAP Analysis missions*: State of play up to 15 October 2016

	OIE members	PVS Gap Analysis requests received	PVS Gap Analysis missions implemented	Reports available for restricted distribution to Donors and Partners	Publication on the OIE web site
Africa	54	52	49	19	11
Americas	29	18	13	5	5
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	21	15	7	1
Europe	53	9	9	3	1
Middle East	12	10	4	0	0
TOTAL	180	110	90	34	18

* Including Second Gap Analysis missions and Aquatic Gap Analysis missions.

PVS Evaluation - Follow up missions* : State of play up to 15 October 2016

	OIE members	PVS Evaluation Follow-Up requests received	PVS Evaluation Follow-Up missions implemented	Reports available for restricted distribution to Donors and Partners	Publication on the OIE website
Africa	54	17	14	1	3
Americas	29	9	8	0	5
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	9	6	1	2
Europe	53	5	4	2	0
Middle East	12	6	3	1	0
TOTAL	180	46	35	5	10

* Including Second Follow-Up (2) and Evaluation Follow-Up of the AAHS (1) missions.

Veterinary Legislation Support missions* : State of play up to 15 October 2016

	OIE members	Veterinary Legislation Identification mission requests received	Veterinary Legislation Identification missions implemented	Veterinary Legislation Identification mission reports received	Agreement requested	Agreement signed
Africa	54	41	35	33	9	4
Americas	29	8	7	7	3	1
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	7	6	6	1	0
Europe	53	5	4	4	2	1
Middle East	12	5	4	4	1	0
TOTAL	180	66	56	54	16	6

* Does not include (Pilot project) Botswana, South Africa and 1st mission in Zambia.
Mozambique: Veterinary Legislation Identification mission report available on the OIE website.

ANNEX 2

Dates	Title	Venue
3-5 February 2016	Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE	Chiba, Japan
2-4 March 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (4 th Cycle)	Tokyo, Japan
15-17 March 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Communication of the Americas (3 rd Cycle)	Panama City, Panama
21-23 March 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (4 th Cycle)	Dakar, Senegal
30 March-1 April 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Production Food Safety (3 rd Cycle)	Rhodes, Greece
6-7 April 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare (3 rd Cycle)	Amman, Jordan
5-7 April 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories	Jeju, Republic of Korea
21 May 2016	Regional Information Seminar for Recently Appointed OIE Delegates	Paris, France
28-30 June 2015	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories	Buenos Aires, Argentina
5-7 July 2016	Regional Workshop: Training of OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife (4 th Cycle)	Minsk, Belarus
12-14 July 2016	Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (French-speaking countries)	Tunis, Tunisia
6-8 September 2016	Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE	Panama City, Panama
27-29 September 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Communication (English-speaking countries, 3 rd Cycle)	Mombasa, Kenya
11-13 October 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Communication (French-speaking countries, 3 rd Cycle)	Bamako, Mali
11-13 October 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Products (4 th Cycle)	Budapest, Hungary
18-20 October 2016	Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE	Yerevan, Armenia
1-3 November 2016	Regional Workshop for Advanced Training on the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) for National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification to the OIE (Middle East + English-speaking African countries)	Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
22-24 November 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife (Middle East + English-speaking African countries, 4 th Cycle)	Nakuru, Kenya
29 November – 1 December 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories (English and French-speaking countries)	Harare, Zimbabwe
13-15 December 2016	Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories	Jordan (TBC)