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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: Spanish

**RECOGNITION OF PERU AS A COUNTRY FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE  
WITHOUT VACCINATION**

COMMUNICATION FROM PERU

The following communication, received on 14 March 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Peru wishes to inform WTO Members of the work that has been done to secure Peru's current health status as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination.
2. In May 2005, ten regions in the south of Peru obtained international recognition from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as areas free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination. Ica, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurímac, Cusco, Puno, Moquegua, Madre de Dios and Tacna were recognized as areas where export programmes for animals and animal products and by-products could be implemented without any of the inconvenience caused by foot-and-mouth disease.
3. In May 2007, the OIE certified seven new regions in Peru as free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination: Amazonas, Loreto, San Martín, Huánuco, Ucayali, Pasco and Junín. With this new disease-free zone, the percentage of Peruvian territory internationally recognized as free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination rose from 33.6% (south of the country) to 88.4% (north and centre).
4. By 2008, more than 97.6% of Peruvian territory was free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination and had obtained international recognition from the OIE; the rest of the country (2.4%), which comprised strategic areas identified as being at risk, such as Piura, Tumbes, the province of San Ignacio in Cajamarca and Lima, was declared free of the disease with vaccination.
5. In this light, and in order to maintain the health status achieved, the National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) enhanced its quarantine and animal health surveillance systems, following up on notified cases of vesicular diseases and conducting serological monitoring at national level to rule out the presence of viral activity.
6. As part of the contingency measures introduced to maintain the status of the disease-free areas recognized by the OIE, SENASA, through the Animal Health Directorate and the national foot-and-mouth disease programme, following a technical evaluation, set up an animal health protection zone (buffer zone) at Peru's north-western border in the regions of Tumbes and Piura and the province of San Ignacio in Cajamarca. In this zone, routine epidemiological surveillance activities were conducted, suspected cases of vesicular disease were dealt with, the movement of animals and animal products and by-products was controlled, and strategic vaccination measures were implemented.
7. In May 2018, the OIE recognized Peru as a country entirely free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination.

8. Foot-and-mouth disease remains one of the most important livestock diseases worldwide due to its highly contagious nature and ability to adapt. The clinical damage it causes in various animal species has a significant direct impact on animal welfare and an economic impact in terms of agribusiness productivity. It also poses serious market access problems for animals and products of animal origin due to international trade restrictions established by the veterinary services of importing countries.

9. Being recognized as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination means that Peru is saving USD 10 million a year on costs related to the control and eradication of the disease, including on expenditure related to the purchase of vaccines.

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