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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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RECOGNITION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE-FREE STATUS

SUBMISSION BY THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU

The following document, received on 10 July 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu.

1.1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, regarding regional conditions, including pest- or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence, and in keeping with the principle of transparency, we wish to inform WTO Members of the details of our recently-gained foot and mouth disease (FMD) free status.

1.2. On 13 June 2020, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) officially recognized the animal health status of the areas of our customs territory comprising Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu as being "one zone free from FMD where vaccination is not practised".

1.3. Over the last 23 years, since the first occurrence of FMD on our customs territory in 1996, we have implemented a series of measures dedicated to the surveillance, control, prevention and eradication of this disease. The FMD programme of vaccination in the aforementioned zone was discontinued from 1 July 2018, and surveillance was then implemented in accordance with Articles 8.8.40 to 8.8.42 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code to detect any clinical signs of FMD. No evidence has been found of infection with FMD in unvaccinated animals.

1.4. Following implementation of the measures and the result as stated above, we applied for the OIE's official recognition of the zone covered by Taiwan, Penghu and Matsu areas as free from FMD where vaccination is not practised, in accordance with Article 8.8.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on 5 September 2019.

1.5. Consequently, on the recommendation of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the FMD status of this zone was approved on 12 June 2020 by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in accordance with the adapted procedure for the adoption of OIE resolution No.7 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.6. With this new animal health status, we are now pleased to invite WTO Members to inform their health and veterinary authorities in order that restrictions previously imposed by some, may now be lifted. We look forward to cooperating closely with all of our trading partners and discussing arrangements for the resumption of trade in relevant animals and animal products.

1.7. The official disease status information is available at:

- <https://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/>
- <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/fmd/list-of-fmd-free-members/>
- https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/About_us/docs/pdf/Session/2020/A_RESO_2020.pdf

1.8. The authority responsible for disease eradication and notification is the Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), Council of Agriculture (COA). Further enquiries regarding this document may be addressed to: daq@mail.baphiq.gov.tw
