

**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**DECISIONS RELEVANT TO THE SPS AGREEMENT  
TAKEN BY THE OIE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
AT THE 69<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL SESSION**

Communication from the Office international des épizooties (OIE)

1. The 69<sup>th</sup> General Session of the International Committee of the Office international des épizooties (OIE) was held at the OIE headquarters (Paris, France) from 27 to 1 June 2001.

2. Approximately 500 participants, representing 140 countries or territories, 11 intergovernmental organizations and several other bodies were present. Six Ministers of Agriculture (Bulgaria, Colombia, France, Lebanon, Somalia and Uruguay) participated in the inaugural session.

3. The decisions relevant to the SPS Agreement taken by the OIE International Committee during the General Session were as follows:

**Contributions by the least developed countries to the OIE Regular Budget**

4. Considering the need to favour the full participation in OIE activities of the member countries classified as "least developed countries" (LDCs) by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the OIE International Committee gave the Director-General a mandate to call for only 50 per cent of the total contributions due from these member countries in accordance with the six-category scale currently in force (Resolution No. VIII).

**Work programme aimed at implementing the recommendations of the OIE Third Strategic Plan for the period 2001 to 2005**

5. The work programme prepared by the Director-General aimed at implementing the recommendations of the OIE Third Strategic Plan for the period 2001 to 2005 was adopted under Resolution No. IX of the OIE International Committee. The work programme reinforces the traditional priority tasks of the OIE: international animal health information, drawing up health standards, guidelines for the prevention and eradication of animal diseases and zoonoses, coordination of veterinary research and the dissemination of scientific and technical information, the status and efficiency of the Veterinary Services. It also includes other activities aimed at the control of zoonoses and food-borne diseases, the development of new standards on animal welfare and the organization of international solidarity and regional coordination missions.

**Agreement of cooperation between the Office international des épizooties and the World Bank**

6. Under Resolution No. X, the OIE International Committee approved the terms of the draft Agreement of cooperation between the OIE and the World Bank. This Agreement conveys the

willingness of both organizations to coordinate their actions aimed at combating animal diseases and in doing so to improve the safety of food of animal origin, to improve food security, to facilitate sustainable international trade, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation. The Agreement is also aimed at helping member countries to implement the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and to strengthen their Veterinary Services in order to better control animal diseases and zoonoses.

### **Adoption of new provisions for the *International Animal Health Code***

7. By Resolution No. IX of the OIE International Committee, additions or amendments were made to the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) on the following subjects:

- Obligations and ethics in international trade;
- Bluetongue;
- Surveillance and monitoring systems for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
- Collection and processing of bovine semen;
- Embryos/oocytes, with respect to the following diseases: foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, leptospirosis and bovine brucellosis.

In Resolution No. XXIV, the OIE International Committee asked the International Animal Health Code Commission to consider reviewing the categorisation system of countries or zones with respect to BSE described in Chapter 2.3.13. of the *Code*. The aim of the review will be to base the system not only on the incidence rate of the disease as determined from the number of reported cases, but also on the result of the BSE risk evaluation that countries are required to carry out in application of the first article of the said chapter. The International Committee also asked the Code Commission to improve Appendix 3.8.3. on BSE surveillance systems, and to develop guidelines for the member countries to ensure that the intensity of these systems at the national level is consistent with the result of the risk evaluation.

8. With regard to the *Code* Appendix on collection and processing of bovine semen, further work needs to be done to ensure that the testing requirements in this appendix are consistent with those relating to semen specified in other disease chapters.

### **Adoption of new provisions for the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code***

9. By Resolution No. XII of the OIE International Committee, additions or amendments were made to the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* on the following subjects:

- Definitions;
- Notifiable diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans;
- International aquatic animal health certificates for live fish and their gametes, dead eviscerated fish, live molluscs and their gametes, live crustaceans and dead crustaceans;
- Import risk analysis.

### **Recognition of the status of member countries in regard to foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia**

10. The OIE Foot-and-mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission, meeting in September 2000 and January 2001, revised the lists of countries that it considers to be entirely or partly free from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or from rinderpest infection, in accordance with the conditions laid

down in Chapter 2.1.1. and Appendix 3.8.2. of the *Code*, and accepted the submission presented by Botswana to be recognized as free from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the provisions of Appendix 3.8.2. of the *Code*. These proposals have been sent to the Delegates of member countries, who have a period of 60 days in which to respond.

11. In Resolutions No. XVI, XVII and XXII, the OIE International Committee asked the Director-General of the OIE to publish the list of member countries recognized as FMD free (see appendix 1) and the list of member countries recognized as free from rinderpest infection (see appendix 2), and to publish the fact that Botswana has been recognized as CBPP free.

### **Recognition of the status of member countries in regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

12. Pursuant to the proposals formulated by the OIE Foot-and-mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission and the comments received from the Delegates of the OIE member countries, the OIE International Committee decided to adopt a procedure enabling the OIE to recognise the BSE free status of all or part of the territory of its member countries. This procedure is described in Resolution No. XV adopted by the International Committee (see appendix 3).

### **OIE Reference Laboratories**

13. The OIE International Committee took note of the additions and amendments recommended by the Standards Commission regarding Reference Laboratories and disease experts. The OIE currently has 142 Reference Laboratories covering 64 diseases or groups of diseases.

14. In Resolution No. XVIII, the OIE International Committee approved the amendment to the mandate for OIE Reference Laboratories proposed by the OIE Standards Commission. As a result of this amendment, the Reference Laboratories are now required to report any positive results obtained in laboratory tests for animal diseases covered in the OIE Lists to the delegate of the member country from which the samples tested originated.

15. The International Committee was also informed of the progress achieved on international standardisation of diagnostic tests applicable to a number of animal diseases.

### **Collaborating Centres**

16. The list of OIE Collaborating Centres remains unchanged. There are currently nine. These Centres can provide member countries with technical assistance in the fields of animal disease diagnosis, surveillance and control, risk analysis and veterinary drugs.

RESOLUTION No. XVII

Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries  
(Simplified Version)

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions XI and XII, 'Establishment of a list of foot and mouth disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practised', and 'Procedure for the recognition of the foot and mouth disease status of Member Countries',
2. During the 64th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which asks that the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* a list of the countries or zones within national territories that fulfil the criteria of one of the FMD free categories described in Chapter 2.1.1. of the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*),
3. The Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission has continued to apply the procedure approved by the International Committee, and has supported the recognition of the FMD free status of additional countries and zones within national territories for annual adoption of the list by the International Committee,
4. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XII, which stated that the Delegates of Member Countries where countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as FMD free annually confirm by letter each November both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain the same,
5. During the 65th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XVII delegating to the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member Country or zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*,
6. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following list of Member Countries recognised as FMD free countries where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*:<sup>1</sup>

Albania	Germany	Mexico
Australia	Guatemala	New Caledonia
Austria	Guyana	New Zealand
Belgium	Greece	Norway
Bulgaria	Haiti	Panama
Canada	Honduras	Poland
Chile	Hungary	Portugal
Costa Rica	Iceland	Romania
Croatia	Indonesia	Singapore
Cuba	Italy	Slovakia
Cyprus	Japan	Slovenia
Czech Rep.	Latvia	Spain
Denmark	Lithuania	Sweden
El Salvador	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Estonia	Madagascar	Ukraine
Finland	Malta	United States of America
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Mauritius	Vanuatu

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as having an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*:

Botswana: zone designated by the Delegate of Botswana in documents addressed to the Director General on 26 August 1996 and 24 September 1997;

Colombia: Northwest region of Choco Department;

Republic of Korea: Island of Cheju;

Namibia: zone designated by the Delegate of Namibia in a document addressed to the Director General on 6 February 1997,

Philippines: Mindanao.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Countries as having FMD free zones where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*:

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<sup>1</sup> For information on the status of non-contiguous territories of Member Countries recognised as FMD free, please address enquiries to that country's Delegate or to the Director General.

Brazil: States of Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Sergipe, Tocantins and the Federal District;

Colombia: zone designated by the Delegate of Colombia in documents addressed to the Director General on 7 December 2000.

AND

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following Member Country as being an FMD free country where vaccination is practised, according to the provisions of Chapter 2.1.1. of the *Code*:

Paraguay.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 31 May 2001)

Appendix 2

RESOLUTION No. XVI

Recognition of Member Countries free from rinderpest infection

CONSIDERING THAT

1. During the 63rd General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution XIV 'Establishment of a list of countries that are free from rinderpest',
2. During the 68th General Session, The International Committee adopted a resolution designating a baseline list of Member Countries that were free from rinderpest infection. The countries included in the list certified that they meet the requirements specified in Appendix 4.5.1.1. of the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*),
3. The FMD and Other Epizootics Commission proposed that an updated listing of uninfected countries and zones previously recognised as rinderpest free and those newly proposed to the Commission in consultation with Member Countries be annually included in a resolution,
4. The Commission also proposes that Member Countries so recognised reconfirm annually that their rinderpest status has not changed and that this will be a requirement to maintain OIE recognition,
5. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the official Veterinary Services of Member Countries. The OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of declaration of freedom,

THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVES

That the Director General publish in the *Bulletin* the following list of Member Countries recognised as free from rinderpest infection, according to the provisions of Chapter 4.5.1.1. of the *Code*:

Albania	Germany	New Zealand
Algeria	Greece	Norway
Andorra	Guatemala	Panama
Angola	Guyana	Paraguay
Argentina	Haiti	Peru
Australia	Honduras	Philippines
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Barbados	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	Indonesia	Romania
Bolivia	Ireland	Singapore
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Italy	Slovakia
Botswana	Jamaica	Slovenia
Brazil	Japan	South Africa
Bulgaria	Korea (Rep. of)	Spain
Canada	Laos	Swaziland
Chile	Latvia	Sweden
Colombia	Lesotho	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Lithuania	Taipei China
Croatia	Luxembourg	Trinidad and Tobago
Cuba	Madagascar	Tunisia
Cyprus	Malaysia	Ukraine
Czech Rep.	Malta	United Kingdom
Denmark	Mauritius	United States of America
Ecuador	Mexico	Uruguay
El Salvador	Moldavia	Vanuatu
Estonia	Morocco	Venezuela
Finland	Namibia	Vietnam
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	Netherlands	Yugoslavia
France	New Caledonia	Zimbabwe

AND

That the Delegates of Member Countries, whose Countries or zones within their national territories are recognised as rinderpest free, annually reconfirm by letter in November of each year both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain the same. It is understood that they will immediately notify the Central Bureau if rinderpest infection should occur in these countries or zones.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)



Appendix 3

RESOLUTION No. XV

Recognition of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy status of Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

During the 66th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XII, which gave the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission a mandate to develop a procedure for presentation at the 67th General Session that will enable the OIE to accept the information presented by the Delegates of Member Countries in support of their declaration that their country is free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.3.13.2. (formerly Article 3.2.13.2.) of the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*),

In the same Resolution, the Committee asked the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission to consider whether the OIE should prepare a list of Member Countries free from BSE according to the provisions of Article 2.3.13.2. (formerly Article 3.2.13.2.) of the *Code*, taking into account the concerns of Member Countries,

At the 68th General Session, the Committee adopted a revised Article 2.3.13.2. describing the conditions under which a country or zone may be considered free from BSE. It also adopted revised Chapters 1.3.1. and 1.3.2. describing risk analysis procedures that would be required to evaluate the status of a country or zone regarding BSE,

Methods for preparing a list of Member Countries that conform to the requirements of the *Code* as free from BSE were discussed at all of the meetings of the Commission that have been held since May 1998 and these discussions were summarised in the reports of the Commission. The Commission concluded that a list could be developed using the OIE risk analysis procedures. The data for this analysis would be supplied in response to a questionnaire that would be completed by Member Countries requesting to be declared to have conformed to the requirements of the *Code* as free from BSE,

A questionnaire in support of this proposal was submitted to the 68<sup>th</sup> General Session. The International Committee requested the opportunity to make additional comments on the questionnaire and instructed the Commission to resubmit the revised version at the 69th General Session,

The Commission concluded that Member Country assessments must be based on compliance with the *Code*. Therefore, the Commission is not proposing a new version of the questionnaire and will use the requirements in the current version of the *Code* to evaluate compliance. The Commission should provide assistance to Member Countries by providing guidelines on data that should be submitted and aspects that the risk assessment should address.

The Commission concluded that it would not have adequate time to evaluate the submissions during the scheduled meetings of the Commission and that an Ad hoc Group of experts would be needed to evaluate these applications,

The OIE Third Strategic Plan for 2001–2005 also stated that an Ad hoc Group should evaluate applications for freedom from disease and that the Group's findings should be reported to the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission for final consideration,

The Ad hoc Group would probably have to meet several times each year and there is inadequate funding in the OIE budget to support the cost of this Group,

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## THE COMMITTEE

### RESOLVES THAT

1. Delegates of Member Countries who wish to be evaluated for conformation with the requirements of the *Code* for BSE free status, will submit a formal request to the Director General of the OIE. The Director General will forward this request for consideration by the FMD and Other Epizootics Commission in consultation with the Code Commission, when appropriate.
2. The Commission will develop guidelines to facilitate the submission of data and will outline what should be supplied by Member Countries. These guidelines will be based on the requirements that are in the current version of the *Code*.
3. Delegates of Member countries should submit information to substantiate their declaration that they conform to the requirements of the *Code* for BSE free status. This submission should include a risk assessment as outlined in the *Code*.
4. In this enquiry, Delegates will be informed that participation in the OIE procedure would be voluntary and its costs, such as examination of documentation by and convening meetings of designated experts, and country missions that may be required by these experts would be entirely defrayed by participating countries regardless of the result of the procedure. However, the OIE Director General is authorised to negotiate a reduced cost for the least developed countries. Responses by Delegates and the recommendation of the Ad hoc Group of experts will be evaluated by the Commission in order to make a proposal to the Committee of the countries and territories that it has evaluated and consider to conform to the requirements of the *Code* as BSE free.
5. Recommendations of the Commission will be submitted to Member Countries for comment as outlined in Resolution No. XVI that was adopted during the 67th General Session of the International Committee.
6. Countries that are approved by the International Committee as having conformed to the requirements of the *Code* as free from BSE will be published in the *Bulletin* each year.
7. Delegates of Member Countries whose countries having conformed to the requirements of the *Code* as free from BSE shall annually reconfirm by letter in November of each year both their status and that the criteria by which their status was recognised remain the same. It is understood that they will immediately notify the Central Bureau if BSE should occur in these countries or zones.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 31 May 2001)

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