

**RECOGNITION OF SOUTHERN PERU AS A FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE-FREE ZONE WHERE VACCINATION
IS NOT PRACTISED**

Communication from Peru

The following communication, dated 22 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Peru is pleased to inform the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has recognized southern Peru as a **FMD-free zone where vaccination is not practised**. This decision was adopted on 25 May 2005 by the OIE International Committee at its 73rd General Session, held in Paris.

2. The region classed as 'FMD-free without vaccination' comprises the departments of Ica, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, Madre de Dios, Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna, Cusco and Puno. It is home to 45 per cent of Peru's bovine population, 60 per cent of its ovine population, 35 per cent of its caprine population, 29 per cent of its swine population and 94 per cent of its South American camelid population.

3. It should be noted that since 1998 Peru has been implementing, through its National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA), a plan to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease throughout the national territory, its aim being to gain and maintain status as a country free from the disease, in strict compliance with OIE standards and guidelines. This objective has been achieved after seven years of intensive work. The current situation is as follows:

- 97 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination (**35 per cent is recognized under an OIE international standard**).
- 3 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination.

4. In order to achieve these results, Peru created a legal basis consistent with international standards; modernized, expanded and refined the national epidemiological surveillance system; reinforced its quarantine protection system; modernized its diagnostic laboratories; implemented a nationwide cold chain; and conducted intensive vaccination campaigns with the extensive participation and support of livestock farmers.

5. The new sanitary status will favour the growth of trade relations, allowing for the recognition and opening of new international markets for the export of animals and products and by-products of animal origin.

