

**HEALTH STATUS REPORT**

Statement by Paraguay at the Meeting Held on 27 and 28 June 2006

The following communication, received on 6 July 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

**I. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY**

1. Since 1996 Paraguay has maintained a preventive epidemiological surveillance programme in accordance with OIE standards to prevent the entry of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Continued surveillance enabled us, in the year 2000, to gain the status of Geographical BSE Risk 1 Country, granted by the Scientific Committee of the European Communities and renewed in subsequent years.

2. On 27 February of this year the OIE informed the official service that the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases had accepted the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation, with the result that on 25 May this year the International Committee of the World Organization for Animal Health certified Paraguay as a country "provisionally free from BSE", in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

**II. AVIAN INFLUENZA**

3. The Paraguayan National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA) has implemented the National Surveillance and Prevention Plan for Avian Influenza, taking as its reference the project presented by the Permanent Veterinary Committee on Regional Strategies for this disease, and following the guidelines provided by international bodies.

4. Furthermore, restrictions have been placed on bird imports and products at risk from avian influenza from countries affected by the disease.

**III. FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

5. The National Programme for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) was initiated in 1992. In 1997 Paraguay was certified by the World Organization for Animal Health as being an "FMD free country where vaccination is practiced", a status that was renewed annually until 2002. Following the suspension of that status owing to re-appearance of the disease in the Corpus Christi district in the Department of Canindeyú, the country regained its health status as an "FMD free country where vaccination is practised" in May 2005 and was recertified by the OIE at its last ordinary meeting in May 2006.

6. Paraguay's health status has remained stable, thanks to the timely and efficient implementation of the "Animal Health Warning and Emergency" plans, coupled with the "Emergency Strategic Vaccination Plans" in the wake of the events that occurred in the border areas.

7. In fulfilment of one of the strategies of the National Programme for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, the second stage of FMD vaccination for the current year will begin throughout the national territory from 15 July to 15 August. It will cover the whole of the cattle population.

#### **IV. TRACEABILITY**

8. In January of this year the Traceability System of Paraguay (SITRAP) was introduced, incorporating the registration of livestock establishments, the individual identification of animals, and the control of the movement of animals and products. This will help to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of traceability and thus make it easier to respond to health emergencies and to deal with disease control and the certification of exports.

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