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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: English/  
French/  
Spanish

**RELEVANT RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION  
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)**

Report for the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SPS Committee

*Communication from the OIE*

The following communication, received on 19 October 2009, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

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1. The OIE is pleased to provide this update for the information of SPS Committee Members. The key topics covered in this paper are developments in the OIE's standard-setting work on terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products and an update on OIE activities in support of the veterinary services of OIE members using the OIE PVS Tool for their compliance with standards of quality.

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Terrestrial Code Commission)**

2. The Terrestrial Code Commission met in September 2009 to consider OIE members' comments on the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and to follow-up the discussion at the 77<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session in May 2009. In the light of these comments and input from other specialized OIE Commissions, the Terrestrial Code Commission proposed several amendments to standards. The Terrestrial Code Commission will review member comments on its proposals at its next meeting (8-12 February 2010) and will propose revised texts for members' consideration and possible adoption at the 78th General Session, 23-28 May 2010.

(a) Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

3. The Terrestrial Code Commission discussed the application of the compartmentalization concept in the chapter dealing with foot and mouth disease (FMD). The objective of compartmentalization may be to aid disease management and control or, on the basis of bilateral consultations with trading partners, to facilitate trade. The OIE does not intend currently to grant official recognition for FMD - or other disease - free compartments, as is currently done for countries and zones.

(b) Salmonellosis

4. A new text that addresses hygiene and biosecurity practices to avoid problems with salmonellosis in poultry on farm and resultant foodborne illness in humans has been drafted and will

be proposed for adoption by OIE members in 2010. Noting that standards on salmonellosis are also under development by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the OIE will continue participating actively in the drafting and revision of the Guidelines according to the Codex procedures.

(c) Private standards

5. The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Private Standards will next meet on 9-10 November 2009 to review replies to a questionnaire on potential concerns of Members about private standards in the field of sanitary measures and animal welfare.

(d) Trade in animal products ("commodities")

6. The OIE *ad hoc* Group on trade in animal products ("commodities") met on 15 October to discuss and validate a technical report conducted by an OIE Reference Laboratory on the FMD risk factors associated with international trade in deboned beef. This topic will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission in February 2010.

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission)**

7. The Aquatic Animals Commission met in September 2009 to consider OIE members' comments on the Aquatic Animal Health Code and to follow-up the discussion at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2009. The Commission will meet again on 22-26 February 2010 and will propose revised texts for Members' consideration and possible approval at the 78th General Session, 23-28 May 2010.

8. Key texts that may be proposed for adoption include: the safety of commodities derived from aquatic animals; the food safety implications of aquatic animal feed; and animal welfare standards relevant to the slaughter of farmed fish for human consumption.

**Update on OIE PVS activities and PVS follow-up activities**

(a) OIE PVS evaluations

9. As part of the OIE global initiative for Good Governance of Veterinary Services, and at a member's request, the OIE may conduct an evaluation of the quality of a member's Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool (Performance of Veterinary Services), PVS Gap analysis and follow-up missions to support compliance of key elements of the veterinary infrastructure with international standards of quality, including the legislation.

10. The current status of OIE PVS evaluations is summarized in Annex 1. About 100 requests have been received and 90 per cent of the missions have been done.

11. The OIE has incorporated aquatic animal health services in a revised edition of the PVS Tool and will send a pilot mission to evaluate aquatic animal health services of a member later this year.

12. In December 2009, the OIE will organize a workshop to collect feedback from experts involved in the PVS activities and will produce a revised edition of the OIE PVS Tool in early 2010.

(b) PVS Gap analysis

13. This is a quantification of needs and the corresponding indicative budget to address compliance for priority critical competencies discussed with the country concerned and based on the PVS report of the initial PVS evaluation of the country. This can provide the basis for the preparation

of investment programmes in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations.

(c) Strengthening veterinary legislation

14. In the face of increasing global trade, climate change and the emergence and reemergence of diseases that can rapidly spread across international borders, the Veterinary Services need an effective legislative framework to fulfill their key function. However, the OIE is aware that in many countries the veterinary legislation is inadequate to address the challenges of today and of the future. At the request of members, the OIE has published on its website guidelines on the essential elements to be covered in veterinary legislation:

[http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/A\\_Guidelines\\_Vet%20Leg.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/organisation/A_Guidelines_Vet%20Leg.pdf).

15. Any member that has received an OIE PVS Evaluation may benefit from a follow-up mission dedicated to the provision of advice and assistance in modernizing the national veterinary legislation. The current status of OIE legislation missions is summarized in Annex 2.

16. The new guidelines will be used to update national legislation where gaps in legislation are identified in the course of an OIE PVS Evaluation.

17. To identify needs and tools to assist Members in modernizing their veterinary legislation, the OIE will hold the First OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation, in Djerba, Tunisia on 6-8 December 2010. The first conference announcement is at:

[http://www.oie.int/eng/A\\_LEG\\_VET2010/ENG\\_first%20announcement.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_LEG_VET2010/ENG_first%20announcement.pdf)

**PVS Evaluation Missions (as at 12 October 2009)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Official requests</b>	<b>Missions completed</b>	<b>Reports available</b>
Africa	43	38	29
Americas	17	17	7
Asia/Pacific	15	12	8
Europe	12	12	3
Middle-East	11	9	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>49</b>

Official requests:

- Africa (43): *Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Congo(DR), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia (non-OIE member), Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
- Americas (17): *Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay*
- Asia/Pacific (15): *Afganistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea (PDR), Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam*
- Europe (12): *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan*
- Middle-East (11): *Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian National Authority (non-OIE member), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Yemen*

*Italics: Completed missions*

**Legislation Missions (as at 12 October 2009)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Official requests</b>	<b>Missions completed</b>
Africa	12	3
Americas	0	0
Asia/Pacific	4	3
Europe	2	1
Middle-East	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>

Official requests:

Africa (12): *Benin, Congo (DR), Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia*

Asia/Pacific (4): *Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Vietnam*

Europe (2): *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan*

Middle-East (3): *Kuwait, Lebanon, UAE*

*Italics: Completed missions*

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