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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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COMMUNICATION FROM URUGUAY

The following communication has been received from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay

As from 15 June 1995, Uruguay has fulfilled the requirements for recognition as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination in accordance with the rules of the International Office of Epizootics (IOE), as well as the rules prevailing in the markets of the United States and the European Union.

Although a certain time is required for official recognition, which may not be less than four months (as from July 1995), the successes obtained should be made known.

The campaign against the disease began in the 1960s by controlling all vaccines and in 1968 all bovine and ovine species were systematically vaccinated.

In 1987, a regional strategy was implemented following the conclusion of the Convention on the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the River Plate Basin by Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centre of the Pan American Health Organization.

In 1990, Uruguay adopted Law No. 16.082, which provided for strategies decisively oriented towards the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Uruguay:

- (a) Change to oil-based vaccine, which allowed a longer period between vaccinations and greater security;
- (b) direct control over vaccination, in particular, close collaboration by those concerned in the Eradication Programme, for example, the veterinary services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries; private veterinary surgeons and livestock breeders.

This had immediate and interlinked effects:

- (a) On 18 June 1990 the last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease was detected in Uruguay;
- (b) two years later, in 1992, Uruguay requested the IOE to include it in the list of countries free of foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination and this was approved by the IOE at

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its General Assembly in May 1993 following an evaluation carried out by a team of experts;

- (c) in June 1994, vaccination was ended for all species and manipulation of the virus in private and official laboratories, as well as the entry of vaccinated animals, were prohibited.

On 15 June 1995, Uruguay completed the formalities required by the IOE and by countries exempt from foot-and-mouth disease in order to be declared a country free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination, which means that the disease has been eradicated.