

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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## STATEMENT MADE BY THE OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES AT THE MEETING OF 15-16 NOVEMBER 1995

Since the decisions taken by the OIE International Committee in May 1995 (see document G/SPS/W/22), the OIE has organized further meetings of its Specialist Commissions and Working Groups in Paris.

In September 1995, the International Animal Health Code Commission, the Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission and the Standards Commission all held meetings.

The International Animal Health Code Commission prepared draft texts aimed at both modifying the contents of the *International Animal Health Code*, in particular the chapters on foot-and-mouth disease and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and incorporating a system for the categorization of animal diseases based on scientific criteria.

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission concentrated on the examination of application files presented by some of the Member countries with a view to the OIE recognizing their territory as being free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination. A draft list of countries which are considered by the Commission to meet the requirements for this status will be submitted to the delegates of the Member countries for examination. After having studied any comments made by the delegates, the Commission will draw up the list to be submitted to the OIE International Committee for adoption in May 1996.

During its deliberations, the Standards Commission considered the development of standardization of diagnostic tests for a number of List A and B diseases, and made recommendations on the preparation of the third edition of the *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines*.

An OIE Working Group, meeting in October 1995, discussed the drafting of more precise guidelines on risk assessment in animal health than those currently in use, and put forward the idea of illustrating them with a graded series of practical examples.

From 20 to 22 November 1995, the Fish Diseases Commission will be reviewing all the observations made by the Member countries on the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases*, the first versions of which were adopted in May 1995.

Lastly, the Director General of the OIE has determined the composition of an ad hoc group for strategic planning with a view to studying whether the priorities for the 1990s, established five years ago, need to be reviewed in light of the context in which the OIE is currently placed.