
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

Report to the 47th Meeting of the SPS Committee

The following communication, received on 5 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

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 animals and their products, an update on OIE activities supporting the veterinary services of OIE Members using the OIE PVS Tool for their compliance with international standards and veterinary education.

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission)

1. The Code Commission met on 8-12 February 2010 to prepare new/revised Code Chapters for adoption at the 78th General Session, 23-28 May 2010 considering OIE Member comments.

A. TRADE IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS ("COMMODITIES")

2. The Code Commission endorsed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on trade in animal products ("commodities") which met on 15 October and appreciated the work done by experts.

3. The review paper "Qualitative assessment of the commodity risk factor for spread of foot-and-mouth disease associated with international trade in deboned beef" is available at the reorganized webpage on the commodity based approach for both terrestrial and aquatic animal products (http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_commodity.htm).

B. PRIVATE STANDARDS

4. The *ad hoc* Group on Private Standards for Sanitary Safety and Animal Welfare met on 9-10 November 2009 to review the results of a questionnaire sent to Members and relevant organizations and to prepare recommendations for future action by the OIE. The Executive Summary of the report is available at: http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_executive%20summary.pdf.

5. As most of the 68 OIE Members responding to the questionnaire recommended that the OIE work more closely with private standard setting organizations in an effort to avoid negative effects of

private standards, the OIE convened a meeting with private organizations, with the participation of the WTO SPS Secretariat, on 16 February to exchange information and consider possible next steps.

C. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

6. The OIE will develop a procedure for the recognition of National Strategies for FMD control. An *ad hoc* Group will be convened under the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (SCAD) to elaborate rules and procedures for Members wishing to seek recognition of their national strategies, to encourage them to take steps towards the control and eradication of FMD in their territories.

7. The Code Commission proposed 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 currently managed for countries and zones.

D. SALMONELLOSIS AND BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES IN POULTRY PRODUCTION

8. The Code Commission proposed some amendments of the chapter on Salmonellosis. 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. The OIE continues to work on a new text that addresses hygiene and biosecurity practices to avoid problems in poultry on farm and resultant foodborne illness in humans.

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 (OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services), PVS Gap analysis and follow up missions to help strengthen the compliance of key elements of the veterinary infrastructure, including veterinary legislation, with the international quality standards of the OIE.

10. The current status of OIE PVS evaluations is summarized in annex 1. To the end of 2009, 100 requests have been received and 91% of the missions have been done.

11. In December 2009, the OIE organized a workshop to collect feedback from experts involved in the PVS activities and a meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The Code Commission endorsed the proposed new critical competencies (management of resources and operations, animal welfare) and amendment of some critical competencies. The 5th edition of the OIE PVS Tool will be published later this year.

12. The OIE has addressed the specialized needs for the evaluation of aquatic animal health services, with a pilot mission to evaluate the aquatic animal health services of a member. Based on this experience and discussion in the *ad hoc* group, the OIE will make available on request a modified tool for the evaluation of aquatic animal health services.

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

report of the initial PVS evaluation of the country. The OIE, working in close cooperation with national policy makers, donors and other partner organizations, conducts PVS Gap Analysis missions as the basis for the preparation of investment programmes, following an initial PVS evaluation. The current status of PVS Gap Analysis missions is summarized in Annex 2.

C. STRENGTHENING VETERINARY LEGISLATION

14. As reported at the previous meeting, the OIE continues to work on strengthening veterinary legislation. The current status of OIE legislation missions is summarized in Annex 3.

15. 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 7-9 December 2010. Please see http://www.oie.int/eng/A_LEG_VET2010/Home_eng.htm

Veterinary education

16. The OIE is considering the issue of initial and continuous veterinary education as part of its commitment to encouraging its members to strengthen animal health policies and activities of their national Veterinary Services. With this in mind, the OIE held a Global Conference on Veterinary Education "Evolving veterinary education for a safer world" on 12-14 October 2009. As one of the outcomes of the conference, the OIE will convene an expert group (29 June – 1 July 2010) to address the recommendations of the conference.

17. The key recommendation for the expert group to address is (#26):

- That the OIE convene an expert group, with the participation of invited deans, to conduct an in depth global review, with a world wide scope, of the current approaches to veterinary education taking into account current and future expectations of the day-one graduated veterinarians and examine whether approaches to, and structures for, veterinary education should be modified to produce better equipped profession.
- The expert group will also be in charge of drafting guidelines listed in recommendation n° 1 and contribute to OIE support to recommendations n°3, 4, 14 and 16.

Recommendation 1

That the OIE develop recommendations for Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) on a core curriculum model that includes those key competencies of veterinarians that are required to perform the necessary OIE and public policy tasks, including those defined in the OIE terrestrial and aquatic animal health codes and takes into account new threats, opportunities and societal expectations.

Recommendation 3

That VEE, taking into account the recommendations of the OIE and specific/regional national needs/circumstances, define and implement a core curriculum model that ensures graduate veterinarians to have the day-one competencies needed by a veterinarian to perform the required OIE tasks including delivery of national veterinary services. This includes knowledge on governance, veterinary legislation and basic management. These competencies should focus on capacity for analysis, and adaptation to complex situations rather than on encyclopaedic knowledge of specific issues.

Recommendation 4

That the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and other professional veterinary bodies examine, with the support of the OIE, how initial and continuing veterinary education curricula can best meet societal expectations for safeguards for public health, safe food, and prevention and mitigation of transboundary diseases complying with OIE recommendations at a global level.

Recommendation 14

That the OIE, WVA and other national, regional and international veterinary associations examine how to improve the public perception of the importance of veterinary activities for society as a whole, and convince governments and/or international donors of the need to better finance initial and continuing veterinary education as a Global Public Good.

Recommendation 16

That the responsible national, regional and local veterinary authorities support the development and implementation of programmes to evaluate the continuing education of veterinarians in their respective jurisdictions taking into account OIE PVS tool criteria.

18. The complete recommendation of the Conference may be found at:

http://www.oie.int/eng/A_DEANS2009/Conclusions%20and%20recommendations_FINAL_30%20novembre%2009_ANG_b.pdf

19. The OIE Focal Point for this work is Dr Sarah Kahn (s.kahn@oie.int)

ANNEX 1

PVS Evaluation Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed	Reports available
Africa	44	39	31
Americas	17	17	12
Asia/Pacific	15	13	10
Europe	11	11	3
Middle-East	13	11	3
Total	100	91	59

Official requests:

- Africa (44): *Algeria, Benin, Botswana, 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): *Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea (PDR), Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam*
- Europe (11): *Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan*
- Middle-East (13): *Afganistan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian National Authority (non OIE member), Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen*

Italics: Completed missions

ANNEX 2

PVS Gap Analysis Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	24	11
Americas	6	0
Asia/Pacific	8	1
Europe	3	2
Middle-East	3	3
Total	44	17

ANNEX 3

Legislation Missions – (As at 20 January 2010)

Region	Official requests	Missions completed
Africa	13	4
Americas	0	0
Asia/Pacific	3	3
Europe	2	1
Middle-East	4	1
Total	22	9

Official requests:

Africa (13): *Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (DR), Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, Zambia*

Asia/Pacific (3): *Bhutan, Cambodia, Vie Nam*

Europe (2): *Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan*

Middle-East (4): *Afghanistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates*

Italics: Completed missions
