

**MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
8 AND 9 OCTOBER 2008**

Statement by Paraguay

The following communication, received on 24 September 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

I. ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

A. XIV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON HARMONIZATION OF REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF VETERINARY DRUGS

1. In line with the activities conducted in the framework of Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicine (CAMEVET-OIE), the National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA) organized, in Asunción, Paraguay, from 8 to 13 September 2008, the *XIV International Seminar on Harmonization of Registration and Control of Veterinary Drugs*, which addressed technical and operational topics relating to the institutionalization of the operation of mechanisms for the harmonization, registration and control of veterinary drugs in the member countries of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on the American continent.

2. The working documents on implementation of biosecurity, bioequivalence, and good manufacturing practices in the preparation of ectoparasiticides, and the audit guides for pharmacological and biological products, were revised. Criteria were developed for the establishment of validity periods for veterinary products, together with guidelines for assessing the efficiency of internal antiparasitics and a reference document on legal practices in the marketing of veterinary products.

3. The seminar was attended by 152 animal health professionals from both the public and private sector throughout the American continent.

4. Finally, a workshop was organized in conjunction with the seminar by the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to present updated safety requirements for the approval of veterinary medicines and the safety assessment criteria for new anti-microbials as regards their effect on bacteria of interest to human health.

1. Authorization to import Paraguayan meat into the European Community

5. The European Union (EU) has notified the reopening of its market to imports of Paraguayan meat following the OIE's recognition, in 2007, of Paraguay's status as free of foot-and-mouth disease

with vaccination, with the exception of a high-surveillance area along its external borders; and in view of the favourable result of the Community inspection conducted in April 2008, it *proceeded to authorize imports of fresh de-boned and matured fresh bovine meat from the territory of Paraguay* (Commission Decision No. 2008/642/EC).

2. Use of prescriptions for agrochemicals

6. By Resolution 338 of 15 July 2008, the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE) established that agrochemicals in the "red band" category may only be purchased and applied by prescription from a professional SENAVE-registered agronomist. This Resolution regulates Article 6 of Decree 2048/04, which refers to the issuance of agronomic prescriptions in respect of "red band" class Ia and Ib pesticides. This requirement will enter into legal force on 1 November of this year.

7. The active ingredients affected by this measure are: benfuracarb, endosulfan, metomyl, DDVP, carbofuran, paraquat, thiodicarb, lambdacialotine, methyl bromide, aluminium phosphide, malathion, aldicarb, 2, 4-DB amine, dimethylate, brodifacoum and tetra-ethyl hydroxicoumarin.

3. Monitoring the utilization of international standards

8. SENAVE was designated National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) for the purposes of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), with the power to adopt standards emanating from the IPPC, by Decree No. 12677 of 2008, available at: <http://www.senave.gov.py>.

4. Stevia (Ka'a He'e) assigned a definitive Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI)

9. The meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) held in Rome from 17 to 26 June 2008 completed the evaluation of *Steviol glycoside* (Ka'a He'e), concluding in its report (JECFA/69/SC) that this sweetener was perfectly safe and without adverse effects on health, and assigning it a definitive Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 0 to 4 mg/kg.

10. Ka'a He'e (*Stevia rebaudiana Bertoni*) is a plant of Paraguayan origin from which the active ingredient *Steviol glycoside*, the only calorie-free sweetener of natural origin, is extracted.

II. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION

11. Under the Horizontal Cooperation Programme between Chile (AGCI-SAG) and Paraguay (IICA-SENAVE-SENACSA) a number of exchanges of experience and consultations have taken place with a view to building up the technical capacity of the SPS implementing authorities. The activities organized in the animal health area are: diagnosis of bacterial diseases and control of biologicals production, risk map development, canine training techniques for quarantine services, prevention services in areas of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination, and control and inspection training for health services in cold stores and slaughterhouses. Activities organized in the plant health area include: ELISA and PCR techniques for bacteria, fungi, viruses and viroids, phytosanitary inspection and certification, phytosanitary surveillance and pest risk analysis (PRA), fruit fly contingency plans, quarantine systems and risk prevention and practical training with respect to wheat and soya beans: distinction, homogeneity, and pre- and post-control in seed certification.
