

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

Communication from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The following communication, received on 9 October 2012, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

1. The OIE is pleased to provide this update to the 55th meeting of the SPS Committee. The report summarizes key developments in the OIE standard-setting work programme, with a focus on the September 2012 meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission). The report of the Code Commission meeting will be available on the OIE website shortly. Key topics addressed at that meeting include:

1. Criteria for listing diseases

2. Revised criteria for listing diseases were adopted at the 80th General Session of the OIE held in May 2012. The OIE convened an expert meeting in July 2012 in order to review the existing OIE listed diseases of terrestrial animals against the revised criteria. The experts proposed delisting of some currently listed diseases, and the Code Commission decided to circulate the proposal to OIE members for their review together with the Code Commission views on the proposed changes.

2. Antimicrobial resistance

3. Considering the increasing importance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animal health and public health, OIE continues to tackle the issue under its mandates. Updating the OIE standards on AMR is an important on-going role for the OIE. There are five chapters in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Standards* dedicated to AMR and, as noted in the July meeting report, at the 80th General Session the World Assembly of Delegates adopted revisions to two of these chapters. The Code Commission reviewed the other three chapters at its September meeting and decided to circulate proposed revisions of the chapters titled "Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance" and "Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine" for members' comments. The remaining chapter titled "Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals" was referred to an expert group for its examination.

3. Infection with zoonotic parasites

4. The OIE continues close collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission with respect to this cross-cutting issue. An OIE expert group on zoonotic parasites met in December 2011 to

examine the revised chapter on Hydatidosis. The Code Commission reviewed the work of the group together with members' comments and circulated the revised chapter for members' comments with a view to possible adoption at the 81st General Session in 2013.

5. In addition, the expert group met in July 2012 to review members' comments on the proposed revision to the chapter on Trichinellosis. The broad range of comments resulted in the expert group making a further significant revision of the draft chapter including restructuring and simplification. The expert group amended the text to reflect that the importance of Trichinellosis lies in the risk posed to humans and costs of control in slaughter populations rather than a risk to animal health. Because of the lack of clear and objective means of establishing a country or zone free status, the chapter only addressed a compartment with a negligible risk of *Trichinella* infection in domestic pigs kept under controlled management conditions. The Code Commission supported this approach and circulated the revised chapter for members' comments.

4. Rinderpest

6. The Terrestrial Code chapter on rinderpest was sent to the Joint OIE/FAO Advisory Committee seeking their comments. These comments were reviewed by the Code Commission together with members' comments. The Code Commission revised the chapter further and decided to circulate it for members' comments with a view to potential adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013. One of the key additions to the proposed new chapter is the obligation for countries to provide annual notification of their holdings of rinderpest virus, or material containing rinderpest virus.

5. OIE Capacity-building: PVS Pathway

7. The OIE continues its global initiative to support member countries wishing to comply with quality standards of national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) by following the PVS Pathway. A summary of progress on PVS Pathway missions is attached as an Annex.

8. The OIE convened expert meetings in summer 2012 to revise the fifth edition of the OIE PVS Tool and develop a tool for evaluating AAHS based on the OIE PVS Tool. These tools will be available on the OIE website once finalized.

6. Good governance of veterinary education

9. Veterinary education of quality is the cornerstone of good governance of Veterinary Services (for both public and private sectors). The OIE, in close collaboration with national leaders and decision makers on veterinary education and relevant regional and international organizations, continues work to improve the quality of veterinary education globally. The OIE convened the fifth expert meeting on veterinary education in July. This group has now developed draft guidelines for a "Model Core Veterinary Curriculum" to serve as a companion to the "OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating veterinarians ("Day 1 graduates") to assure National Veterinary Services of quality". It is expected these new guidelines will serve as a tool for veterinary educational establishments in OIE member countries to use when developing curricula to educate veterinary students to the expected level of competency. The group also drafted a document detailing the OIE recommendations on post-graduate and continuing education. These documents will be available on the OIE website once finalized.

ANNEX

A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON PVS PATHWAY EVALUATIONS

PVS Evaluation Missions – State of Play (13 September 2012)

	OIE members	PVS Evaluation requests received	PVS Evaluation missions implemented	Reports available for (restricted) distribution to Donors and Partners
Africa	52	51	47	36
Americas	29	22	21	18
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	18	18	11
Europe	53	15	14	12
Middle East	12	12	11	5
TOTAL	178	118	111	82

PVS Gap Analysis – State of Play (13 September 2012)

	OIE members	PVS Gap analysis requests received	PVS Gap analysis missions implemented	Reports available for (restricted) distribution to Donors and Partners
Africa	52	37	32	19
Americas	29	13	9	6
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	12	10	6
Europe	53	6	6	2
Middle East	12	8	3	0
TOTAL	178	76	60	33

Veterinary Legislation: State of Play (13 Sep 2012)

	OIE members	PVS Legislation mission requests received	PVS Legislation missions implemented	PVS Legislation documents received
Africa	52	22	15	15
Americas	29	5	3	3
Asia, the Far East and Oceania	32	5	4	4
Europe	53	3	2	2
Middle East	12	4	4	4
TOTAL	178	39	28	28
