

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES OF THE OIE
SINCE THE NOVEMBER 1999 MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE**

Submission by the Office international des Epizooties (OIE)

1. Meeting of the International Animal Health Code Commission

The International Animal Health Code Commission met at the OIE Headquarters from 24 to 28 January 2000. During the meeting, the Commission drew up a list of the texts that it intended to submit to the International Committee of the OIE for adoption at the 68th General Session (May 2000) with a view to updating the *International Animal Health Code*:

- Definitions in the International Animal Health Code;
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services;
- Zoning/regionalisation;
- Bluetongue;
- Aujeszky's disease;
- Anthrax;
- Paratuberculosis;
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy;
- Japanese encephalitis.

In addition, the Commission requested the Director General of the OIE to convene, if possible before the 68th General Session, Ad hoc Groups on Newcastle disease and scrapie.

2. Meeting of the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission

The Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission met at the OIE Headquarters from 24 to 27 January 2000. During the meeting, the Commission examined the following main points:

- Applications submitted by Member Countries for the OIE to recognise all or part of their territory as being free from foot and mouth disease, either with or without vaccination;
- Applications submitted by Member Countries to be recognized as being free from rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia;
- Preliminary draft standard on surveillance systems for foot and mouth disease;
- A questionnaire that will have to be completed by Member Countries wishing to have all or part of their territory recognized by the OIE as being free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

The Commission also reviewed two documents, prepared by the FAO, on emergency intervention in the event of epizootics in Africa, and considered that, globally, these documents complied with the recommendation adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa requesting the OIE and the FAO to work together to develop guidelines on the use of stamping out within the framework of animal disease control programmes.

3. Meeting of the Standards Commission

The Standards Commission met at the OIE Headquarters from 2 to 4 February 2000. During the meeting the Commission:

- revised the list of experts of OIE Reference Laboratories for several animal diseases;
- reviewed progress on work relating to international standardization of diagnostic tests or vaccines for several animal diseases;
- reviewed the list of recommended laboratory tests for international trade relating to some ten diseases;
- discussed the contents of the next *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines* (the *Manual*), which is due for release at the end of the year;
- conducted an exchange of views with a representative of VICH (International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for the Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products), to ensure that the Manual and the guidelines developed by VICH are in line;
- developed a draft standard on quality systems for veterinary laboratories, which is an interpretative text of ISO 17025 Standard.

The members of the Standards Commission also met a representative from the World Health Organization's International Laboratory for Biological Standards (United Kingdom) to discuss possible collaboration in various fields.

4. Meeting of the Fish Diseases Commission

The Fish Diseases Commission met at the OIE Headquarters from 11 to 13 February 2000. On the subject of international standardization the Commission examined the following topics:

- *International Aquatic Animal Health Code*: the Commission approved modifications proposed by Member Countries relating to certain definitions and chapters in this *Code*;
- *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases*;
- guidelines on emergency intervention plans in the aquatic environment;
- designation of new Reference Laboratories.

The Commission also examined the conclusions of the International Conference on risk analysis in aquatic animal health, organised by the OIE from 8 to 10 February 2000.

5. Meeting of an Ad hoc Group on antimicrobial resistance

An Ad hoc Group on antimicrobial resistance was held at the OIE Headquarters from 7 to 9 March 2000. The agenda for the meeting included the following items:

- Risk analysis;
- Standardisation and harmonisation of laboratory methodologies;
- Harmonisation of monitoring programmes;
- Guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry;
- Guidelines on monitoring antimicrobial quantities used in animal husbandry.

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All the standardizing texts prepared by the four Specialist Commissions of the OIE will be submitted for adoption to the International Committee at the General Session in May 2000. As the members of these Commissions are nearing the end of their term of office, elections will be held during the Session.
