

**RECOGNITION OF "NEGLIGIBLE RISK" STATUS WITH REGARD TO
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

Communication from Chile

The following communication, dated 21 June 2009, is being distributed at the request of the delegation of Chile.

1. As Chile has insisted at various meetings of the Committee that countries notify any changes in their sanitary and phytosanitary status, we would like to provide the following information.
2. At the 77th Annual General Assembly of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) held in Paris from 24 to 29 May 2009, Chile was recognized as having negligible risk status.
3. With this recognition, Chile joins 11 countries that have reached the highest health status with respect to BSE that international animal health standards grant to OIE member countries.
4. On this occasion, Doctor Bernard Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, handed the Chilean delegation an official certificate attesting to this health status.
5. Chile has achieved this status through an effective programme of surveillance of the bovine population and by applying animal feed control standards that have enabled it to meet all of the requirements and conditions imposed by the OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
6. This has meant adopting strict standards such as the prohibition of the use of meat and bone meal of mammal origin in animal feed and modification of the inspection criteria for slaughtered animals to protect public health.
7. In this connection, more than 27,000 samples were taken from animals with the highest probability of having the disease, all of which proved negative in laboratory tests.
8. For a small country like Chile, considerable technical and economic efforts were required to achieve this result.
9. We hope that this status, which has been recognized by the reference organization on animal health under the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, will quickly be recognized by WTO Member countries in accordance with the principles of the Agreement.

10. We shall report on the progress achieved with respect to recognition of this new status by our counterparts at forthcoming meetings of the Committee.
