

Recommendation No. 1

The dependence of the effective border controls on appropriate resources deployment and enhanced international cooperation, including information exchange

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Member Countries should have the necessary legal framework in place to apply the OIE standards and guidelines regarding border control;
2. Member Countries should have an adequate administrative veterinary and judicial capacity and capability in place at central and border post level;
3. Member Countries should provide the necessary infrastructure, human, and financial resources to carry out veterinary border checks on relevant commercial consignments efficiently and effectively;
4. Member Countries, in accordance with the OIE standards and guidelines, should invest in infrastructure for the veterinary border checks on commercial cargo at their national frontiers;
5. Member Countries should pay more attention to establish a system for the veterinary border checks on non commercial cargo, travelling pet animals and food waste from international means of transport to avoid particularly the introduction of disease agents or other biological risks into their territories;
6. Smuggling of live animals, animal product, veterinary biological, as well as pathogens is still an on-going threat to animal health, public health and consumer confidence in all countries;
7. For the purpose of this recommendation “border post” means first point of entry of goods or people in a national territory.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments, ensure that their legal framework fully take into account the relevant OIE standards and guidelines concerning import, transit and export covering all items of veterinary concern;
2. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments ensure that they have an adequate administrative veterinary and judicial capacity and capability in place at central and border post levels to carry out the necessary veterinary checks and controls on both commercial and non-commercial consignments;
3. Member Countries, in particular their Parliaments and Governments, ensure that there is a legal base for providing close cooperation and exchange of information between the competent authorities involved in border controls, in particular Customs administration;

4. Member Countries efforts be directed to provide the necessary infrastructure, human, and financial resources to carry out veterinary border checks on commercial consignments efficiently and effectively, including fast lane procedures for consignments of live animals;
5. Member Countries give emphasis on the investment in infrastructure to enforce veterinary border checks at their frontiers;
6. When Customs' Unions between Member Countries are planned or established, it should also apply to the outer border of the new Union of the Member Countries concerned instead of being at the frontier of the individual members. This also requires a harmonised outer border control system prior to the establishment of the Union;
7. Member Countries apply a strong system for veterinary checks on non-commercial cargo, travelling pet animals, and especially on the control and safe disposal of waste presenting a sanitary risk from international means of transport;
8. Member Countries be encouraged to ensure political commitment, effective legal base and coordination of activities among various government departments, other relevant agencies, industry, transport companies, private practitioners and potential "end-users" to effectively address smuggling;
9. The OIE review its current Codes chapters covering import, transit and export in order to expand them, in particular to include rules on veterinary border checks in areas excluded from customs inspections (such as free zones, free ports, free warehouses, customs warehouses and ship chandlers/caterers with a similar customs status) and on non commercial cargo (such as products in travellers' bags or sent by mail, travelling pet animals and waste from international means of transport presenting a sanitary risk);
10. The OIE, in order to enhance the international cooperation and strengthen the transparency on veterinary border checks and procedures as regards the ever increasing world wide trade in commodities of veterinary concern, study the possibility to provide additional guidance to Member Countries on the whole scope of veterinary border checks and controls.

Guidance by the OIE should address:

- Models of appropriate legislation,
- required infrastructure, human and technical resources including equipment for carrying out the checks and operating the border post and certain facilities out with the border post and importation premises,
- the details on the procedures and actions prior to the arrival of consignment and its presentation at the border inspection posts and possible actions necessary following the decisions made at the border inspection posts,
- required equipment for communication, data processing and documentation and,
- establishment of veterinary systems on checks of items of veterinary concern in areas excluded from customs inspections and non commercial cargo.

11. The OIE endeavour to find additional resources in order to enhance the cooperation and transparency between the European Region Member Countries by collecting and disseminating information via its Regional website on certain key information on border posts, contact details, import conditions, certificates and code lists for the identification of commodities of veterinary concern;
 12. The OIE try to provide continued assistance by organising training courses and provision of expertise on veterinary checks and controls, in particular to those countries which appear to be lacking an adequate veterinary border control system;
 13. The OIE develop more provisions in the PVS criteria addressing border controls, including quarantine and resting premises, and veterinary capacities of Member Countries for import and transit controls in general;
 14. The OIE collaborate more with the World Customs Organisation in order to provide a harmonised list of items of veterinary concern.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 24 September 2010
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 26 May 2011)