

Working Document

Preparation for an EU position on a future strategy concerning the support of the OIE PVS Pathway initiative.

At their meetings of 10 to 11 July and 9 October 2018, CVOs held discussions on the OIE PVS Pathway programme and its evolution in the future based on an introductory Presidency note (WK 8202/2018).

CVOs took note of the analysis of the European Commission (WK 8732/2018) comparing the OIE and EU standards and evaluations tools. Furthermore, the CVOs discussed with delegations from Iceland and Montenegro their experiences of an OIE PVS Evaluation mission (WK 12655/18). The CVOs discussed with OIE Director-General her ideas of OIE future strategy and the evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway since April 2017 (WK 12655/18 ADD1).

Based on these discussions the CVOs agreed on following in relation to the future strategy on OIE PVS Pathway:

Thematic area one – EU Position on the future of the PVS Pathway Programme at OIE level:

1. The CVOs rate the OIE PVS Pathway programme positively and welcome the activities of the Director General of OIE to build a sustainable structure in the Head Quarter (HQ) of the OIE to follow the international developments, to strengthen the role of OIE in discussions with WHO concerning similar evaluation concepts in the overlapping areas like zoonotic diseases, AMR or food safety and to improve the PVS Pathway-Programme itself.
2. The CVOs support the OIE Director General idea to dedicate funding from the OIE Regular Budget only for the development of a sustainable structure in the

HQ with dedicated staff to ensure the routine and developmental activities of the PVS Pathway. Other activities at country level (trainings and missions) have to be funded through voluntary contributions (OIE World Fund).

3. The CVOs welcome that the OIE is currently planning an external evaluation of the PVS Pathway to take place in 2019 and are expecting the final report before General Session 2019.
4. The CVOs acknowledged that the final position concerning the concrete amount of financial and human resources needed, will only be agreed during the discussions on the Budget 2020, which is linked to the implementation of the 7th OIE Strategic Plan.

In the light of the above, the suggested EU position would be:

- **to support, in principle, the proposed evolution of the PVS Pathway Programme at OIE level without prejudging the final amounts that will be made available, and pending the outcomes of the external evaluation.**

Thematic area two –EU Position on the future activities in relation to the use of the PVS Tool at the level of the EU Member States.

5. The CVOs acknowledged that OIE standards were essentially covered by EU rules. They considered that Commission audits offer better guarantees and reliability for certification if compared with the OIE PVS-tool components. They are in favour of integrating in the EU country profiles only selected elements of the PVS tool which may be currently missing (e.g. information on veterinary service resources, veterinary education or veterinary statutory bodies).
6. The obligation of Member States to establish internal audit system (Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 - OCR) is an important element, in relation to the discussion on the systematic approach including the self-evaluation idea of PVS concerning the integration of OIE PVS Programme and EU Audit Systems.
7. The CVOs ask the European Commission to convene a joint expert group with the OIE to integrate certain elements of the OIE PVS tool into EU country profiles and other sources of MS information (for example MANCP and national audit reports). The joint expert group should go more in depth in understanding both systems and their potential complementarities and should provide a technical advice on options for the coexistence of both systems.

8. Members of the joint expert group should be experts of the OIE, European Commission and 5 representatives of the EU Member States (Member States which underwent a PVS self-evaluation and Member States without this experience should be represented).
9. The CVOs agree that OIE PVS Missions should not be obligatory. All Member States agree that they will not undergo a PVS Evaluation under the auspice of the OIE, facilitated by OIE trained and certified experts with a published report. This does not prevent any MS from undertaking a self-evaluation of its veterinary services using the OIE PVS tool, as has been the case in previous years..
10. The CVOs ask the Romanian and Finish presidencies to follow up this process and expect a first report of the joint expert group by mid 2019.

In the light of the above the suggested EU position would be:

- **to support the establishment of a joint OIE-EU working group of experts to work on the integration of certain elements of the OIE PVS into the EU country profile system**
- **to agree that no EU MSs will request a formal OIE PVS Pathway evaluation pending an evaluation of the outcome of the work of the above mentioned joint OIE-EU working group on the modified EU country profile system which will better integrate with the OIE PVS Pathway. It is agreed however that individual EU MSs may undergo a PVS self-evaluation if they so wish.**
- **to discuss again the issue once the outcome of the work of the above mentioned joint OIE-EU working group on the modified EU country profile system has become available.**